

4. Conference of the German Network for Forced Migration Studies

28. – 30.09.2022
Technische Universität Chemnitz

Call for Papers, Panels & Posters, 2nd Circular

Forced migration is a political and social challenge in ever new constellations – in Europe and worldwide. Refugees are confronted with manifold dangers and challenges, which they face with a wide variety of coping strategies. The category of “the refugee” challenges fundamental principles of states, law, political communities and society. Refugee and forced migration studies analyse and conceptualise all those aspects and have to tackle questions regarding the normative and ethical foundations of its research subject, as well as questions of knowledge transfer and critical interventions into the wider public.

The fourth conference of the German Network for Forced Migration Studies offers the opportunity to discuss these questions, fueled by latest research results of the German and international scientific community. Where does refugee research stand after the refugee events in Europe in 2015 and the subsequent boom in this field of research? What insights have we gained, which new questions have emerged? How can we develop a spatial understanding of flight which reaches beyond the usual geographical references? What contribution can forced migration and refugee studies make to support a critical understanding of its subject? The network conference is considered as a means for communication and networking of researchers in the field of forced migration.

The 4th Conference of the German Network for Forced Migration Studies is convened at TU Chemnitz by the Chair of Human Geography with focus on European Migration Research, led by Prof. Dr. Birgit Glorius, and is organised in cooperation with the German Network for Forced Migration Studies and the project FFVT „Forced Migration and Refugee Studies: Networking and Knowledge Transfer“, sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

This Call for Papers, Panels & Posters addresses scholars of all disciplines who are researching issues of forced migration and refugees. They are invited to submit abstracts for papers, panel sessions, roundtables and posters. Proposals can cover the entire field of research on displacement and refugees and thematically related areas. We particularly look forward to suggestions that can be assigned to one of the following three key topics of the conference:

I. German forced migration studies: perspectives from inside and outside

This key topic deals with the specifics of German research on forced migration and refugees: how is it integrated into international research on forced migration and refugees? Which research gaps could it close? What new foci has it developed? Which research questions and fields have not yet been adequately considered? Contributions within the scope of this key topic are invited to provide reflections from the internal and external perspective, with the aim of gaining a clearer view of the development of German-language refugee research and promising research avenues for the future.

II. Spatial Aspects of Integration (Research) and Politics of Scale

A crucial aspect of refugee and migration research is the spatial context of mobility processes, and mobility as such. With the spatial turn in cultural and social sciences, space-related issues come to the fore, based on an understanding of space and place as socially produced and contested. Contributions to this key topic deconstruct hegemonic space productions and actors' roles on various governance levels (*Politics of Scale*), as well as knowledge and discourses on localism, mobility, and globalism. Also contributions focusing on translocality or multilocality, borders and border regimes, and inequality and spatial exclusion fall under the scope of this key topic.

III. Research Subjects: Forced Migration Research as Social Criticism or Do we need more Social Criticism in Forced Migration Research?

Research on forced migration needs to find a position towards its research subjects and the defining power that comes with its work. How do we define *forced migration*, and who do we consider to be '*refugees*'? Which other actors are relevant and what role do they have in research processes? Which topics are excluded from research on forced migration and refugees, and why? Contributions to this key topic may entail questions of identity and belonging, agency, intersectional perspectives and theories on racism in forced migration research. A special focus lies in the societal role of forced migration research and hegemonic relationships in this context: Refugee research continues to take place mainly from the perspective of non-refugees. This provokes questions on the role of positionality and situated knowledge in research processes. To what extent can forced migration research engage in societal criticism of hegemonic relationships?

Types of Contributions:

Individual Conference Paper: Paper presentations are planned as 15 minutes oral presentations, followed by a discussion. Submissions should clearly relate either to the above-mentioned key topics or other relevant topics.

Contributions include: title, author/s, abstract of max. 200 words, max. 5 keywords, assignment to one of the three key topics if applicable

Panel: In addition to individual presentations, panel proposals can also be submitted. Panels should relate to specific topics or questions and comprise a maximum of three papers, moderated by a maximum of two moderators. Interdisciplinary panels are very welcome, and we ask for considering gender-parity among panelists. Time for the entire panel: 90 minutes.

Contributions include: panel title, panel moderators, abstract of max. 200 words, for each included paper: title, author/s, abstract of max 200 words; for the panel max. 5 keywords, assignment to one of the three key topics if applicable

Roundtable: Roundtables comprise 4-6 panelists and have a high level of audience participation. All panelists present brief key arguments (5-6 minutes each), which are then

discussed with the participation of the audience. The individual contributions should do without technical support (PowerPoint presentation or similar).

