

Course title:	Europe, Migration, Refugees
Instructor:	Duygu Gürsel
Email address:	duygu.gursel@fu-berlin.de
Track:	B-Track
Language of instruction:	English
Contact hours:	72 (6 per day)
ECTS credits:	7
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

Regarding transnational migration, the EU promotes a political reasoning between processes of consolidation and necessary conflict, between sovereignty and shared responsibility, between the right to define and delimit and the duty to negotiate. In ongoing economic crisis and facing unprecedented movements of people, the timeless normalcy of migration is often framed as crisis per se.

As the visibility of migration increases in various ways, migrants are often represented and imagined as a homogenous mass of 'the other'. This leads to a problematic understanding of migration as something to be controlled and governed from a top-down perspective alone. But the respective processes of negotiation on migration policy, within and across the outer borders of the Union, take place not only between the official institutions of nation-states, but on all scales of European populations. They also take place from a bottom-up perspective in the centers and at the margins of societies alike.

Departing from diverse theories of migration, we will gain an overview of EU-level migration polity and recent migration- and border-management policies. We will analyze the conflicts, debates and discourses around the last years of increased immigration.

Scaling down, we will engage with the local authorities' perspective in Berlin. Diving deeper down we will start to change perspective: How do local activists develop and implement their own ways of welcoming migrants? Is there a rising anti-Muslim racism in Europe? How can we think on recent migrations taking gender and sexuality into consideration? Where do migrants work and how are they represented in trade unions? Finally, focusing on the history of migrant struggles in Berlin, we will encounter migrants' viewpoints, which reach beyond the usual framings of 'the poor migrant' as 'passive victim', as a threat or as the '(anti-)hero' of globalization. We will encounter viewpoints on the conflicts, compromises, resistances, solidarity and social transformation shaping and shaped by recent migration movement 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.

- In one page of continuous text, every course-day's core discussions and conclusions are to be summarized and questions regarding the texts for the following session formulated, in preparation for the next sessions.
- Each student is required one time to prepare an input-presentation of a text in class (max. 15 min.).
- The final examination (90 min.) will consist of answering 2-3 leading questions regarding the contents of the seminar in continuous text.

Grading

Participation & Day's Summaries and Questions: 40%

Text Presentation: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

Literature

A course reader will be provided at the orientation meeting.

Course schedule

Date	Program*
Tuesday, June 7, 2022	<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>Readings:</p> <p>Crawley, Heaven, and Dimitris Skleparis. 2018. „Refugees, migrants, neither, both: categorical fetishism and the politics of bounding in Europe’s ‘migration crisis’“. <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i> 44 (1): 48–64.</p> <p>Castles, Stephen. 2007. “The Migration–Asylum Nexus and Regional Approaches” in Kneebone, Susan, and Felicity Rawlings-Sanaei (ed.) <i>New Regionalism and Asylum Seekers: Challenges Ahead</i>. Berghahn Books.</p>
Friday, June 10, 2022	<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>O'Reilly, Karen. 2015. „Migration Theories: A Critical Overview“. In: Routledge Handbook of Immigration and Refugee Studies. Routledge.</p> <p>Casas-Cortes, Maribel et al. 2015. “New Keywords: Migration and Borders.” <i>Cultural Studies</i> 29 (1): 55–87.</p>
<p>Tuesday, June 14, 2022</p>	<p>Migration Management in the Schengen-Regime</p> <p>The process of European integration entailed a rethinking of international border- and security-management. We will take a closer look at diverse public and private institutions, their politics and forms of policing.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Buckel, Sonja, und Jens Wissel. 2010. „State Project Europe: The Transformation of the European Border Regime and the Production of Bare Life“. <i>International Political Sociology</i> 4 (1): 33–49.</p> <p>Kasperek, Bernd. 2016. „Complementing Schengen: The Dublin System and the European Border and Migration Regime“. In <i>Migration Policy and Practice: Interventions and Solutions</i>, herausgegeben von Harald Bauder und Christian Matheis, 59–78. Migration, Diasporas and Citizenship. New York: Palgrave Macmillan US.</p>
<p>Friday, June 17, 2022</p>	<p>“Refugee Crisis” or Long Summer of Migration?</p> <p>Which political, economic, juridical and ethical problematizations, debates and conflicts are circulating in the EU, regarding the “refugee crisis”? What actually is “in crisis”? What is the origin of the crisis? How did European border management respond to this crisis?</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>Stierl, Maurice. 2020. “Re-imagining EUrope through the governance of migration”. <i>International Political Sociology</i> 14 (3): 252-269</p>
<p>Tuesday, June 21, 2022</p>	<p>Willkommenskultur and the Volatility of the Public Discourse</p> <p>How are refugees represented in the public discourse in Germany? How did the civil society actors react to the crisis? How do they perceive their engagement</p>

