

Summaries

J. Olaf Kleist: Researching Refugees: Challenges of Refugee Research. Refugee research is hardly institutionalised as a field of research in Germany but is widely established internationally. Despite various debates about methodology in and implications of refugee research, a comprehensive discussion about its foundational challenges is still missing. This paper first outlines refugee research as a research field and briefly illustrates its history and its object of research. It is argued that refugee research is an element of migration studies historically and thematically, yet constitutes its own field of research due to its specific focus on refugees' rights and protection. This is followed by a discussion of central challenges that research projects in this field find themselves confronted with. Firstly, the definition of "refugee" is contested and, therefore, the object of research depends on disciplines, thematic approaches, and context, making efforts to define terminology a fixture of refugee research. This makes interdisciplinary cooperation, which requires clarity about different approaches and common research frameworks, particularly difficult in a research field where such cooperation is so crucial. Transparency is also important in regards to refugee research's relevance for practice, which is aimed at reducing suffering on the one hand and requires independence from terms and goals of practice on the other. Considering the specific vulnerability of refugees, research has to employ particularly high ethical standards of methodology and be extremely sensitive to the political implications of its research outcomes. Due to these challenges, refugee research must implement continuous reflections about its foundations in order to do justice to its subject.

Antje Missbach & Melissa Phillips: The economics of exploitative transit: conditions for migrants and refugees in Indonesia and Libya. Faced with increasingly restrictive border protection measures, such as Australia's "Operation Sovereign Borders" and externalised border controls in "Fortress Europe", more asylum seekers and refugees attempt to reach their destinations by unauthorised means. Smuggling networks, funds to pay for journeys, and access to transit sites where onward passage can be negotiated, are critical to the success of irregular migration. This article explores access to transit sites by comparing Indonesia and Libya – two key transit locations for people seeking to reach Australia and Italy respectively. It investigates practices in such sites and focuses on the exploitation of transit migrants, especially on the economic benefit they bring to smugglers, corrupt officials, and locals. Through analysis of the unintended consequences of border protection measures, it argues that while the economics of exploitative transit are unique to each country, in both Indonesian and Libya they operate to encourage informal networks that prey on transit migrants. Increased understanding of the economics of exploitative transit should help ensure a more protective environment for transit migrants, one that reduces their reliance on irregular means and the risk of getting stuck in unsafe environments. If the reality of exploitative transit is acknowledged, steps can be taken to reduce reliance on transit sites.

Giulia Borri & Elena Fontanari: Lampedusa in Berlin. Im-mobility of Migrants within the European Border Regime. This paper analyses the mobility practices of

forced migrants within the European border regime. It investigates the relation between the control and management mechanisms of migration and the attempts of forced migrants to move freely, crisscrossing territorial and juridical borders in Europe. The paper focuses on the experiences of a group of forced migrants, who, after escaping the war in Libya, obtained humanitarian protection in Italy, but because of the current precarious socio-economic conditions in Southern Europe, decided to leave for North European countries. A group settled in Berlin, which gave rise to a protest claiming the right to stay and work against what is foreseen by European Union law. This paper draws on ethnographic work to show the tension between individual desires and practices of free mobility and the structural and juridical constraints implemented by institutions in order to control it and contain it. Focusing on this (im)mobility highlights the internal borders of Europe and how they are continuously challenged by migrant subjects. Three different kinds of mobility emerge across the European space: mobility within national territory, infra-national mobility, and “commuting-mobility”. In this way, migrant subjects create new geographies and experience the whole European territory as one place: living in Berlin, renewing documents in Milan, attending education courses in Turin, and working seasonally in Sicily or Apulia. Such mobilities are supported by networks of migrants, who continuously move, and their supporters. This suggests a process of “Europeanisation from below” that continuously challenges EU internal borders.