Contributions include: title, moderators, participants, abstract of max. 200 words, max. 5

Poster: Posters can present recent research results with a high level of visualization. Notably dissertations or research projects in an early stage are invited. Posters will be organized in thematic clusters by the conference team.

Contributions include: title, author/s, abstract of max. 200 words, max. 5 keywords, assignment to one of the three key topics if applicable

In order to enable the active participation of as many people as possible, we ask you to submit a maximum of two proposals per person. Contributions should be offered in German or English, but also other languages can be suggested. The selection process will be done by members of the scientific board, based on scientific quality, but also ensuring a high level of diversity regarding topics, disciplines, formats, early career and senior researchers, and a fair gender and regional representation. Participants who have special needs are invited to address their needs to the conference team as early as possible.

Contributions are submitted via ConfTool. Access is available from 13.12.2021 to 31.01.2022 via the conference website:

<https://fluchtforschung.net/conference-2022/>

Deadlines and contact:

Results of the abstract evaluation will be given until end of March/beginning of April 2022

Conference registration will start in May 2022.

Contact for questions: **konferenz@fluchtforschung.net**

We are looking forward to your participation!

Best wishes

The conference team of TU Chemnitz, in the name of all cooperation partners

TU Chemnitz

Chemnitz University of Technology is a diverse university that is a part of a strong regional, national and international network. It is home to roughly 10,000 students from around 100 countries. Due to its high proportion of international students, Chemnitz University of Technology occupies a leading position nationwide among state universities. With around 2,300 employees in the sciences, technology and administration, the university is also an important catalyst in the region. Chemnitz University of Technology sees itself as a university with a familial feel to it, where members work together and treat each other as peers. The university sees itself as a driver of innovation in dealing with the important problems of tomorrow. Against the backdrop of global changes and new demographics, there is a need for comprehensive solutions that are sustainable, interdisciplinary and beneficial to our society.

The Institute for European Studies and History (IESG) is an interdisciplinary centre for research of European institutions, social and cultural phenomena in Western and Eastern Europe. The IESG offers study programs for European Studies and History (BA, MA, PhD) and conducts research in the field of European integration, European history, economic and political transformation, migration and democratisation in Europe. The Chair of Human Geography with focus on European Migration Research, host of this conference, focuses on migration and integration, urban and regional development on the basis of critical and reflexive approaches of migration research, postcolonial theory and social geography.

The German Network for Forced Migration Studies

The German Network for Forced Migration Studies (Netzwerk Fluchtforschung e.V.) is a multi-disciplinary network of academics in Germany whose research focuses on forced migration, refuge, and asylum, as well as of international academics concentrating on these subjects with regard to Germany. We collect and distribute relevant information about scholars, research projects, events and publications. Our objective is to enhance academic exchange and collaboration between scholars in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies in Germany and beyond with publication platforms and knowledge transfer formats such as our conferences every two years. Moreover, the network aims to advance research on forced migration, trigger academic debate about forced migration, refuge and asylum and promote the public and practical relevance of Forced Migration and Refugee Studies.

Forced Migration and Refugee Studies: Networking and Knowledge Transfer

The cooperation project "Forced Migration and Refugee Studies: Networking and Knowledge Transfer" (FFVT) aims to strengthen interdisciplinary forced migration and refugee research in Germany. To this end, the project, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), brings together research on migration, development, conflict and violence, climate change, health, governance and human rights and other topics. In this way, FFVT supports the networking of researchers and institutes working in all relevant research fields dealing with forced migration. To provide young academics with teaching and training opportunities in forced migration and refugee studies, it plans to establish study and graduate programmes. Furthermore, FFVT plans to promote the internationalisation of German research activities further and, therefore, offers a global fellowship programme, among other things. The dialogue between academia, practitioners, the media and politicians is another key element of its work. FFVT is to contribute to establishing a sustainable infrastructure for research on forced migration and refugee studies in Germany to facilitate excellent academic work in this field.

To focus and connect the scientific debates, FFVT sets changing accent topics in the course of the project. The current accent topic is: "(Im)mobility and global standards of refugee protection".

FFVT is jointly run by the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC), the Centre for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg (CHREN, University of Erlangen Nuremberg), the German Development Institute (DIE, Bonn) and the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS, University of Osnabrück).