

FORCED MIGRATION

Lecture Series

Winter Semester 2026/27

21 October 2026 – 3 February 2027



Grafik: Olga Z. Getty Images, Canva

Program

The lecture series brings together interdisciplinary perspectives on forced migration, borders, asylum, and refugee reception. It explores how displacement is shaped by immigration and asylum regimes, legal insecurity, racialization, gendered and intersectional inequalities, and changing infrastructures of border control and reception.

Combining theoretical debate with empirical research and perspectives from policy, activism, and practice, the series addresses border violence and externalization, vulnerability and protection, refugee agency and collective action, as well as local reception, participation, and support.

Registration

For all online events (excluding the panel discussion on February 3, 2027), a single registration via this link is required: <https://forms.europa.uni.de/form/alias/EUV/forced-migration-lecture-series/>

You will receive automatic reminders for each event.

Wed., October 21, 2026, 4:15-5:45 p.m. CET Online

Deportable Fathers and Families: The Long-Term Effects of Immigration Status Insecurity

Melanie Griffiths (University of Birmingham)

This lecture examines how insecure immigration status affects not only people who are directly subject to immigration controls, but also their partners, children, and wider family relationships. Drawing on research with deportable husbands and fathers in the United Kingdom, including men who entered through the asylum system, irregular routes, family migration, or other immigration pathways, the lecture explores

how deportability and prolonged status insecurity reshape family dynamics over time. It also considers the experiences of British partners and children who are not themselves formally subject to immigration controls, but whose everyday lives and futures are nevertheless deeply affected by them.

Melanie Griffiths is an Associate Professor in Human Geography at the University of Birmingham, UK. She has spent nearly 20 years researching a variety of immigration and asylum topics, including irregularity, detention, deportation, and the bureaucratic and legal sides of the immigration system.

Wed., November 11, 2026, 4:15-5:45 p.m. CET Online

Refugees' Collective Action in Lesvos, Greece (2015-2020)

Nikos Xypolytas (University of the Aegean)

The lecture will present the findings of a research on refugee collective action in Lesvos, Greece, from 2015-2020. It focuses theoretically on the shortcomings of the academic community when approaching this topic. Empirically, utilizing qualitative research, it emphasizes the opportunities and limitations that refugees are confronted with in the context of collectively expressing their demands.

Nikos Xypolytas is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of the Aegean, Greece. His research focuses on migration, labor, social exclusion, and refugee experiences, with particular interest in processes of marginalization, collective action, and the longer-term consequences of refugee reception and migration governance.

Wed., November 25, 2026, 2:15-3:45 p.m. CET Online

Unmaking Migrant Life. Technologies of Suffocation in Europe

Martina Tazzioli (University of Bologna)

This presentation argues that in order to tackle migrants' unruly presence, state authorities systematically resort to administrative and spatial tactics apt at suffocating migrants' lives, undermining their health and tearing down their collective spaces of livability. These technologies of suffocation work by dismantling life-sustaining infrastructures—spaces that enable survival, community, and aspiration—while obstructing migrants' social reproduction. This foregrounds how states not only constrain mobility but deliberately choke migrants' lives and hopes.

Focusing on Greece and key European border zones like the French-Italian frontier, the presentation interrogates what a critique of the border regime should look like today, in the face of circuits of exploitation and subjugation that are enhanced through a crisis of and struggles over social reproduction.

Martina Tazzioli is an Associate Professor in Geography at the University of Bologna. Her research focuses on migration and borders in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. Her forthcoming book is entitled "The Unmaking of Migrant Life. Technologies of Suffocation in Europe" (Bristol University Press, 2027).

Wed., December 9, 2026, 4:15-5:45 p.m. CET
Online

Colonial Technologies of Migrant Dispossession across the Mediterranean

SA Smythe (University of Toronto)

This lecture approaches the Black Mediterranean as a way of situating contemporary forced migration and imperial border governance within longer histories of colonialism and racial capitalism. More broadly, it discusses work on the technocultural and aesthetic conditions through which displacement, mobility, and belonging are made legible and governable across Frontex Europe and its externalized borders. Ceuta, Tripoli, Lampedusa, and possibly Calais will be examined as interrelated contemporary sites where these processes become particularly visible and deadly, while also attending to forms of resistance and relation that emerge against and beyond them.

