

Course title:	Europe, Migration, Refugees
Instructor:	Nerges Azizi
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Track:	B-Track
Language of instruction:	English
Contact hours:	48 (6 per day)
ECTS credits:	5
Prerequisites:	Students should be able to speak and read English at the upper intermediate level (B2) or higher. No prior knowledge is required but the willingness to think beyond the usual framings on migration.

Course description

In the last decade, the EU experienced unprecedented migration movements. EU's response has been shaped by distinguishing between "deserving refugees" and "undeserving economic migrants" and has oscillated between humanitarian and securitarian approaches. Whereas the recent developments on the EU borders, such as pushbacks and the containment of migrants in the hotspots, signalize the abandonment of the humanitarian approach, the quick and less bureaucratic protection of Ukrainian refugees demonstrates more of a selective humanitarian approach.

This form of differential inclusion shaping the migration and asylum policies is the governmental product of an ongoing process of conflict, negotiation, subordination, resistance, and solidarity on the 'external' and 'internal' borders of *something called Europe* or of Europe as borderland (Balibar 2009). There are different actors with unequal power relations involved in this process. Departing from critical migration theories, we will focus on the subjectivity of migrants and refugees on different levels by breaking their usual representation as victims/villains from a state-centered or market-centered perspective.

Starting from a critical overview of EU-level migration and border management policies, we will challenge the metaphor of Fortress Europe. Scaling down, we will learn about the recent changes in the migration/integration policies in Germany and how these are implemented by the local authorities in Berlin and challenged by civil society actors. Finally, we will examine the transformation of migrant labor and learn about the history of migrant struggles by focusing on the recent refugee movement, which has been described as the movement of the 21st century (Davis 2015). Through a diverse combination of assigned articles, class discussions, and field trips, we will encounter viewpoints on the conflicts, compromises, resistances, solidarity, and social transformation concerning the recent migration movements to Europe.

Student profile

This course is designed for all students having a personal, professional or political personal interest in a deeper and thus more differentiated understanding of transnational migration.

Course requirements

The basic conditions for the course are regular attendance, participation in discussions and a close reading of the literature provided.

- A response paper (min. 1 page) for 2 sessions of the class, which students can choose, is to be submitted before each respective session.
- Oral presentation (max. 10 min.) on a topic from the syllabus or a reflection paper on one of the field trips (max 3 pages)
- The final examination will consist of answering 2-3 leading questions regarding the contents of the seminar in continuous text.

Required language skills

The language of instruction is English. Language proficiency on an advanced intermediate level (B2) is a prerequisite for participation. For orientation purposes, you can assess your language skills here (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR): <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168045bb52>)

Grading

Class participation: 10%

Response papers: 20%

Oral Presentation or Reflection Paper: 30%

Final Exam: 40%

Readings

A digital reader will be provided.

Course schedule

Date	Program*
Tuesday, July 23, 2024	<p>Overview and Core Concepts</p> <p>How can we begin to define and connect the diverse topics and concepts we will encounter? What are Human Rights all about, in relation to migration? What is the actual difference between mobile people, ‘migrants’ and ‘refugees’?</p> <p>Reading:</p> <p>Gutiérrez Rodríguez, Encarnación. 2018. “The Coloniality of Migration and the ‘Refugee Crisis’: On the Asylum-Migration Nexus, the Transatlantic White</p>

