

**CONTESTED MIGRATION REGIMES:
EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES AND BEYOND**
MID-TERM CONFERENCE of the ESA RESEARCH NETWORK 35
“Sociology of Migration”
13th and 14th November 2014, Frankfurt am Main

Organiser: ESA Research Network 35 Sociology of Migration
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Keynotes:

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After organising successful sessions at the 11th ESA Conference in Torino, the Research Network 35 “Sociology of Migration” is now announcing its second mid-term conference, to be held from 13 to 14 November 2014 at Goethe University Frankfurt. Our aim is to provide a platform for those who have already met at earlier conferences to continue our discussions, and to invite other scholars to join us in this endeavour. Thematically, this conference will bring together various sociological approaches to the political regulation of migration and mobility such as the emergence of (European) migration regimes over the past decades, the discourses and practices involved, the social and cultural contexts of political regulation and the impact of migration regimes on migrants’ lives and practices.

Abstracts can be submitted to esa.migration@yahoo.com by 1st April 2014 (please see below for details).

Theme of the conference

The media debates on Islamophobia and the electoral success of the far right, current refugee movements throughout Europe and recurring protests against FRONTEX are recent examples of the controversial character of migration politics in Europe. The concept of *‘migration regime’* provides a helpful framework to address the contested and complex dynamics of current migration politics from a sociological perspective. It allows us to explore the interplay of political decision making, established legal frameworks, dominant discourses of belonging and institutional configurations in the political regulation of migration. Migration regimes can thus be seen as specific assemblages of institutions, political actors, legal regulations and discourses which structure social practices of geographic mobility and individual decision making.

Starting from the concept of migration regimes, our midterm conference will cover five broad issue areas:

1. Sociological diagnoses of current changes: How do sociologists assess recent changes in migration regimes and recently established political instruments such as citizenship tests and increasingly detailed immigration statistics? Are we, for example, witnessing a renaissance of guest worker regimes and the end of 'securitised' migration politics? What is the (future) role of the nation state and how far developed is the transnationalisation of migration regimes? How are the national and the supranational scales intertwined with regard to the regulation of migration? Are we witnessing the emergence of qualitatively new forms of transnational or postnational regulation – in the EU context as well as in other regions of the world? How are current migration regimes linked to racialised and gendered knowledge?

2. Political institutions and practices involved in the regulation of migration: Who are the main actors involved in the regulation of migration (political authorities, commercial companies, NGOs, protest movements, etc.)? How do different forms (state and non-state) and levels of governance (the local, national, regional, and global) play together in the regulation of migration and mobility? What role do experts (within and beyond academia) play in this regard? What role do practices and discourses in other professional fields such as media and education play for the regulation of migration and citizenship?

3. Effects on migrants' lives and practices and 'evaluation' of policies from below: In what ways are mobile individuals, families, communities and diasporas affected by migration regimes? By what means or by what 'political technologies' are mobile individuals' migration practices channelled? How do individuals navigate through the complex formal and informal arrangements? What strategies of resistance do they use and develop?

4. Links to politico-economic transformations: How are changes in the political regulation of migration linked to broader societal transformations such as the rise of neoliberalism, new industrial relations and the ongoing economic crisis? How do these societal shifts impact migration regimes? And, how do these regimes emerge on the global, transnational, national and city scales?

5. Sociological self-reflection: What implications do scientific accounts of political developments have for future research practices? What (unintended) role do sociologists play in the (re-)production of migration regimes? How can sociologists remain relevant without becoming part of the very system they criticise?

We encourage contributions on theoretical, empirical and methodological issues. Studies involving longitudinal and/or comparative analyses and contributions focusing on the European context are particularly welcome, as are papers which analyse everyday practices and strategies of action and resistance of migrants and their families.

Call for papers

The deadline for submission of abstracts (max. 200 words) and brief biographical notes is 1 April 2014. Please send your documents to esa.migration@yahoo.com. Decisions will be communicated by 30 April 2014.

Participants will be asked to submit their papers for presentations (up to 4,000 words, including references) to esa.migration@yahoo.com by 15 October 2014.

Organisation

No fees will be charged, but you will need to pay for your own travel and accommodation. Information on hotels and hostels close to the conference venue will be communicated to all participants in due course.