



**DGS SEKTION  
MIGRATION UND  
ETHNISCHE  
MINDERHEITEN**

**BIM**

Berliner Institut für empirische  
Integrations- und Migrationsforschung

## **Call for papers for the international conference**

### ***“The Sociology of Migration: Current Developments and Future Trends”***

**June 23 and 24 2016, Humboldt University of Berlin**

*“Migration and Ethnic Minorities” Section of the German Sociological Association (DGS) and the  
“Berlin Institute for Integration and Migration Research (BIM)” at the Humboldt University of Berlin*

The section *migration and ethnic minorities* of the German Sociological Association (DGS) was founded 30 years ago and has developed from a marginalized field of study into one of the most dynamic research areas among German social sciences (Germany, Austria, and Switzerland). The conference “The Sociology of Migration: Current Developments and Future Trends” builds on this success story and seeks to assess the present state and the future advance of migration research. In times of increasing numbers of refugee arrivals in the EU as well as intra-European migration, fuelling heated political debates, the need for thorough sociological analysis is bigger than ever in order to prepare for current and future challenges. .

While the meeting will focus on developments in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, we invite international participants from all countries and different disciplines to partake into these discussions.. The conference aims at depicting current trends covering a broad spectrum of societal dimensions and selected empirical studies. The call for paper consists of five research themes which the program will represent by 3 to 4 presentations each: membership and identification in (trans-)nationally constituted societies, household and reproduction, labour market, education, and current developments in forced migration. Participants are invited to submit abstracts within a broad array of theoretical and epistemological approaches. Theoretical and empirical contributions are welcome, and empirical methods may range from quantitative to qualitative as well as a mix of both of them. Papers may include case studies, intra- or internationally comparative, transnational or global perspectives. A focus of this conference lies on the dynamics of migration, which may relate to the developments and interactions *within* and *between* countries of migration as well as to different migrant generations. Papers may deal with varying contexts, motives and experiences of migration and its consequences on the individual, institutional, or societal levels. For the last couple of decades, immigrant populations have become more and more diverse in many ways. The multiplicity of dimensions of such heterogeneity, e.g. socio-economic stratification, gender, legal status/nationality or ethnic inequalities, should be taken into account.

### ***Membership in (trans-)nationally constituted societies: post-racial, post-ethnic, post-colonial or post-migrant?***

The analysis of migration dynamics has inspired new theoretical and empirical perspectives on memberships in societies which implicitly are often still thought to be nationally constituted. Submissions for this panel may examine the contribution of migration studies to the conceptualization of membership in non-static dereified visions of cultures and societies. Catchwords like ‘post-racial’, ‘post-ethnic’, or ‘post-migrant’ try to re-conceptualize changing macro group structures as well as related patterns of identification and forms of subjectivation. These perspectives are often situated within non-mainstream subfields of sociology e.g. citizenship studies, postcolonial sociology or global sociology. Methodologically it is necessary to include transnational, global and multi-situated approaches in order to avoid methodological nationalism. Papers may approach the following questions:

- Who belongs to a nationally constituted society and who does not? How do changing legal structures change the configuration of membership positions? How do supranational institutions or transnational developments change perceptions of ‘us’ and ‘them’?
- What are the structural and discursive changes in macro group structures? How do different modes of culturalization—whether on religious or ethnic terms—influence the dynamics of macro group structures?
- What are the consequences of different strategies in political discourses on macro group structures in societies? How do different perceptions of memberships compete with each other in the public realm?

### ***Household and social reproduction***

Households as economic units define and shape people’s modes of living and are the immediate context of their material well-being. At the same time, they are their the main space for social reproduction in which individuals can regenerate, in which children are being born and raised, and in which the elderly are taken care of. Due to historic and present immigration trends, contemporary households have become more diverse in many respects, e.g. household composition, resource accumulation or gender arrangements. For instance, migrants’ households are on average larger and have a higher risk of living in poverty than non-migrants’ households. In terms of domestic labour, migrant women carry a disproportionate high share of the workload reinforcing traditional gender roles. While female employment is rising in immigration countries in general, it is often migrant women who increasingly take over chores of social reproduction (housekeeping, care etc.), both in private households and the public sector. These jobs are often precarious and poorly paid. The redistribution of care activities from native women to migrant women (widely discussed under the term “global care chain”) may challenge gender arrangements within families but may also enforce a hierarchical differentiation between women of diverse social and cultural backgrounds. At the same time new transnational family structures emerge, reshuffling traditional gender roles and thus rearranging former household arrangements. We welcome contributions focusing on the following research questions:

- What are the modes of living in households shaped by experiences of migration? How does the migration process change the lifestyle of couples and families?

- How are transnational households managed by family members living in different places? What are the implications of transnational family arrangements for immigrant children with regard to their expectations and chances in life?
- How do gender arrangements in the hosting society change because of migration? How are different gender arrangements (in heterosexual and same-sex couples) and ideas of gender roles negotiated within migration societies? How are current modes of social reproduction and care work influenced by migration in general and global care chains in particular?
- What are the macro-social implications of heterogeneous migration processes for the organization and functioning of welfare states or related public policy arenas? How do governments and state institutions intervene into the way migration and arrangements of social reproduction interact?