Mouna Maaroufi: Deserving protection: The selective process of humanitarian admission for Syrian refugees in Germany. The often praised temporary humanitarian admission programme through which Germany grants two year residence permits to Syrian refugees in Syria and its neighbouring countries Egypt and Libya, uses several criteria, such as family and other ties to Germany, vulnerability, and useful skills for the reconstruction of Syria, in its admission selection process. This paper argues that these criteria and the temporary character of the programme allow the German state to carefully select refugees in order to minimize its legal and economic responsibilities towards them. Though some aspects of the programme facilitate the application process and economic integration of refugees and encourage a more flexible approach taking into account transnational ties and mobile solutions, the programme also risks enabling tendencies in the global refugee regime which could lead to a reduction of assumed responsibility among Northern states and to more inequality among states and refugees.

Ulrike Krause: Between Protection and Shame? Conflict-induced Refugee Settlements, Violence and Gender Relations. This article discusses how gender relations change in refugee camps and the role sexual and gender-based violence plays. The majority of refugees are displaced due to conflicts, making refugee camps post-conflict spaces. Despite protection and assistance measures, such camps are criticized for prevailing restrictions and the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence. Based on an empirical study of a refugee camp in Uganda, this article explores and analyses the structures in the refugee settlement, the forms and conditions of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as changing gender relations. It is argued, on the one hand, that diverse interdependent forms of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as victims and perpetrator structures

exist, and, on the other hand, that the violence is linked with the changing gender relations as well as traumatic experiences made in the refugee contexts, during conflict and flight.

Maja Zwick: Transnational migration – a durable solution? Saharawi refugees between agency and vulnerability. Recently, scholars have advocated transnationalism as a viable and durable solution to displacement, stating that transnational mobility and networks have become an important means of sustaining refugees and, thus, increasing their agency. Drawing on the case of the Saharawi refugee camps, one of the most protracted refugee situations worldwide, this paper takes a critical approach to these assumptions. First, it shows that while transnational migration may strengthen refugees' agency it is also accompanied by new vulnerabilities. Second, it is argued that favouring transnational migration as a "durable" solution risks normalising the status quo of the Saharawi's protracted displacement, instead of engaging with solutions for the Western Sahara conflict itself; that is, ending the Moroccan occupation and decolonising Western Sahara.

Sophia Hoffmann: Who do refugee camps protect? An analysis of "care and control" in Azraq Camp, Jordan. The Middle East has a long history of integrating refugee populations, which today is being transformed by a newly arising large international humanitarian sector. This article considers how humanitarian knowledge and practice is shaping the social environment available to Syrian refugees in Jordan via an investigation of the recently opened Azraq refugee camp. Arguing that the concept and form of Azraq can be explained in part by international refugee aid's political underpinnings of nationalism, the article focuses on the question of humanitarianism's security logic. Azraq's order is shaped by three security concerns: the security of the refugees, the security of the Jordanian state, and the security of the aid workers themselves. At the same time, this order constitutes refugees as vulnerable and as a security risk that needs to be controlled and managed.

Daniel Fuchs: The New "Epicenter of World Labour Unrest"? Class Composition and Workers' Struggles in China since the 1980s. Against the backdrop of a significant rise in workers' struggles in the People's Republic of China since the beginning of "reform and opening up" in 1978, this article discusses processes of working class formation and the potential for the emergence of a new labour movement in China. It takes Beverly Silver's proposition that China is currently becoming the epicentre of class struggle within the capitalist world system as its starting point. Silver's world-historical and macro-sociological analysis is confronted with findings from ethnographic research undertaken by Chinese labour scholars as well as data collected by the author via qualitative interviews with a variety of labour activists and academics on the specific forms and contents of workers' struggles in China. Through an overview and contextualisation of labour unrest over the last thirty-plus years, it is firstly shown that the recomposition of the Chinese working class is characterised by specific periods of labour protest with distinct qualitative characteristics. Secondly, it is argued that since the mid-2000s one can see new patterns of strikes, originating in the second generation of migrant workers, which point towards an increasing generalisation of class action. Finally, the article discusses factors that inhibit more stable forms of working class organisation.