

Summaries

Inken Bartels: “Increasing returnability” – Voluntary Return as Part of a Complex Repatriation Regime in North Africa. Current studies of deportation have, so far, mostly been developed independently from research on return and repatriation in Africa. This article links these literatures in order to analyse various practices of removal within the African continent as part of one complex, transnational repatriation regime. Using the International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Program in Morocco and Tunisia as an example, the article shows how state-enforced deportations and non-state incentive-based “voluntary return” programs work together in order to persuade “undesirable” sub-Saharan migrants, still far away from the European external border, to return to their countries of origin. It is argued that the interplay of the various return instruments does not result in the actual repatriation of all migrants in transit, but that it does put them in a state of permanent returnability, which – in analogy to state-produced deportability – is intended to encourage them to return “voluntarily”. At the same time, the article demonstrates that even under these complex conditions of return in transit, there remain different ways for migrants to escape repatriation, to appropriate the various instruments, or to actively and collectively resist them.

Tanya Golash-Boza & Yajaira Cecilia Navarro: Macro-, Meso-, and Micro-Level Factors Shaping Deportees’ Reintegration Experiences: The Case of Dominicans and Brazilians Deported from the United States. Scholarship on deportation makes it clear that deportations are painful and have severe consequences for deportees and their family members. However, there is relatively little scholarship on how post-deportation experiences vary from one national context to another. Drawing on 81 interviews with Dominican and Brazilian deportees, we argue that post-deportation experiences are shaped by macro-, meso-, and micro-level factors. Micro-level factors include individual characteristics, such as acculturation and human capital. Meso-level factors include national and transnational ties. Macro-level factors include the context of reception – the social and economic conditions into which deportees are received. We put forward a framework that both highlights these factors and shows how they are interdependent. The more adverse the context of reception, the more likely that deported people rely on other factors, such as transnational ties or human capital. Dominican deportees face stigmatisation from government and society, and, thus, depend more on transnational ties and their own resilience. In contrast, Brazilian deportees encounter a friendlier context, meaning that those deportees with more local ties and human capital are able to reintegrate with fewer challenges.

Almamy Sylla & Susanne U. Schultz: Deportations as a Post-Colonial Practice. The Case of Mali. This article attempts to “re-narrate” the history and practices of deportation from a less Eurocentric perspective. Until today, academic debates about deportations have primarily focused on the Global North, even though countries in the

Global South, for example on the African continent, have implemented similar policies and discourses against non-nationals for decades. While Mali has been affected by the deportation of its nationals from France since independence, the Malian State takes an ambivalent stance towards the management of expulsions, repatriations, and deportations vis-à-vis other African, European, and international actors. In the 1990s, Malian civil society started to organise against unwanted forms of forced return. Consequently, today Malian returnees are met with very particular social, economic, and institutional regimes. This paper counters the Eurocentric discourse surrounding the deportation of Malians and, in particular, takes into account the historicity and the importance of deportations and repatriations implemented across the African continent since the 1960s and the reactions to it up until today. The article makes the theoretical case that deportations within the African continent are particularly constitutive of the postcolonial African nation-state and society, while deportations from the Global North remain particularly “symbolically significant”.

Rita Schäfer: Deportations from South Africa – Current and Historical Political Contexts and Practices of Deportation. For several years, South Africa has been a world leader in deporting people *en masse*. This paper analyses the contradictions that exist between South Africa’s progressive asylum and refugee laws and its very rigid practice of mass deportation. These contradictions are instrumentalised by the Department of Home Affairs as part of a policy to control and manipulate migration, often executed by the police in a violent and arbitrary manner; the authorities primarily target people from Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The article argues that the current state of affairs can only be fully understood within historical context. Therefore, it is important to keep in mind that rigid controls of immigration and the practice of deportation were established during the colonial period and institutionalised during apartheid.

Niki Kubaczek: Charred Paper. A Burning Prison Cell, Violent Reification, and the Common Attempt to Escape Deportation. This article discusses the following questions: Which terms might be helpful to apprehend the resistance of illegalised people against deportation? How useful are concepts like “civil disobedience”, “acts of desperation” and “political protest”? And, what does resistance mean in a context of almost total deprivation of possibilities and rights? In order to address these questions, the article uses the case of a burning prison cell in Vienna, which was used to detain people pending deportation. Through interviews with one of the detainees, as well as through observation protocols from the trial against the six inmates that tried to prevent their deportation through setting their prison cell on fire, the article discusses the cynical reification of Non-European “others” as a colonial continuity and as performative of an illegalised workforce. Against reification and the denial of rights, the article suggests “endorsing listening” as a practice for both research and jurisdiction. Resistance is often conceptually linked with notions of collectivity and the public sphere. This article shows that marginalised forms of resistance often occur outside of a collectively and/or the public sphere, while resistance that takes place amid reification and the deprivation of rights breaks the dichotomy between desperation and political protest.