



Call for Papers

International Conference of the Cooperative Research Training Group Neglected Topics in Refugee Research (University of Hamburg) and the Project Group Empirical Migration Research Salzburg (PREMISA) (University of Salzburg)

Global connections, local interpretations? Critical perspectives on scientific and media discourses in the context of refuge and asylum

June 10 to 12, 2021
at the University of Salzburg

Global social inequalities that result in (forced)migration are largely determined by transnational political and economic processes. This phenomenon is referred to in the conference title. The term 'local', on the other hand, clearly indicates that these developments are addressed at continental, national and regional levels through politics, media, science and social work. Two research groups in Hamburg and Salzburg, using interdisciplinary and methodologically diverse approaches, are investigating how global connections are interpreted and empirically researched on a local level. Furthermore, they explore concepts that are developed in practical fields of action in order to find regional reactions to worldwide connections. Local interpretations of scientific and media discourses are analysed and the extent to which these are framed in a global context is investigated. Moreover, it is examined whether there are issues and areas for action that are ignored on both levels in science and the media and if so, why; what methods are available to research global processes, how they may be implemented and what aspects of research ethics are problematic in this respect.

The results of this research will be presented at the end of a multi-year Ph.D. program. With the conference "Global connections, local interpretations? – Critical perspectives on scientific and media discourses in the context of refuge and asylum" we are looking for an exchange with scholars from various disciplines who address topics such as power and worldwide injustices in the context of flight and asylum, its causes and consequences as well as its media representation and its academic reflection both on a global and on a local level. The aim is to

discuss current research findings as well as methodological issues and aspects of research ethics. Thematic focuses could be:

Global injustice, global justice

There are many reasons to migrate or flee. However, what are the specific societal, social and individual dynamics underlying forced migration? How can the causes of flight be explained in the context of global injustice? For example, is the current dominant interpretation of history in scientific theory appropriate to interpret these causes as consequences of post-colonial structures? Which geopolitical order of the world is constructed with this notion in mind? To what extent is this explanatory model conclusive with respect to local conditions? What ideas are proposed to address global injustice? Can the narratives of transnational justice based on solidarity be (re)constructed in the context of flight and asylum? If so, what arguments are used in these narratives?

Local themes and their intersectional entanglements

Neglected topics in refugee and asylum research can be particularly well traced from an intersectional perspective. This makes it possible to identify the subject's circumstances as well as the social problems in their diversity, complexity, and entanglement. What specific desiderata of research on refuge and asylum can be found? Which topics are currently under investigation? Which of these have not been considered before? What potential interfaces exist? What is the systematic and methodological structure of studies designed to reconstruct intersectional entanglements? What are their central findings?

Media discourses on flight and asylum

The prevailing ideas and orientations concerning flight and asylum in so-called host societies are strongly influenced by (mass)media communication. What content is made discursively accessible through media presentations, and in what way is this done? What are the problems, social groups, historical contexts or areas of social action that are taboo or distorted? What patterns of interpretation do recipients develop in dealing with different ways of representation? What are the discursive and practical challenges for media and political education in the context of flight and asylum?

Research in its contradictions and entanglements

Global inequality is also embedded in the methods and ethics of refugee and asylum research. It determines whether and what local problems are hidden or addressed and why. How can this inequality be reflected in fieldwork, surveys and evaluations? How are hegemonic or marginalized linguistic relationships reproduced in the research process or how can this be obviated? What is the researcher's responsibility and how can a self-reflective research attitude be adopted? How can critical aspects of racism be integrated into the research process?

Submission and organization

We welcome proposals for theoretical and empirical contributions in one of the three planned formats: presentation, workshop and poster. Submissions should not exceed 15-20 minutes each to allow sufficient time for discussion. All three formats may be presented in German or English. If interested, please email an abstract of max. 250 words to janina.zoelch@uni-hamburg.de until **31.01.2021**.

Proposals will go through a double-blind peer review. To ensure anonymity, please send a separate title page with the following information: Title of the abstract, desired format, name, address/institution. Contributions will be selected according to their relevance to the conference topic, their theoretical basis, their consistency within the research question and methodology as well as their originality. The results of the review process will be announced by **28.02.2021**.

Papers and conference results will be published afterwards.

We are looking forward to your submissions.

Conference venue

Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg
Unipark Nonntal
Erzabt-Klotz Straße 1
5020 Salzburg

General data

The conference has been planned to be held on-site. Of course, digital contributions can also be submitted if, for example, there are visa issues or other problems that prevent personal attendance. Should pandemic regulations preclude the on-site conference, it will be held in a hybrid format on the same date.

10.06.2021	Kick-off event "Arts & Politics" for scientists in qualification phases (from 5 pm)
11.06.2021	Conference day 1 (9 am to 7 pm, incl. dinner)
12.06.2021	Conference day 2 (9 am to 2 pm)

Contact

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