

Call for Papers

Migration and Development after the 'Refugee Crisis'

Fighting root causes, controlling mobility, endangering livelihoods

Panel at the 16th Annual IMISCOE Conference June 26-28, 2019
Malmö University, Sweden

Panel convenors:

Dr. Laura Stielike (University of Osnabrueck)
Prof. Dr. Malte Steinbrink (University of Passau)

The discourse on the positive implications of migration for development has been quite powerful for the first 15 years of the new millennium. International organisations, national governments and local administrations have tried to foster and harness migrant remittances, knowledge transfers and development related diaspora activities. With the summer of migration 2015 which has widely been called 'Refugee Crisis' and the following EU-Africa Summit in Valetta the focus has fundamentally shifted. Migration and mobility are no longer communicated as a decisive positive development factor. Instead, the control of mobility seems to have become the main European interest in Africa. Interestingly, not only the fight against the so-called root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement but also the externalisation of European border control takes place in the name of development. Official Development Assistance is not only conditioned in terms of migration policy but also redirected and channeled to directly serve migration control purposes: Development funds are mobilised to train African border police, to launch public campaigns aiming at preventing people from migrating to Europe and to extend return and readmission programmes. In this context, authoritarian regimes have become important 'partners' and thus gained strength and a semblance of legitimacy.

How can we understand these changes in discourse and practice? Do we witness the end of the migration and development paradigm or has the 'migration and development pendulum' (de Haas) just swung back to a new phase of pessimism? Which aspects of the migration and development paradigm are sidelined while others are brought to the fore? How are old concepts filled with new meaning? Do we experience a reinvigoration of the 'sedentary bias' (Bakewell) in development practice and what are the broader implications? And what are the practical consequences of externalised EU mobility control on intra-african mobilities and how does it affect the livelihood organisation and security of highly mobile populations within the respective regions?

If you are interested in participating in this panel please submit an abstract (250 words maximum) as well as your contact details and affiliation to Laura Stielike <Laura.Stielike@uni-osnabrueck.de> and Malte Steinbrink <Malte.Steinbrink@uni-passau.de> by the 20th of November 2018. The IMISCOE office takes the final decision upon acceptance of the panel in the end of January 2019.

More information on the conference is available here:

<https://www.imiscoe.org/events/annual-conference/861-cfp-understanding-international-migration-in-the-21st-century-conceptual-and-methodological-approaches-16th-annual-imiscoe-conference-june-26-28-2019-malmoe-university-sweden>