

Programme & Reader

The Future of Asylum

FFVT International Summer School on Forced Migration and
Governance 2026



INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL ON FORCED MIGRATION





The Future of Asylum

FFVT International Summer School on Forced Migration and Governance 2026

14 – 20 June 2026 at the Imperial Castle of Nuremberg

Programme & Reader

Sunday, 14 June 2026

Arrival and Meet & Greet

13:00 – 15:00	Arrival of the participants
15:00 – 17:00	Afternoon Excursion: Guided tour of the <u>Way of Human Rights</u> by the Human Rights Office of the City of Nuremberg
17:30 – 19:00	Dinner Break
19:00 – 19:45	Welcome Greetings Professor Andreas Hirsch , Vice President, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nuremberg (FAU) Spokesperson , Center for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU CHREN) Professor Petra Bendel , Professor of Political Science, Head of Research on Migration, Displacement and Integration, Institute of Political Science, FAU and Project Leader of FFVT
20:00 – 22:00	Keynote: Professor Heba Gowayed , Associate Professor of Sociology at Hunter College and Graduate Center (CUNY) <i>The Cost of Borders</i> Moving from ICE prisons in San Diego, to the Greek isles of Lesbos and Samos, to Gaza in Palestine, Gowayed argues that borders are not sovereign markers of states, but comprised of a series of transactions that are always costly and often deadly. In this presentation, she details the insatiable appetite for “security” that animates our contemporary world, and its costs. She argues that borders erode the rights of all human beings within the nation defined by them. Moderation: Professor Petra Bendel



Background Reading:

Gowayed, H. (2025). *The Ethnic Cleansing of the United States will Destroy it*. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/dec/13/ethnic-cleansing-racism-us-trump-ilhan-omar-somalia>.

Gowayed, H. (2024). *Gaza as Ground Zero for Israel's Border Technology*. *Arab Center Washington DC*. <https://arabcenterdc.org/resource/gaza-as-ground-zero-for-israels-border-technology/>.

Gowayed, H. (2022). *The Human Toll of War*. *The New Humanitarian*. <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/opinion/2022/02/28/human-toll-war>.

General background reading for Sunday

Gowayed, H. (2022). *Refuge: How the state shapes human potential*. Princeton University Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv20rsjsz>.



Monday, 15 June 2026

The Future of Asylum: The Global Level

7:30 – 9:00	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:15	<p>Dr Roland Bank, Head of Legal Affairs at United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Germany <i>The Magna Charta of refugee protection under pressure – the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention at 75</i></p> <p>The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees turns 75 years on 28 July this year. It is often designated as the “Magna Charta of refugee protection and praised as the central legal source for refugee protection. However, in recent years, it has come under serious pressure. The discourse on refugee policies in Europe has shifted focus to the control of “irregular migration” with a push for shifting the responsibility for asylum procedures and provision of protection to third states.</p> <p>Moreover, the asylum system frequently has been framed as a security challenge. Not least against this background, violations of European and international refugee law seem to have become more acceptable. This gives rise to the question: Is the Convention still relevant or is it outdated and in need of revision?</p> <p>Moderation: Tino Trautmann</p>
10:15 – 10:45	Fruit and Coffee Break
10:45 – 11:45	<p>„Speed-dating colloquium“: <i>Presentation of the participants' own work</i></p> <p>Participants will have the opportunity to briefly present their own research projects and academic interests in an interactive speed-date format.</p>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break
13:15 – 14:45	<p>Professor Ludger Pries, Senior Professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Ruhr University Bochum in Germany <i>Forced Migration, Legal Status and Regularisation</i></p> <p>Since the beginning of the 21st century, global migration patterns have become more extensive and complex. While the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention remains crucial, it protects fewer and fewer parts of forced migrants. The global rule-based order is under threat and must be defended and differentiated, particularly with regard to the Global Compact for Refugees. A crucial aspect of this</p>



is granting legal status to forced migrants.

Based on quantitative and qualitative data from a comparative study of transit countries (Jordan, Turkey, Colombia and Mexico), we demonstrate the variety of forced migrants' migration histories, the role of violence and coercion before, during and after their journeys, and their corresponding legal statuses. Finally, we provide examples of flexible regularisation of migrant statuses.

Moderation: Tino Trautmann

Background Reading:

Ahrens, J., Kraler, A., Legarda Díaz-Aguado, I., & LeVoy, M. (Eds.). (2025). *Handbook on regularisation policies: Practices, debates and outcomes*. University for Continuing Education Krems Press. <https://doi.org/10.48341/chqk-ey86>.

Pries, L., Schütze, S., Alba Villalever, X., & Zülfikar Savcı, B. Ş. (2024). *Forced migration in transit: Migrant experiences of organised violence in Mexico and Turkey*. Routledge.

