

Selected Topics in International Politics:
Exodus: Conflict, Migration and Refugees

MA Seminar (8 ECTS)
FSS 2017

Friday 10:15-11:45

Prof. Dr. Lilli Banholzer

Office Hours:

Tuesday 11:00 – 12:30

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The seminar addresses a burning issue in international relations: the linkage between displacement, refugee flows, international migration and conflict. According to a June 2015 report by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), worldwide displacement has now hit an all time high, with close to 60 million people forced to leave home and seek safety elsewhere. To come to grips with the complex relation between conflict and displacement, we start off with some fact-finding and definitions: Who is a refugee, an asylum seeker and an economic migrant? Which overlaps exist between the different concepts and how can they be separated? What are recent global and regional trends and how do they compare to past records? In a second step, we will examine those factors that lead people to leave home and flee across borders or even seas. What are the major causes of displacements and refugees flows, and how do they compare to other patterns of international migration? When and how do people seek refuge in another country? What are the motives behind migration? What are the inter-linkages between conflict and migration? In addition, we will have a closer look at the effects of humanitarian aid and assess possible risks associated with the establishment

of refugees camp especially, notably the recruitment of combatants. In the light of the current mass refugee movements, we also study the consequences that refugee and migration flows have in the recipient countries. We look at direct neighbors of conflict-ridden regions, notably the EU and other developed countries. What are their policies towards refugees and migrants? Which social and economic issues are at stake? What instruments have been or are being put in place at the international level to address displacement, and how effective are they? In a final part of the seminar, we will apply the knowledge and insights gained and deep-dive into several case studies.

OVERVIEW

Session 1 (17.02)	Introduction / Distribution of presentations
Session 2 (24.02)	Putting the facts on the table: Terms, trends and figures.
Session 3 (03.03)	Causes of Migration: Security and Politics
Session 4 (10.03)	Causes of Migration: Economic factors
Session 5 (17.03)	Movie
Session 6 (24.03)	Causes of Migration: Environmental factors
Session 7 (31.03)	Migrants: Winners or losers?
Session 8 (07.04)	Migrants: Refugee warriors
Easterbreak	
Session 9 (28.04)	Left behind: Social & economic and political consequences in the country of origin (<i>Andrea / Reilly</i>)
Session 10 (05.05)	The recipient population: Social & economic and political consequences for the host country.
Session 11 (12.05)	Integration: What works?
Session 12 (19.05)	Research Design Week
Session 13 (26.05)	Discussion of Research Designs
Session 14 (02.06)	Make-up (in case needed)

Course Requirements & Assessment:

- Regular attendance & active class participation
- Class presentation & leading the class discussion. **Every student is obliged to discuss his or her presentation one week in advance during my office hours with me.**
- A research paper, DEADLINE: 19. June 2017 (12 am). The paper will be 10-15 pages.
- Please hand in an electronic copy AND a printed version. The printed copy must be submitted to my secretary (not my colleagues) on the due date. Make sure to include a anti-plagiarism statement.

Participation:

Students are expected to come prepared to the sessions, having read the reading for class discussion. Particular emphasis will be placed on the *critical discussion of the readings*, which should generally be dominated by you, not me, and the discussion of and feedback on your work.

Presentation and leading class discussion

You need to sign up for one presentation and lead the seminar discussion. Note that in the presentation, you need to go beyond the reading. The presentation should provide a substantial insight into the topic and discuss the methods and data used in the research articles. **Group works are very welcome!**

Important: Every student **must** see me **one week before** the presentation. Bring your Power Point presentation to this meeting. Make sure you sign up for my office hours in time.

Research paper

Each student needs to hand in a research paper before or on the **19th of June 2017** (12 am – sharp, every day late means minus one full grade). The paper can either be based on your presentation or related to any other topic we have covered in class. It should not exceed 15 pages, including all. Length is not a criteria for quality.

DETAILED COURSE PLAN

Week 1: Introduction to the seminar

(17.02)

Guiding Questions: What will we be talking about in this seminar? Who will do which presentation?

No reading

Week 2: Putting the facts on the table: Terms, facts and figures.

24.02

Guiding Questions: This session aims to prepare the ground for a later well-informed discussion. Who is a refugee, an asylum seeker and an economic migrant? Which overlaps exist between the different concepts and how can they be separated? What are recent global and regional trends and how do they compare to past records? Why does migration increase?

Reading:

- Collier, Paul (2013): Exodus: Immigration and Multiculturalism in the 21st Century. London, Allen Lane. **Chapter 1 & 2.**

Check the following websites:

- UNHCR: <http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php>
- BAMF: <http://www.bamf.de/EN/Infothek/Statistiken/statistiken-node.html>

Also check the blog of Hein de Haas:

- <http://heindehaas.blogspot.de/2016/08/refugees-small-and-relatively-stable.html>
- De Haas, Hein (2014) Human Migration: Myths, Hysteria and Facts.
<http://heindehaas.blogspot.de/2014/07/human-migration-myths-hysteria-and-facts.html>

Week 3: Causes of Migration: Security and Politics

03.03

Guiding Questions:

What are the structural causes for migration? Which factors matter most? How do spatial factors such as geography and location affect voluntary and forced migration? Which theoretical approaches can help to explain migration?