	<p>European Settler Colonialism-Migration and Racial Capitalism". <i>Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees</i> 34 (1):16-28.</p>
<p>Friday, July 26, 2024</p>	<p>Migration Theories</p> <p>We will get an overview over the most common as well as more critical theories of human migration.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>de Haas, Hein. 2021. A theory of migration: the aspirations-capabilities framework. <i>Comparative Migration Studies</i> 9 (8) : 1-35. (For the class, we will read only the first half of the article to get an overview of earlier migration theories; the pages between 1-16.)</p> <p>De Genova, Nicholas; Garelli, Glenda and Tazzioli, Martina (2018) <i>Autonomy of Asylum?: The Autonomy of Migration Undoing the Refugee Crisis Script</i>. <i>South Atlantic Quarterly</i>, 117 (2). pp. 239-265.</p>
<p>Tuesday, July 30, 2024</p>	<p>European Border Regime and its Crisis</p> <p>Focusing on European Union, we will discuss the transformation of borders and nation states. We will elaborate the processes behind the destabilization of European Border Regime with the 2015 crisis and its restabilization attempts. Following, we will learn about how EU responded to the refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Hess, Sabine, und Bernd Kasperek. 2017. „Under Control? Or Border (as) Conflict: Reflections on the European Border Regime“. <i>Social Inclusion</i> 5 (3): 58–68.</p> <p>2nd reading of this session will be announced and distributed in the first class.</p>
<p>Friday, August 2, 2024</p>	<p>Policy changes and differential inclusion</p> <p>We will learn how Germany responded to the significant increase of immigration in the last years. Which politics and policies emerged on the national and administrative level? What has changed? How are these changes implemented in the city-state level?</p>

	<p>How can the concept of differential inclusion help us to understand these developments?</p> <p>Reading:</p> <p>Fontanari, Elena (2022): “Germany, year 2020. The tension between asylum right, border control, and economy, through the imperative of deservingness” <i>Migration Studies</i>, 1-23.</p> <p>Field trip to Berlin’s migration-administration authorities on district level (upon availability)</p>
<p>Tuesday, August 6, 2024</p>	<p>Willkommenskultur and the Volatility of the Public Discourse</p> <p>We will discuss the emergence of welcome culture (Willkommenskultur) by focusing on the reactions of civil society in 2015 crisis and its reemergence in 2022. How do civil agents perceive their engagement with newcomers? Following, we will learn about the role of the media in the acceptance of refugees and the volatility of the public discourse.</p> <p>Reading:</p> <p>Vollmer, Bastian; Karakayali, Serhat. 2017. “The Volatility of the Discourse on Refugees in Germany”. <i>Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies</i> 29 (3): 1–22.</p> <p>Field trip to a Welcome-Initiative (upon availability)</p>
<p>Friday, August 9, 2024</p>	<p>Transformation of Migrant Labor</p> <p>Migrant labor has been mostly discussed in relation to the theory of labor market segmentation. Is this theory still useful to understand the new composition of labor? Did the migrant factory worker transform into care worker, grocery shop owner, logistics worker, IT expert, etc....? How can we analyze this kind of multiplication of labor? How is their exploitation connected to their stratified legal status? How did the labor market react to recent migrations?</p> <p>Reading:</p> <p>Altenried, Moritz, Manuela Bojadžijev, Leif Höfler, Sandro Mezzadra, und Mira Wallis. 2018. „Logistical Borderscapes Politics and Mediation of Mobile Labor in Germany after the “Summer of Migration”“. <i>South Atlantic Quarterly</i> 117 (2): 291–312.</p> <p>Field trip to a trade union in migration-matters (upon availability)</p>
<p>Tuesday, August 13, 2024</p>	<p>Migrants’ Perspectives</p>

	<p>Berlin is famous for its “rebellious” history. What is the role of migrants and refugees in this history? Which social positions and perspectives have been taken by ‘illegalized’ migrants and refugees themselves in Berlin since the start of Guest-Worker Program? What is meant by migrant agency? What additional forms of oppression do women refugees and migrants experience? What forms of micro-politics do migrants employ? How do they perceive themselves as newcomers to the EU?</p> <p>Reading:</p> <p>Odugbesan, Abimbola, and Helge Schwiertz. (2018): “‘We Are Here to Stay’ – Refugee Struggles in Germany Between Unity and Division.” In <i>Protest Movements in Asylum and Deportation</i>, edited by Sieglinde Rosenberger, Verena Stern, and Nina Merhaut. IMISCOE Research Series. Cham: Springer International Publishing. 185–203.</p> <p>Field trip to a migrant/refugee women organization (upon availability)</p>
<p>Friday, August 16, 2024</p>	<p>Future of Migration</p> <p>Final class discussion and final exam</p>

*Field trips are subject to change depending on the availability of appointments and speakers. On field trip days, class hours may be adjusted.