15:00 – 15:30 Cake and Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:00 **Parallel Sessions**

1. **Pia Lotta Storf**, Doctoral Researcher, Münster University
Gender in the 1951 Refugee Convention Framework

This workshop examines the relationship between gender and international refugee law from the drafting of the 1951 Refugee Convention to contemporary debates on gender-based persecution and SOGIESC claims. It traces how gender moved from being largely invisible within refugee protection frameworks to becoming a central category through the interpretation of existing Convention grounds, particularly membership of a particular social group. The workshop explores key doctrinal developments concerning gender-based violence, persecution by non-state actors, and cumulative discrimination, while also engaging critical perspectives on vulnerability, credibility, deservingness, and the politics of recognition. Particular attention is paid to the ways in which gender intersects with race, sexuality, and colonial histories in asylum processes. Finally, the session considers future challenges for refugee law, including the possibility of post-categorical approaches, climate displacement, and the relationship between gender, race, and socio-economic positionality.

Moderation: Max Tremel

Background Reading:

Smith, M. D. (2016). Rethinking gender in the international refugee regime. *Forced Migration Review*, 53, 65–67. <https://www.fmreview.org/community-protection/smith/>.

Further reading:

Court of Justice of the European Union. (2024). *AH, FN, v Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen und Asyl, C-608/22 and C 609/22, ECLI:EU:C:2024:828.*

Crawley, H. (2022). Saving Brown women from Brown men? “Refugee women”, gender and the racialised politics of protection. *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 41(3), 355–380. <https://doi.org/10.1093/rsq/hdac021>.

Edwards, A. (2010). Transitioning gender: Feminist engagement with international refugee law and policy 1950–2010. *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 29(2), 21–45. <https://doi.org/10.1093/rsq/hdq021>.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees. (2002). *Guidelines on International Protection No. 1: Gender-Related Persecution Within the Context of Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (HCR/GIP/02/01)*. <https://www.refworld.org/policy/legalguidance/un-hcr/2002/31754>.

2. Sophia Eckert, Handicap International e. V. – Crossroads
Rethinking Vulnerability in Refugee Protection: Access Barriers, Non-Discrimination and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The objective of this session is to examine the concept of refugee protection for persons in situations of particular vulnerability. The examination will commence with an exploration of the concept of vulnerability in the context of asylum and refugee protection. While vulnerability can serve as an important analytical and legal category for rendering specific protection needs visible, it also carries the risk of individualizing disadvantage and obscuring the structural barriers through which exclusion is produced. Within the theoretical framework delineated herein, the primary focus of this session is on refugees with disabilities and the barriers they encounter in accessing protection. A particular emphasis will be placed on the European Union and Syria's neighbouring host countries, namely Lebanon and Jordan.

Subsequently, the session will delve into the normative framework of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), posing the question of what is necessary for its practical implementation in the context of refugee protection. The necessity of effective procedures for the identification of



reception needs and procedural safeguards, as well as the obligation to design asylum procedures in an accessible and non-discriminatory manner, will be discussed. This encompasses the provision of reasonable accommodation, accessible information, and effective participation throughout the procedure. The final segment of the session involves an examination of the factors that must be taken into consideration when conducting protection and non-refoulement assessments in light of the CRPD. In this regard, the assessment must include disability-related risks of return, access barriers, and the actual availability of support in the country of return.

Moderation: Katharina Grillmeyer

17:30 – 18:30 Dinner Break

19:00 – 20:30 **Panel discussion: *The Future of Asylum at the Global Level***
Dr Roland Bank, Professor Ludger Pries, Pia Lotta Storf, Sophia Eckert

Moderation: Professor Petra Bendel

General background reading for Monday

Freedman, J. (2015). A gendered approach to refugee and asylum studies. In *Gendering the international asylum and refugee debate* (2nd ed., pp. 1–20). Palgrave Macmillan.

https://books.google.de/books?hl=en&lr=&id=XlgMC-gAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&ots=gYkhv4ZsVI&sig=VpEiEnIVBYfCAZxupto3skTeoWs&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false.

Hathaway, J. C. (2021). The structure of entitlement under the refugee convention. In *The rights of refugees under international law* (2nd ed., pp. 173–311). Cambridge University Press. https://repository.law.umich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1269&context=book_chapters.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2025). *Global trends: Forced displacement in 2024*. <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2024>.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2025). *Mid-year trends 2025*. <https://www.unhcr.org/media/mid-year-trends-2025>.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2025). *Age, gender and diversity accountability report 2024 Leveraging the power of forcibly displaced women and girls*. <https://www.unhcr.org/media/age-gender-and-diversity-accountability-report-2024>.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2010). *Convention and protocol relating to the status of refugees (1951/1967)*. <https://www.unhcr.org/media/1951-refugee-convention-and-1967-protocol-relating-status-refugees>.



