

Call for Papers

Including Skilled Refugees into the Labour Market – Understanding the “Paradox” between Labour and Humanitarian Migration

Session of the Research Committee 31 Sociology of Migration
at the 19th ISA World Congress of Sociology, July 15-21, 2018, Toronto.

Session Organizers

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The challenge of responding to refugees has become a globally pressing moral and political issue: According to UNHCR figures, there are worldwide more than 65 million displaced people. While most refugees stay in the region, increasing numbers reach labor markets in transitioning or core economies. In regulating migration, these countries distinguish between labor and humanitarian migration regimes. While skilled, economic migrants are regularly targeted as ‘assets’ for the economy, refugees are primarily perceived as being in need of assistance and contributing to the unskilled sector of the economy. Regardless of this categorization in regulating migration, policy makers have come to understand that refugees are likely to stay for a long time, which makes long-term social integration and, in particular, labor market inclusion a key component of refugee settlement. In this respect, evaluating the cultural capital of refugees has become of critical significance. Assessing and recognizing the cultural capital of migrants is however difficult, given national and even subnational systems of credential recognition, long cooling out periods and a public perception of refugees as needy rather than able. Against the background of this policy conundrum, this session asks for theoretical and empirical contributions on the labour market inclusion of refugees with a particular emphasis on the recognition of their cultural capital. How can we assess refugees’ skills within the national context of the destination country and in a transnational perspective? What are the main obstacles and opportunities that refugees face in their attempts to enter the – skilled – labour market?

Paper proposals have to be submitted via the ISA website “Confex” <https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2018/webprogrampreliminary/Session9810.html> by September 30th, 2017. If your abstract has been selected you will be notified by November 30th, 2017.