### ***Labour market: Between inclusion and discrimination***

Immigrants' incorporation into the labour market is often seen as the cornerstone of integration. On the one hand, according to the meritocratic ideal of society immigrants should enjoy equal opportunities rights and find employment reflecting their competencies and their motivation. In this context anti-discrimination laws seek to eradicate ethno-racial discrimination. In addition, some employers prefer an ethnically diverse workforce in the light of growing heterogeneity in the population and higher productivity in a globalizing economy. On the other hand, immigrants as newcomers on the labour market may compete with natives and long-settled immigrants or be perceived as doing so. Overall, regulating and restricting access to legal employment is still a key feature of nation-state sovereignty, especially with regard to refugees and other non-EU-citizens, and so are institutionalized rules pertaining to the recognition of foreign credentials. At the same time, in segmented labour markets of capitalist economies companies use and depend on immigrants as a flexible 'cheap' labour force, which is easier to exploit than native citizens – such business were made possible by neoliberal deregulation policies and the state's incapacity or unwillingness to effectively clamp down on illegal practices.

The submissions for this panel on labour market may include one of the following research questions:

- In the light of growing heterogeneity among immigrants, how have patterns of labour market participation diversified? How does new immigration influence the socio-economic positions of natives and long-settled immigrants? Do immigrants' transnational employment patterns exhibit upward or downward socio-economic mobility in the short and long run?
- How are competition, hierarchies, and solidarity expressed among employees of varying migrant status and ethnic backgrounds in companies or specific segments of the economy?
- What are the differentiated regulations, practices and discursive justifications for excluding immigrants from qualified prestigious occupations? How do changes from ex- to inclusion come about?

### ***Education and migration: dynamics of social inequality***

Educational institutions of the host society convey knowledge, competences, and certificates to immigrants and immigrants' children and thus function as a major distributor of subsequent occupational opportunities and life chances in general. Educational attainment in Germany and most other European countries is not equal with regard to the students' migration status. There have been intense academic debates whether these inequalities are the side effect of the strong social-class bias typical for the German-speaking education systems or a result of direct ethnic discrimination by teachers as well as indirect institutional discrimination. Furthermore, educational institutions are an important social field where social identities are formed, ethnicized, or de-ethnicized within implemented routines in the interactions with teachers and among students. Teaching of the so-called 'national' history and values may clash with actual hierarchies and differing social and cultural subcultures within the contemporary multicultural society – resulting in everyday conflicts, repression or to ensure (in productive ways) inclusion and equal participation of all students. The abstracts may focus on the following questions:

- Has the interaction of ethnic background with social class—especially parental education, parents' long-term unemployment, or residence in poor neighbourhoods—changed with regard to their effects on the children's educational attainment? How do children fare at school when the immigrant parents' high educational qualification is 'inconsistent' with their low socio-economic standing in the host country?
- In how far have current educational policies and practices learned from previous experiences and mistakes in order to ensure equal opportunities? Have institutionalized daily routines dealing with an ethnically heterogeneous student body changed over time? How do institutional changes aiming to tackle *other* goals affect ethnic inequalities indirectly, e.g. fusion of secondary school tracks (*Haupt-/Realschule*), increase of private schools, and inclusion of students with so-called learning disability into mainstream schools?
- How do children of immigrants whose inclusion as equal members of society may be questioned react to the arrival of new immigrants? And how do schools deal with those different historical and generational layers of immigration among their clientele?

### ***Refugees and forced migration – contemporary challenges for societies and the sociology of migration***

The analysis of forced migration and the particular condition of refugees have never been more central in German-speaking migration studies, although Germany has a long history of refugee migration—from the 1920s to the post war migration of German refugees to "boat people" at the end of the 1970s, to name a few. Certain migrant communities (such as the Iranian) have emerged predominantly out of this particular type of migration. Due to the dominance of the paradigm of integration, the specific legal status of immigrants and the tendency to exclude refugees from central areas of society (like labour market, education, housing and political participation) in the recognition processes has seldom been studied in German migration research. Therefore it is remarkable how in the current conjuncture of massive and increasing arrival of refugees both numerous politicians and parts of the general public 'discover' these new migrants as potentially skilled personnel and endorse early measures of integration. For migration research, those new tendencies as well as the

continuities in politics and public discourse on migration present current challenges. Papers may analyse aspects of the following tensions:

- How can we analyse the reactions of host societies to the current movements of refugees like the “welcoming culture” in form of voluntary support committees and initiatives in contrast to rising anti-immigration movements? While racist and anti-migration discourse and behaviour as well as right-wing parties are on the rise, we have been living in a migration society for many decades now and the representation of people with migration history in the public sphere is more and more established. How can we understand those diverging tendencies and how do they relate to other developments in the past? How do they relate to current tendencies in regulating migration?
- How do institutions react and might even change when fast decisions and measures are demanded in short notice? What are the relations between civil society and the public sector? Which changes are necessary to enable refugees and other newly arrived migrants to participate fully in different parts of society?
- What are the needs, expectations, and capacities of the newly arrived? What forms of articulation—through self-organization, struggles, associations etc.—have they found and how do these shape the receiving countries? How does migration research change if the research on migration also involves the research perspectives and agendas of those who are currently migrating here?

### ***Submission Details:***

Submit abstracts to: [janina.soehn@sofi.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:janina.soehn@sofi.uni-goettingen.de) and [office.bim@hu-berlin.de](mailto:office.bim@hu-berlin.de)

(Subject: “DGS-BIM conference abstract”)

Word limit: 400 words

Deadline: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Notification of admission: April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### ***Organizers:***

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