Tuesday, 16 June 2026

The Future of Asylum: Interregional and Intraregional Level

7:30 – 9:00	Breakfast
9:00 – 12:00	Excursion to the <u>Nazi Party Rally Grounds</u>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch to Go
13:30 – 15:00	Joint Session: The Common European Asylum System (CEAS). An Overview <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dr Marcus Engler, Research Assistant at the German Center for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM)2. Dr Bernd Parusel, Senior Researcher at the Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies (SIEPS)3. Dr Daniele Saracino, Researcher at the Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (bicc) and FFVT Project Coordinator at bicc4. Dr Eline Wærp, Postdoctoral Researcher at FAU CHREN <p>Background Reading:</p> <p>European Union Agency for Asylum. (2025). <i>Latest asylum trends: Annual analysis.</i> https://www.euaa.europa.eu/latest-asylum-trends-annual-analysis/2025.</p> <p>Parusel, B. (2025). The EU's New Asylum System and Its Uncertain Future. <i>Politics and Rights Review.</i> https://politicsrights.com/new-asylum-system-uncertain-future/.</p> <p>Peers, S. (2024). The New Asylum Pact: Brave New World or Dystopian Hellscape? <i>European Journal of Migration and Law</i>, 26(4), 381–420. https://doi.org/10.1163/15718166-12340185.</p> <p>Perkowski, N., Stierl, M., & Burrige, A. (2023). The evolution of European border governance through crisis: Frontex and the interplay of protracted and acute crisis narratives. <i>Environment and Planning D: Society and Space</i>, 41(1), 110–129.</p>

	<p>Sachseder, J., Stachowitsch, S., & Binder, C. (2022). Gender, race, and crisis-driven institutional growth: discourses of ‘migration crisis’ and the expansion of Frontex. <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i>, 48(19), 4670–4693. https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2022.2092461 .</p> <p>Moderation: Professor Petra Bendel</p>
15:00 – 15:45	Cake and Coffee Break
15:45 – 17:15	<p>World-Café: Dr Marcus Engler, Dr Bernd Parusel, Dr Daniele Saracino, Dr Eline Wærp <i>Exploring aspects of the CEAS in greater depth</i></p> <p>Introduction and moderation: Professor Petra Bendel</p>
17:30 – 18:30	Dinner Break
18:30 – 19:30	<p>Panel discussion: Perspectives on CEAS Dr Marcus Engler, Dr Eline Wærp, Dr Bernd Parusel, Dr Daniele Saracino</p> <p>Moderation: Professor Petra Bendel</p>
19:45 – 22:00	<p>Panel: Frontex, Externalisation and Border Justice Dr Bernd Kasperek, Assistant Professor at Delft University of Technology <i>European Migration Regime in times of dis-integration</i></p> <p>The European migration and border regime, i.e. a communitarised migration, border, and asylum policy is one of the central projects of European integration. The migrations of 2015 have de-stabilised this process, and led to a migration policy crisis. The reform of the Common European Asylum System, entering into force in 2026, is the attempt to counter-act the crisis dynamic in this field. In my contribution, I discuss the implications of a dis-integrative dynamic in the European integration process in this particular field.</p> <p>Background Reading:</p> <p>Kasperek, B. (2026). Ethnographische Regimeanalyse in Zeiten der Desintegration. <i>Berliner Blätter</i>, 92, 133–148. https://doi.org/10.60789/921211.</p> <p>Kasperek, B., & Tsianos, V. S. (2024). <i>Ausgelagertes Asyl im Spiegel der Geschichte des Gemeinsamen Europäischen Asylsystems. Externalizing Asylum.</i> https://externalizingasylum.info/de/ausgelagertes-asyl-im-spiegel-der-geschichte-des-gemeinsamen-europaeischen-asylsystem/.</p>



Doris Peschke, Diakonie Hessen

Frontex and violations of fundamental rights at European and external borders

Frontex - the EU Border and Coast Guard Agency, has grown tremendously over the past decade, both in terms of staff and resources. Expectations by Member States and European Commission have been high. Yet, a shared responsibility with the national border and coast guards in joint operations is the rule.

Background Reading:

Frontex Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights. (2025). *12th Annual Report 2024.*

https://www.frontex.europa.eu/assets/fundamental/Twelfth_Annual_Report_2024_Frontex_CF.pdf.

Frontex Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights. (2026). *13th Annual Report 2025.*

https://www.frontex.europa.eu/assets/26.0078_Frontex_Consultative_Forum_on_Fundamental_Rights_Thirteenth_Annual_Report_2025.pdf.

Peschke, D. (2023). Frontex und die Grundrechte. In K. Milz & A. Tuckermann (Eds.), *Todesursache: Flucht* (pp. 129–134). Hirnkost-Verlag.

Delphine Rodrik, Senior Legal Advisor at the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights e.V. (ECCHR)

Litigating Human Rights Violations at Europe's Borders

This session will discuss legal challenges to human rights violations resulting from the widespread state practice of collective expulsions, or "pushbacks," of people on the move from European borders. Drawing on examples from ECCHR's casework at the European and international levels, the session will explore challenges and opportunities for defending the rights of people on the move in a political climate increasingly tolerant of extreme violence in border enforcement and with border lawlessness recently codified in EU legal reforms.

