Symposium and PhD Training

Lived transnationalism in times of violent conflict –

Cross-border connections and mobilities of people, goods and capital

27-28 March 2023, Gustav-Stresemann-Institute Bonn, Germany

Violent conflicts set people into motion, change existing social relations, and often lead to new mobilities and transnational practises. This two-day symposium, which is co-organised by the IMISCOE Standing Committee on Migrant Transnationalism (MITRA) and the BMBF-funded project Forced Migration and Refugee Studies: Networking and Knowledge Transfer (FFVT), seeks to unpack how transnational mobilities and connectivities come into being and change under the conditions of war, and how they shape the lives of those who are transnationally (dis)entangled.

Day 1 | Monday, 27 March 2023 | Symposium (hybrid)

09:45   Registration and Coffee

10:00   **Welcome and opening remarks**
Benjamin Etzold (BICC, Germany); Maarit Thiem (BICC, FFVT project);
Brigitte Suter (University of Malmö, Sweden, MITRA board)

10:30   **Introductory key notes**

(1): "Transnational Dimensions in Forced Migration"
Prof. Ludger Pries, Bochum University

(2): "Transnational Dynamics in Violent Conflicts" (tentative Title)
Prof. Conrad Schetter, Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC)

Commentary, Feedback and Discussions
Moderation: Marie Godin (University of Oxford, UK, MITRA board)

11:30   **Open Network Space: Researching 'lived transnationalism in conflicts'**

12:30   Lunch break

13:30 **Transnational political mobilisation in violent conflicts**
1st Session with presentations, each 20 min including time for feedback
Moderation: Karlijn Haagsman (Univ. of Maastricht, Netherlands, MITRA board)

(1) Mohamad AlAshmar (Univ. of St. Andrews, UK): Forced Migration and Transnationalism: Syrian Forced Diaspora, Leadership in Community Resilience and Authoritarian Resistance

(2) Carina Yildrim Schlüsing (BICC, Germany): The Translocal Dimension of Fighter Mobilization in the War in Syria

(3) Anas Ansar (Univ. Bonn, Germany): From Enemy to Enthusiast: Mapping Identity (re)Construction, Political Participation and Digital Togetherness of Rohingya Diaspora on Facebook

wrap up (10 min)

14: 50 **Coffee break**

15:15 **Transnational mobilities in contested border landscapes**
2nd Session with presentations, each 20 min including time for feedback
Moderation: Brigitte Suter (University of Malmö, Sweden, MITRA board)

(1) Madeleine Reeves (Univ. of Oxford, UK): The transnational entanglements of a 'border war': migration, mediation, and the escalation of violence on the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border

(2) Anne-Meike Fechter (Univ. of Sussex, UK) and May Soe (Covenant Institute, Myanmar): Transnationalism in Displacement: Informal Aid across the Thai-Myanmar border

(3) Ademola Olayiwola (Wageningen Univ., Netherlands): Shifting geographies: an ethnographic study understanding cross-border mobility in the context of climate change in the West African borderlands

(4) Leah de Haan (Chatham House, UK): Social exclusion and its relation to the perpetuation of transnational conflict

wrap up (10 min)

16:45 **Plenary and closing remarks**
Moderation: Benjamin Etzold (BICC, Germany, FFVT & MITRA board)

17:30 joint walk through the Rheinaue

19:00 **Joint dinner in the city of Bonn**
Em Höttche, Markt 4, 53111 Bonn

Day 2 | Tuesday, 28 March 2023 | Symposium (not hybrid)

09:00   **Welcome and opening remarks**
Marie Godin (University of Oxford, MITRA board)

9:15   **Transnational family life under conditions of violence and (im)mobility**
3rd Session with presentations, each 20 min including time for feedback
Moderation: Luděk Jirka (University of Hradec Králové, Czechia, MITRA board)

(1) Sarah Vancluysen (Univ. of Antwerp, Belgium): Consensus, negotiation, or conflict? Mobility decision-making in displaced transnational families
(2) Larissa Kokonowskyj and Nora Ratzmann (DeZIM, Germany): How forced migration shapes transnational family practices: The case of Ukrainian refugee women in Berlin and Munich
(3) Lejla Sunagic (Lund University, Sweden): On the power of desire in risk-taking: A case study of Syrian refugees' migration to Europe
(4) Julia Kieslinger (Univ. Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany): (Im)mobilities of Venezuelan migrants and network constellations in crises and conflict

wrap up (10 min)

10: 45   **Coffee break**

11:15   **Settling in locally, yet (dis)connecting transnationally**
4th Session with presentations, each 20 min including time for feedback
Moderation: Özge Bilgili (Univ. of Utrecht, Netherlands, MITRA board)

(1) Rebecca Roberts (TU Berlin, Germany): Refugee Migrants as Urban Actors in Lagos, Nigeria
(2) Sodip Roy (Univ. of Budapest, Hungary / Bangladesh Open University): (Forced) migration from village to refugee camps: expectation and precarity of Rohingya refugee in Bangladesh
(3) Phoebe Shambaugh (Univ. of Manchester, UK): Looking elsewhere: Transnational imaginaries and mobilities among resettled refugees in the UK

wrap up (10 min)

12:30   **Lunch break**

13:30   **Technologies of transnational living**
5th Session with presentations, each 20 min including time for feedback
Moderation: Marie Godin (Univ. of Oxford, UK, MITRA board)

(1) Kjell Winkens (Univ. of Groningen, Netherlands): The influence of social relations on the transition to adulthood of unaccompanied refugee adolescents in the Netherlands
(2) Eka Meladze (Georgia): How technology in violent conflict keeps relations. Case study of the Georgian-Abkhazian project

(3) Rohini Mitra (Univ. of Bonn, Germany): Refugee Transnationalism in India: How Rohingya Refugees Leverage Multi-sited Transnational Networks

wrap up (5 min)

PhD Training (not hybrid)

14: 45   **Conducting empirical research in times and places of conflict**
Moderation Özge Bilgili (Univ. of Utrecht, Netherlands, MITRA board) and Karlijin Haagsman (Univ. of Maastricht, Netherlands, MITRA board)

Working groups I

15:30   **coffee break**

15:45   **Working groups II**

Wrap up and reflection

17:30   **Closing of the Symposium and farewell**

18:00   **Departure of workshop participants**

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