



CALL FOR PAPERS

Housing and integrating refugees: Innovative best practices from around the Globe

Arnold-Bergstraesser Institute

Freiburg, Germany

12 – 13th April 2018

What is called a “refugee crisis” from a European perspective is a well-known phenomenon in the Global South. Far from Europe, experiences on housing and integrating refugees and displaced persons have been collected for decades.

Though the situation in each country is specific and policies towards refugees and migrants show an enormous variety, some of the challenges that hosting communities face are similar, irrespective of where on the globe there are. Unfortunately, knowledge and research about refugee and migrant policies and practices in the Global South is still overshadowed by attention to the Global North. This is despite the fact that the future planning and implementation of refugee policies in the West could benefit from the ample, often innovative experiences and learning processes made elsewhere. In fact, fewer governmental rules and regulations as well as a lack of resources can be a breeding ground for innovation and creativity.

The focus of this conference is on research results regarding innovative best practices from around the globe for the housing and integration of refugees and displaced persons. We are interested for contributions on the following topics:

1) Housing for refugees and displaced persons: Under what circumstances can we see more self-reliance, participation and agency of refugees and what kind of programs can foster them in a respectful way? Does this differ for those in formal settlements or self-settled? Are there forms of self-organization and self-representation for refugees that are particularly conducive to reduce conflict and disempowerment within the camps?

2) Integration of refugees and displaced persons: What kind of skills-training or work programs work or don't work for integrating displaced persons? How and in what ways can the identity and dignity of refugees be restored in a culturally sensitive manner as a prerequisite to deal with their suffering (often traumatic) past and present? How can we address trauma and stress in a culturally sensitive way without stigmatizing and pathologizing refugees? What kind of cultural and gender sensitive approaches have been explored in the Global South which are acceptable for females but also for males? How do you deal with unfamiliar cultures, cultural diversity and its potential to clash with norms and values of the hosting community?



Though the conference is practice-oriented, we are seeking an interdisciplinary debate bringing together social scientists (anthropologists, historians, political scientists, sociologists, psychologists, economists etc.) and practitioners with particular research and practice experience from the global South. The aim is to consider to what extent global experiences can be transferred, adapted and implemented at a national, regional and local context in the Global North and in Germany particular.

The deadline for submission is the **15th January 2018**. Authors are invited to submit an abstract for individual paper proposals of up to 300 words, which should include the title of the paper. Please submit your proposal to: conferences.abi@abi.uni-freiburg.de

Conference Organisers: Beatrice Schlee and Franzisca Zanker. For questions please contact beatrice.schlee@abi.uni-freiburg.de