Moderation: Professor Petra Bendel

General background reading for Tuesday

Amnesty International. (2024). *Primer: Defending the rights of refugees and migrants in the digital age.* <https://www.amnesty.de/sites/default/files/2024-02/Amnesty-Briefing-Migration-Schutzsuchende-Ueberwachung-digitale-Technologien-Februar-2024.pdf>.



- Arnoux Bellavitis, M., & Ripoll Servent, A. (2025).** The new pact on migration and asylum in a shifting political context: Depoliticization and repoliticization in EU external migration policy. *Mediterranean Politics*. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13629395.2025.2498846>.
- Border Violence Monitoring Network. (2026).** *Illegal pushbacks and border violence reports: Monthly report January 2026*. https://borderviolence.eu/uploads/document/file/508/BVMN_Monthly_Report_January_2026.pdf.
- European Commission. (2024).** *Pact on migration and asylum* https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum_en.
- European Commission. (2025).** *Implementing the Pact on Migration and Asylum*. European Commission. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum/implementing-pact-migration-and-asylum_en.
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. (2025).** *Fundamental rights report 2025: Overview and FRA opinions*. Publications Office of the European Union. https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2025-fundamental-rights-report-2025-opinions_en.pdf.
- European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights. (2025).** *Annual report 2024. Enforcing human rights through legal means*. <https://www.ecchr.eu/en/publication/ecchr-2024-annual-report/>.
- Transnational Institute. (2025).** *Exporting borders: Frontex and the expansion of Fortress Europe in West Africa*. <https://www.tni.org/en/publication/exporting-borders-West-Africa>.



Wednesday, 17 June 2026

The Future of Asylum: The Intra-regional, Inter-regional and the National Level

7:30 – 8:45	Breakfast
8:45 – 10:00	<p>Dr William Westerman, Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work at New Jersey City University <i>Fast, Furious, and Out of Control: The Dismantling of the U.S. Political Asylum System</i></p> <p>Since the 1990s, the wealthy nations of the world - Australia, the U.S., the U.K., and the E.U. - have each in their own way made efforts to limit, curtail, and even prevent political asylum in their states through a variety of methods, from policy changes to militarisation. The attack on asylum in the U.S. has only accelerated and intensified under Trump 2.0 using a multi-pronged strategy. Based on recommendations in the 2023 right-wing blueprint, Project 2025, these include not only greater force at the border, but expanded use of detention, changes to policy and procedures, externalisation and offshoring of access to asylum, rescinding of blanket protections for some nationalities, visa bans, narrowing of the definition of "particular social group," actions against individuals as a means of deterrence, and even in some cases violating the rights of people already granted asylum or withholding of removal. While on the ground it may seem chaotic from the immigrants' point of view, looking at the campaign overall shows a clear strategy with tactics deployed in multiple arenas, in which speed, multiple fronts, chaos, and cruelty are used to destabilize legal and civic resistance.</p> <p>Moderation: Tino Trautmann</p> <p>Background Reading:</p> <p>Cuccinelli, K. (2025). Department of Homeland Security. In <i>Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise (Project 2025)</i> (pp. 133–170). The Heritage Foundation. https://static.heritage.org/project2025/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL.pdf.</p> <p>Misra, T. (2026). The Death of Asylum. <i>Jewish Currents</i>. https://jewishcurrents.org/the-death-of-asylum.</p>
10:00 – 10:15	Pretzel and Coffee Break
10:15 – 11:45	Parallel Workshops: <i>The Regional Regimes in Latin America and Africa</i>



1. **Professor Lila García**, Associate Professor at University of Mar del Plata in Argentina
About borders and rights. The Future of the Mobile Subject(s) in Latin-America

The seminar aims to provide an interdisciplinary, albeit condensed, overview of the primary approaches employed in analysing the intersection of borders (frontiers, border regions, and margins), their crossings, and the associated subjectivities (primarily those of individuals in motion, such as migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers), alongside the legal perspectives (from both law and rights) in relation to one of the Global Souths: Latin America. By adopting a dual approach to law (considering it as the outcome of a hegemonic yet contingent position, and examining its potential for resistance), the seminar will also analyse the role of the state, given its centrality in all the fields involved, including human rights.

Chair: Professor Eva Pils, Alexander von Humboldt Professor, Chair of Human Rights Law at the FAU CHREN

Background reading:

Amilhat Szary, A.-L. & Giraut, F. (2015). Introduction: Borderities. The Politics of Contemporary Mobile Borders. In A.-L. Amilhat Szary & F. Giraut (Eds.), *Borderities and the Politics of Contemporary Mobile Borders* (pp. 1–22). Palgrave Macmillan.