Reading:

- Melander, Erik & Magnus Öberg (2007): The Threat of Violence and Forced Migration: Geographical Scope Trumps Intensity of Fighting, *Civil Wars* 9(2), 156-73.

Further Reading:

- Collier, Paul (2014): *Exodus: Warum wir Einwanderung neu regeln müssen*. London, Allen Lane. **Kapitel 8.**
- Schmeidl, Susanne (1997): *Exploring the Causes of Forced Migration: A Pooled Time-Series Analysis, 1971-1990*.
- Öberg, Magnus and Melander, Erik (2006): Time to Go? Duration Dependence in Forced Migration. *International Interactions* 32(2), 1-24.

Week 4: Causes of Migration: Economy and Poverty

10.03

Guiding Questions: Which economic factors lead people to leave their homes? Under which circumstances?

Reading:

- de Haas, Hein (2012): The Migration and Development Pendulum: A Critical View on Research and Policy. *International Migration*. Vol. 50 (3)

Further Reading:

- Boeri, Tito (2009): *Immigration to the Land of Redistribution*. IZA Discussion Paper No. 4273.
- Zanker, Jessica (2008): *Why do people migrate? A review of the theoretical literature*. MPRA Paper No. 28197. Available at: <http://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/28197/>
- Beine, Michel, Frederic Docquier and Hillel Rapoport (2008): Brain Drain and Human Capital Formation in Developing Countries: Winners and Losers. *The Economic Journal* 118 (April), 631–652.

Week 5: Causes of Migration: Environment

17.03

Guiding Questions: What are “environmental refugees”? What do we know empirically about the interplay between migration and environmental factors?

Reading:

- Bates, Diane C. (2002): Environmental Refugees? Classifying Human Migrations Caused by Environmental Change. *Population and Environment*, 23(5).

Further Reading:

- Rafael Reuveny (2007): Climate change-induced migration and violent conflict. *Political Geography* 26, 656-673.
- Gemenne, François (2015): One good reason to speak of 'climate refugees'. *FMR* 49.

Week 6: Migrants: Winners or losers?

24.03

Guiding Questions: To which extent are migrants the winners, to which extent are they the losers?

Reading:

- Collier, Paul (2013): *Exodus: Immigration and Multiculturalism in the 21st Century*. London, Allen Lane. **Chapter 6 & 7.**

Week 7: Refugee warriors: Refugee camps as dangerous sanctuaries

31.03

Guiding Questions: Under what conditions do refugee crises lead to the spread of civil war across borders? How can refugee relief organizations respond when militants use humanitarian assistance as a tool of war? What government actions can prevent or reduce conflict?

Reading:

- Lischer, Sarah Kenyon. 2005. “Dangerous Sanctuaries: Refugee Camps, Civil War and the Dilemmas of Humanitarian Aid.” New York: Cornell University Press. **Chapter 1.**
- Stedman, Stephen and Fred Tanner. 2003. “Refugee Manipulation: War, Politics, and the Abuse of Human Suffering.” Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institute Press. **Chapter 1 & 2**

- Salehyan, Idean and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch (2006). Refugees and the Spread of Civil War. International Organization, 60, pp 335-366

Session 8: Left behind: Social & economic and political consequences in the country of origin

07.04

Guiding Questions: Does migration hinder development and democratization? Does the “brain drain” hurt countries? What happens to the people that are “left behind”?

Reading:

- Collier, Paul (2013): Exodus: Immigration and Multiculturalism in the 21st Century. London, Allen Lane. **Chapter 8, 9 & 10**
- Docquier, Frédéric et al. (2011): Emigration and democracy. Working Papers, Bar-Ilan University, Department of Economics, No. 2011-02.

Further Reading:

- Choi, Seung-Whan and James A. Piazza (2014): Internally Displaced Populations and Suicide Terrorism. Journal of Conflict Resolution 1-33
- Bradley, Matthew Todd (2005): Civil Society, Emigration and Democracy in Africa. An Alternative Proposition.
- Docquier, Frédéric and Hillel Rapoport (2012). Globalization, Brain Drain, and Development. Journal of Economic Literature. 50(3), 681-730.

***** Easterbreak*****

Session 9: Movie

26.04

Session 10: The recipient population: Social & economic and political consequences for the host country.

05.05

Guiding Questions: Which consequences does migration have on the recipient countries? Is there a limit to what countries can / should take in? Which positive effects and chances are there?

Reading:

- Collier, Paul (2013): Exodus: Immigration and Multiculturalism in the 21st Century. London, Allen Lane. **Chapter 3, 4 & 5**
- Mayda, Anna Maria (2006): Who is against Immigration? A Cross-Country Investigation of Individual Attitudes towards Immigrants, The Review of Economics and Statistics, Vol. 88 (3), 510-530. (bourse only).

Further Reading:

- Mulvey, Gareth. 2010. When Policy creates politics: the Problematizing of Immigration and the Consequences for Refugee Integration in the UK. *Journal of Refugee Studies*. 23(4).
- Lesinka, Magdalena. 2014. The European backlash against immigration and multiculturalism. *Journal of Sociology*. 50(1), 37-50.

Session 11: Integration: What works?

12.05

TBA

Session 12: Research Design Week

19.05

Session 13: Discussion of Research Proposals and wrap-up

19.05

Week 14: Make up (only in case needed)

02.06