	<p>with newcomers? Does the emerging welcome culture refer to a paradigm shift?</p> <p>Readings:</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>Guest speaker from a Welcome-Initiative (upon availability)</p>
<p>Friday, June 24, 2022</p>	<p>Recent migration/integration policies and differential inclusion</p> <p>On the policy level, Germany reacted to the so-called refugee crisis on the one hand by restricting asylum law, on the other hand by opening integration measures for a group of refugees. What has actually changed? What happened on the local administrative level?</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Will, Anne-Kathrin. 2018. „On “Genuine” and “Illegitimate” Refugees: New Boundaries Drawn by Discriminatory Legislation and Practice in the Field of Humanitarian Reception in Germany“. <i>Social Inclusion</i> 6 (3): 172–89.</p> <p>Guest speaker from Berlin’s migration-administration authorities on district level (upon availability)</p>
<p>Tuesday, June 28, 2022</p>	<p>Anti-Muslim Racism</p> <p>Is there a rising anti-Muslim racism in Europe? How can we put this into a historical context? Is this new racism? What is the role of the nation state? We will discuss these questions in the light of the recent discourses on “Muslim” migrants.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Balibar, Etienne. 1991. „Es gibt keinen Staat in Europa. Racism and Politics in Europa Today.“ <i>New Left Review</i> 186: 5-19</p> <p>Lewicki, Aleksandra, und Yasemin Shooman. 2020. „Building a new nation: anti-Muslim racism in post-unification Germany“. <i>Journal of Contemporary European Studies</i> 28 (1): 30–43.</p>
<p>Friday, July 1, 2022</p>	<p>The Politics of Fear: The “Populist Backlash”</p>

	<p>The rise of radical right-wing politics (not only) in Europe sometimes seems to be played down by the notion of ‘populism’. We will think about how useful the concept of populism is in general and in the German context.</p> <p>Reading:</p> <p>Sterphone, Joseph (2019): „Mut zu Deutschland!“ On the Populist Nationalism of the Alternative für Deutschland. In <i>Populist Nationalism in Europe and the Americas</i>. ed. by Fernando Lopez-Alves, Diane E. Johnson.</p> <p>Guest Speaker from a political party’s local branch (upon availability)</p>
<p>Tuesday, July 5, 2022</p>	<p>Gender and Sexuality</p> <p>To think migration by taking gender and sexuality into consideration does not mean only to include women and LGBTQI+ into analysis, but also to consider gender and sexuality as organizing principles of social relations. We will delve into concepts of homonationalism and femonationalism in order to analyze the current discussions/policies on gender and sexuality regarding migration.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Tschalaer, Mengia. 2020. „Between queer liberalisms and Muslim masculinities: LGBTQI+ Muslim asylum assessment in Germany“. <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 43 (7): 1265–83.</p> <p>Farris, Sara R. 2012. „Femonationalism and the ‚Regular‘ Army of Labor Called Migrant Women“. <i>History of the Present</i> 2 (2): 184–99.</p>
<p>Friday, July 8, 2022</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</p>

	<p>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>Guest speaker from a trade union in migration-matters (upon availability)</p>
Tuesday, July 12, 2022	<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>Guest speaker from a migrant/refugee women organization (upon availability)</p>
Friday, July 15, 2022	<p>Future of Migration</p> <p>Final class discussion and final exam</p> <p>-Reading for the final class will be announced and distributed in the first class.-</p>

*Discussion with guest speakers are subject to change depending on the availability of appointments and speakers.