Bustamante, J. A. (2002). Immigrants' Vulnerability as Subjects of Human Rights. *The International Migration Review*, 36(2), 333–354. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4149456>.

Garcia, Lila (2021). Migration. In K. De Feyter, S. De Moerloose, G.E. Türkelli (Eds.), *Law & Development Encyclopedia*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Further reading:

Ceriani, P. (2018). *Migration Policies and Human Rights in Latin America. Progressive Practices, Old Challenges, Worrying Setbacks and New Threats*. Policy Briefs 18. Global Campus Latin America and Caribbean. <https://repository.gchuman-rights.org/items/c8951d47-2f67-492e-b345-8dfe8f1e7880>.

De Genova, N. (2002). Migrant “illegality” and deportability in everyday life. *Annu. Rev. Anthropol.*, 31, 419–447. <https://www.ais-sociologia.it/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/De-Genova-2002-Migrants-illegality-and-deportability-in-everyday-life-1.pdf>.

García, L. (2026). Between Sinking Ships and Collective Wins. Human mobility standards from the Inter-American System of Human Rights in domestic adjudication: The Argentinean and the Mexican Supreme Courts in perspective. *World Comparative Law (WCL) / Verfassung und Recht in Übersee*. (Forthcoming).

García, L. (2024). Movilidad de vidas “precarias” en pandemia. El cierre de fronteras en Argentina y sus efectos desde el derecho humano a migrar. In *Población & Sociedad*. <https://doi.org/10.19137/pys-2024-310105%20>.

García, L. (2016). Migraciones, Estado y una política del derecho humano a migrar ¿Hacia una nueva era en América Latina? *Colombia Internacional*, 88, 107–133. <https://colombint.uniandes.edu.co/index.php/es/revista-no-88>.

Gündoğdu, A. (2015). *Rightlessness in the Age of Rights. Hannah Arendt and the Contemporary Struggles of Migrants*. Oxford University Press. [Introduction and Chapter 1].

Mezzadra, S., Neilson, B. (2013). *Border as Method, or the multiplication of labor*. Duke University Press. [Chapter 1: The Proliferation of Borders].

Sayad, A. (2007). *The Suffering of the Immigrant*. Polity. [Chapter 12: Immigration and the State Thought].

2. **Onike Shorunkeh-Sawyerr**, Doctoral Candidate at the Center for Global Migration Studies (CeMig) at the University of Göttingen
The Future of Asylum in Africa: Regional Protection, Mobility and the Role of the African Union

This session explores the future of asylum in Africa from a regional governance perspective, with a particular focus on the role of the African Union (AU) and its related policy frameworks. It situates contemporary debates on forced displacement within broader dynamics of mobility, regional integration and international migration governance.

The session begins with a brief overview of current displacement trends across the African continent, highlighting both the scale and the diversity of protection contexts, including major refugee-hosting countries such as Uganda and Kenya. It then introduces key normative and institutional frameworks, including the 1969 Convention of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU Refugee Convention) and the 2009 Kampala Convention on internally displaced persons, which have shaped Africa’s regional protection architecture.

Building on this, the session examines how asylum and refugee protection intersect with other policy fields, particularly regional mobility and free movement initiatives. It invites participants to reflect on how African regional frameworks



both differ from and interact with European and global asylum regimes, particularly in the context of increasing externalisation pressures.

Through a combination of a short input and interactive group discussions, participants will engage with key questions around the future of asylum in Africa, including the role of regional institutions, the relationship between protection and mobility, and the implications of shifting global power dynamics.

Moderation: Emily Berger

Background Reading:

African Union (2009). *African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention).*

Williams, W. (2019). *Shifting Borders: Africa's Displacement Crisis and Its Implications.* African Center for Strategic Studies.

12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break
13:15	Excursion to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)
14.00 – 14.10	Welcome
14.10 – 14.30	Dr Axel Kreienbrink , Director of the Migration, Integration and Asylum Research Centre at the BAMF Christoph Wieboldt , Policy Advisor Division LS1 at the BAMF <i>Introduction of the Federal Office and its current main activities</i>
14.30 – 15.00	Dr Axel Kreienbrink <i>The role of research in the Federal Office</i>
15.00 – 15.30	Dr Dieter Kerwer , Policy Advisor Project Group CEAS-Reform <i>Implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum in the Federal Office</i>
15.30 – 16.00	<i>Questions and Answers</i> Dr Axel Kreienbrink Christoph Wieboldt Dr Dieter Kerwer
17:30 – 18:30	Dinner Break
18:30 – 20:15	Keynote: Professor Constantin Hruschka , Professor of Social Law Protestant University of Applied Sciences Freiburg <i>The Abolition of Asylum</i>



Asylum was the moral essence of the post-war era: “Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution,” declares Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This claim is legally enshrined in the 1951 Refugee Convention. The lesson of the concentration camp system in general, and of the Shoah in particular, taught us that the right to asylum is meaningless if it cannot be accessed (“to seek”) or if it does not entail enforceable entitlements (“to enjoy”). It also requires procedural realisation: a right to a fair and efficient process.