SA Smythe is a critical theorist, transmedia storyteller, and educator committed to black belonging beyond genres and geographies. They are Associate Professor of Black Studies & the Archive and Director of the Collaboratory for Black Poiesis at the University of Toronto.

Wed., January 6, 2027, 4:15-5:45 p.m. CET
Online

Refugee Agency in Context: Afghan Refugees in Poland and Germany

Mohammad Kohistani (University of Opole)

This lecture examines the main challenges Afghan refugees face in Poland and Germany, including economic, legal, psychological, and social challenges. It also compares the two countries, highlighting their similarities and differences in refugees' everyday lives.

ny, including economic, legal, psychological, and social challenges. It also compares the two countries, highlighting their similarities and differences in refugees' everyday lives.

Mohammad Murtaza Kohistani is a 3-year PhD researcher in Political Science and Administration at the University of Opole, Poland. His doctoral research focuses on EU policies toward immigrants and refugees, with a comparative study of Germany and Poland.

Wed., January 20, 2027, 4:15-5:45 p.m. CET
Online

Intersectional Vulnerabilities and the Boundaries of Forced Migration

Jane Freedman (Université Paris 8)

This lecture will examine the ways in which intersecting structures of violence and discrimination shape the experiences of people in situations of forced migration. Drawing on examples from various EU and non-EU settings it will show how borders are shaped through structures of gendered, racialized and class violence. It will also examine the ways in which attempts to codify "vulnerability" can act to essentialize what are in fact fluid and contextual intersectional positions, and the ways in which those who are impacted by this violence can create strategies of resistance and survival.

Jane Freedman is Professor of Sociology at Université Paris 8 and a member of the Centre de recherches sociologiques et politiques de Paris (CRESPPA). Her research focuses on gender and migration, forced migration and asylum, with particular attention to intersectional and postcolonial approaches, gendered and racialized violence, vulnerability, and resistance at borders. She is currently leading the ERC Advanced Grant project GRABS on young people growing up in situations of forced migration.

Wed., February 3, 2027, 4:15-5:45 p.m. CET
Hybrid: On-site in room HG 109 (Senate Hall, Viadrina Main Building) & Online

Podiumsdiskussion: Geflüchtete willkommen heißen? Lokale Aufnahme, Unterstützung und politische Teilhabe

Mit:

Emanuela Faleńczyk (Integrationsbeauftragte der Stadt Frankfurt/Oder)
Fereshta Hussain (Migrantenbeirat Potsdam)
Mara Hasenjürgen (BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg)
Pierre Vicky Sonkeng Tegouffo (Flüchtlingsrat Brandenburg) (angefragt)

*Die Diskussionsrunde befasst sich mit den Veränderungen bei der Unterbringung und Aufnahme von Geflüchteten in Brandenburg in den letzten zehn Jahren. Unter Beteiligung von zivilgesellschaftlichen Organisationen, Fachleuten und Aktivist*innen aus Brandenburg und Berlin werden lokale Aufnahmestrukturen, die Anerkennung besonderer Schutzbedürfnisse sowie Chancen und Hindernisse für die gesellschaftliche und politische Teilhabe von Geflüchteten erörtert.*

Wir bitten um Anmeldung unter: <https://forms.europa.uni.de/form/alias/EUV/roundtable>

The Roundtable discussion will be held in German. Questions in English are welcome. Simultaneous interpretation into English will be provided if a sufficient number of English-speaking participants register. Please register your participation here: <https://forms.europa.uni.de/form/alias/EUV/roundtable/?lang=en>

Please note:

Zoom is used for the implementation of online events. The privacy policy of Zoom applies (<https://zoom.us/de-de/privacy.html>). With your registration, you give your consent to the use of Zoom.

Venue:

HG = Hauptgebäude | Main Building - Große Scharrnstraße 59, Frankfurt (Oder)

Contact:

Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION
research-factory@europa.uni.de

Current information on the events hosted by the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION can be found here:

<https://www.borders-in-motion.de/de/transfer/aktuelle-veranstaltungen/index.html>

In cooperation with:

