

4. Conference of the German Network for Forced Migration Studies

28. – 30.09.2022

Technische Universität Chemnitz

Call for Papers, Panels & Posters, 1st Circular

Flight 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 on the basis of 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 fuel 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. In 2022, it is organized at TU Chemnitz by the Chair of Human Geography with focus on European Migration Research, led by Prof. Dr. Birgit Glorius, in cooperation with the German Network for Forced Migration Studies and the project FFVT „Forced Migration and Refugee Studies: Networking and Knowledge Transfer“.

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.

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. We invite our international guests to also consider proposals for online panels, in case you can foresee that travel constraints are too large. Time for the entire panel: 90 minutes.

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).

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.

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.

Deadlines and contact:

Submissions can be made starting from 01. December 2021 until 31. January 2022 via the conference platform. Information how to use the conference platform and further information on practicalities will be provided in the 2nd Circular of the Call for Papers.

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

Conference registration will start in May 2022.

Pandemic considerations:

At this moment in time, it is not yet foreseeable if the conference will take place fully in person, with some online elements, fully digital, or in a hybrid version. This will be dependent on the development of the COVID19 pandemic and the measures to contain it, notably the measures of the TU Chemnitz. A final decision on the conference format will be taken by the conference team before the registration starts.

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

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.