Political discourse, however, increasingly embraces a different understanding: the right to refuse asylum, which is allegedly necessary for reasons of sovereignty. In Europe, European and national asylum policy has been increasingly focused on the art of obstruction. While the legal entitlement remains on paper, it is hollowed out through procedural barriers, fictional allocations of responsibility, and political myths. As political language narrows to control, deportation, and deterrence, the notions of protection, humane reception, and the assumption of responsibility recede. Asylum is semantically absorbed into a security architecture. Such policies and the accompanying legislation often openly contradict EU law and decisions of both the CJEU and the ECtHR. As a consequence, the right to asylum and the protection offered by the 1951 Convention are largely undermined.

The keynote examines how the right to asylum is increasingly dismantled through procedural manoeuvres – while politicians continued to profess their commitment to the individual right to asylum. It argues based on an analysis of the provisions and the discussions on the CEAS and its national transposition in Germany, Austria and Switzerland that this discrepancy between formal protection and practical (in)accessibility is not a side effect, but the defining pattern of present time.

Moderation: Tino Trautmann

Background Reading:

Hathaway, J. C. (2007). Why refugee law still matters. *Melbourne Journal of International Law*.

<https://repository.law.umich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1296&context=facarticles>.

Hruschka, C. (2025). *The plan to abolish asylum*. Editorial on *Verfassungsblog*.

<https://verfassungsblog.de/the-plan-to-abolish-asylum/>.

20:30 – 22:00

Film Event in cooperation with the
Nuremberg International Human Rights Film Festival

Film: **The Hearing** <https://www.nihfff.de/en/the-hearing/>



What happens when your future depends on telling your own life story? Four rejected asylum seekers relive the hearing on their reasons for fleeing their homelands thus shedding light on the core of the asylum procedure. Those who succeed in recounting the personal danger in their home country “credibly and without contradiction” have a better chance of receiving asylum. Will the interviewees be able to describe their memories of traumatic experiences in such a way that they meet the official criteria this time?

A simple swapping of roles reverses the balance of power for once, with SEM interviewers answering the questions of the asylum seekers. In this way, THE HEARING not only provides insight into the crucial yet sensitive hearing, but also questions the asylum procedure itself. Script by Lisa Gerig.

Chair: Professor Petra Bendel

General background reading for Wednesday

African Union. (2018). *Migration policy framework for Africa and plan of action (2018–2030)*. African Union. https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/35956-doc-2018_mpfa_english_version.pdf.

Ahimbisibwe, F., & Nkiko, C. M. (2025). Navigating forced migration in the Horn of Africa: A systematic review of IGAD’s strategic challenges and opportunities. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 11(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2025.2583311>.

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Thursday, 18 June 2026

The Future of Asylum: The National Level

7:30 – 8:30	Breakfast
8:30 – 10:00	<p>Nele Allenberg, Head of the Department for Human Rights Policy in Germany and Europe at the German Institute for Human Rights <i>National Implementation of CEAS from a Human Rights Perspective</i></p> <p>Moderation: Professor Petra Bendel</p>
10:00 – 10:20	Active Break with Sonja Reinhold
10:30 – 11:45	World-Café
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break
13:30 – 15:30	<p>Dr Mojib Atal, Integration Policy Analyst at the Migration Policy Group in Brussels, Refugee Advisory Board Germany (RAB) <i>Refugee Advisory Board Germany and Federal Admission Programme for Afghans</i></p> <p>This session introduces the Refugee Advisory Board Germany (RAB Germany), the first national refugee advisory board in Europe. RAB Germany brings together individuals with lived experience of forced displacement and advocates for the meaningful participation of refugees in policy and decision-making processes. The session will also address the Federal Admission Programme for Afghans and discuss current perspectives and experiences related to refugee participation and protection pathways.</p> <p>Moderation: Professor Petra Bendel</p> <p>Background Reading:</p> <p>Federal Foreign Office of Germany. (2022). <i>Federal admission programme for Afghanistan launched.</i> https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/afghanistan-node/2558750-2558750.</p> <p>Riegert, B. (2025). <i>Germany revokes pledges to grant asylum to Afghans.</i> <i>Deutsche Welle.</i> https://www.dw.com/en/germany-revokes-pledges-to-grant-asylum-to-afghans/a-75106966.</p>



Salomon, S., Atal, M. (2021). *Why at-risk Afghans have a right of admission to EU member states*. OpenDemocracy. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/why-risk-afghans-have-right-admission-eu-member-states/>.

15:45 – 16:45

Sonja Reinhold, Research assistant in the Migration, Refugees, and Integration Research Unit at FAU

Digitalisation, Human Rights and Asylum

This input addresses the intersection of human rights, forced migration and digitalisation by looking at two German cases of increasingly digitised administrative action: First, the admission of protection seekers under the German framework of federal humanitarian admission and secondly, the allocation of asylum seekers and refugees within the regular German asylum procedure.

By taking a closer look at the Federal admission programme for Afghanistan (“Bundesaufnahmeprogramm Afghanistan” (BAP)) and the digitisation pilot project “Match’In” which targets an improvement of the current allocation system from the *Länder* level in Germany, I elaborate which concrete development steps can follow from the commitment to human rights in the design and implementation processes of digital applications and, vice versa, what human rights implications digital transformation may have for those affected. The contribution concludes with a number of risk mitigating strategies, eg. involving rights-holders and other relevant stakeholders in the design and implementation, transparency and considerations of proportionality in the selection of methods. In doing so, I also address the limits to which this claim may be subject, remaining risks and open up questions for further academic exchange.

Moderation: Melina Müller

Background Reading:

Reinhold, S., Euler, K., Bendel, P., Kasparick, D., & Schammann, H. (2025). *Match’In: Results From a Pilot Project for the Distribution of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Germany Using an Algorithm-Based Matching Procedure*. <https://hilpub.uni-hildesheim.de/entities/publication/0d76ccda-43e7-4286-a3b9-1e8a48fad4d3>.

17:30 – 18:45

Dinner Break

18:45 – 20:15

Professor Dietrich Thränhardt, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Münster

A Better Regime. The cooperative reception of Ukrainian war refugees in Europe

One week after the Russian aggression in February 2022, the EU activated Temporary Protection (TP) for displaced Ukrainians. They were free to choose their



country of refuge and to enjoy work and welfare rights. Civil society supported and hosted millions of refugees, as state institutions were overwhelmed. States open up instead of trying to funnel refugees elsewhere. Legal disputes are largely absent whereas they consume much energy and resources under the asylum regime. Civil society engages actively, instead of working against bureaucratic hurdles under the asylum regime. The agency of the refugees can unfold, instead of being wasted at borders, restrictions and long waiting times.

A stable East-West settlement pattern has emerged. In November 2025, 3.6 percent of the Czech population were Ukrainian refugees. Poland followed with 2.7 percent and Slovakia with 2.6 percent. France has the lowest proportion with 0.1 percent. Eastern EU countries let the refugees choose their place of living, recognised their qualifications and expected them to take up work after being supported for some months. West European countries offered higher and longer welfare payments but were hesitant and slow with credentials and more deterministic in allocating places of living. This resulted in work regimes in the East and welfare and disqualification regimes in the West.

TP is a grand life experiment that challenges long-standing perceptions based on the malfunctioning European and American asylum systems. Studying it helps us understand how open societies can successfully cooperate.

Moderation: Professor Petra Bendel

Background Reading:

Eurostat. (2026). *Temporary protection for persons fleeing Ukraine – Monthly statistics.*

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Temporary_protection_for_persons_fleeing_Ukraine_-_monthly_statistics#Where_did_unaccompanied_minors_fleeing_Ukraine_go.3F.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (n.d.). *Ukraine refugee situation.*

<https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>.

General background reading for Thursday

Dumbrava, C. (2025). *Artificial intelligence in asylum procedures in the EU.* European Parliamentary Research Service. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/Reg-Data/etudes/BRIE/2025/775861/EPRS_BRI\(2025\)775861_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/Reg-Data/etudes/BRIE/2025/775861/EPRS_BRI(2025)775861_EN.pdf).

European Commission. (2025). *Temporary protection.*

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European Union Agency for Asylum. (2025). *Asylum report 2025: Annual report on the situation of asylum in the European Union*. Publications Office of the European Union. https://www.euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/publications/2025-06/2025_Asylum_Report_EN_0.pdf.

Molnar, P. (2020). *Technological testing grounds: Migration management experiments and reflections from the ground up*. European Digital Rights (EDRi) & Refugee Law Lab. <https://edri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Technological-Testing-Grounds.pdf>.

Ibsais, A. (2025). *AI at the borders: How the EU AI Act can prove to be incompatible with fundamental rights for refugees*. *Georgetown Journal of International Law*, 56, 729–754. <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/international-law-journal/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2025/12/GT-GJIL250032.pdf>.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2026). *Ukraine's strategic response to the displacement crisis: Return, reintegrate, reconnect*. OECD Publishing. https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2026/01/ukraine-s-strategic-response-to-the-displacement-crisis_81982bcb/9b773da4-en.pdf.

Skrifvars, J., Ilmoni, A., Siegfriids, L., Galan, M., Selim, H., Stevens, L., Korkman, J., & Antfolk, J. (2025). *Experiences of asylum interviews by asylum officials, interpreters and asylum seekers in Finland*. *Journal of Criminal Psychology*, 15(2), 260–280. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JCP-09-2024-0085>.



Friday, 19 June 2026

The Future of Asylum: Local Level, Activism and Civil Society

7:30 – 8:45	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:00	<p>Dr Lea Gelardi, Research Assistant at the Center for Flight and Migration (ZFM) at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU) <i>Granting Church Asylum – The Role of Civil Society Actors in the Migration Regime</i></p> <p>This session focuses on the granting of church asylum in Germany, particularly in Bavaria. It highlights the role of civil society actors who provide sanctuary to individuals seeking church asylum. The session starts with a presentation outlining the key steps in the process of granting church asylum and examining the role of civil society actors in the context of church asylum in greater detail. In her presentation, Lea Gelardi draws on empirical data generated during her doctoral research. Following this, the participants will discuss the role that civil society engagement—such as church asylum—will play in the future of asylum in an era of (more) restrictive asylum policies.</p> <p>Moderation: Max Tremel</p> <p>Background Reading:</p> <p>Fleischmann, L., Steinhilper, E. (2017). The Myth of Apolitical Volunteering for Refugees: German Welcome Culture and a New Dispositif of Helping. <i>Social Inclusion</i>, 5(3), 17–27.</p> <p>Mourão Permoser, J. (2022). Democratic challenges surrounding church asylum: secularism and rule of law. In: W. Sievers, R. Bauböck, I. Josipovic, D. Karabegović, & K. Shinozaki (Eds.), <i>Jenseits der Migrantologie. Aktuelle Herausforderungen und neue Perspektiven der Migrationsforschung</i> (pp. 177–190). Verlag der österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.</p>
10:30 – 10:45	Pretzels and Coffee Break
10:45 – 12:15	<p>Panel Discussion: <i>How are the current changes in the political and legal framework affecting the work of NGOs?</i></p> <p>Wiebke Judith, Legal policy spokesperson and head of the Legal & Advocacy team at PRO ASYL Lukas Kaldenhoff, Press Officer at SOS Humanity</p>



Representative of the Bavarian Refugee Council

Moderation: Yasemin Haferkamp

Background Reading:

Rodríguez Sánchez, A., Wucherpennig, J., Rischke, R. et al. (2013). Search-and-rescue in the Central Mediterranean Route does not induce migration: Predictive modeling to answer causal queries in migration research. *Sci Rep* 13, 11014 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-38119-4>.

12:15 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 17:00	Excursion: Memorium Nuremberg Trials – <i>Guided Tour at the Memorium Nuremberg Trials</i> Input: Professor Christoph Safferling , Chair for Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, International Criminal Law and Public International Law and Director of the International Nuremberg Principles Academy
17:00 – 18:30	Dinner Break
18:30 – 21:00	Evening Event

General background reading for Friday

Cuttitta, P., Pécouc, A., & Phillips, M. (2023). Civil society and migration governance across European borderlands. *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 44 (1), 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07256868.2022.2160099>.

European Commission (2024). 2024 European Migration Forum highlights key role of civil society i implementing the Pact. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/2024-european-migration-forum-highlights-key-role-civil-society-implementing-pact-2024-12-18_en.

Hadden, J. and Teixeira C. (2026). *New era for NGOs: Reimagining civil society’s role and possibilities Prospects for Children in 2026: A Global Outlook.* UNICEF. <https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/stories/2026-global-outlook-new-era-ngos>.

Permoser, J. M. (2022). *The church as a space of solidarity: The church asylum movement in Germany.* Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs. <https://repository.digital.georgetown.edu/handle/10822/1086357>.

Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants. (2025). *Criminalisation of migration and solidarity in the EU: 2024 report.* <https://picum.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Criminalisation-of-migration-and-solidarity-in-the-EU-2024-report.pdf>.



Research Social Platform on Migration and Asylum. (2020). *The criminalisation of solidarity in Europe.*
<https://www.migpolgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ReSoma-criminalisation-.pdf>.

Soupault, J. (2026). The criminalization of solidarity in the European border regime. *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political.* <https://doi.org/10.1177/03043754261433634>.



Saturday, 20 June 2026

The Future of Asylum: Q & A, Farewell

7:30 – 9:00	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:15	<p>Professor Markus Krajewski, Spokesperson of the Center for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU CHREN) <i>Q & A Session: (Almost) All Questions Answered</i></p> <p>At the end of the Summer School, participants will have the opportunity to discuss and revisit questions that emerged throughout the week together with Professor Markus Krajewski. The session provides a space for reflection, clarification, and open exchange on the future of asylum and related topics covered during the programme.</p>
10:15 – 12:00	<p><i>Final Reflections and Farewell</i> Professor Petra Bendel Tino Trautman, FFVT Project Coordinator and Research Fellow at FAU CHREN</p>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch

Art Exhibition

Throughout the summer school, you will have the opportunity to view the art exhibition by refugees from the group [“Helfende Hand International e.V.”](#) (HeHanI) in the Epelein Hall.



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