



# Annual Report 2021

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CENTRE FOR GLOBAL MIGRATION STUDIES  
University of Göttingen

# Centre for Global Migration Studies, University of Göttingen

Migration is one of the most pressing and complex issues of the 21st century. The Centre for Global Migration Studies (CeMig) brings together scholars of the Göttingen Campus from six different colleges, known as 'faculties' in the German context, plus the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (MPI-MMG). CeMig examines the complex challenges of migration under different thematic and regional foci, that by engaging in interdisciplinary collaboration and by pooling together diverse methodological approaches. The result is a deep, multilayered understanding of migration and the provision of innovative policy approaches to deal with this supremely important issue.

CeMig establishes innovative forms of knowledge transfer in addition to strengthening research and teaching in the area of Migration Studies. It contributes to public debates, and facilitates the inclusion in the discussion of stakeholders from civil society, politics, industry and business.

CeMig offers:

- International Conferences
- Interdisciplinary Working Groups
- Joint Research in the Field of Migration Studies
- Teaching Activities Related to Migration Studies
- Support to Early-Career Academics
- Support for Research Projects Externally Funded
- Collaboration with Stakeholders from Civil Society, Politics, Industry and Business

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# Contents

INTRODUCTION .....	3
RESEARCH .....	4
EDUCATION .....	8
OUTREACH AND COOPERATION .....	9
IMPRESSUM .....	I

## Introduction

The year 2021 was yet another in which the activities at the Centre for Global Migration Studies (CeMig) of the University of Göttingen were marked by the aftereffects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The latter, and the social negotiation around the ideal means of its containment, were what informed public and political debate first and foremost. In the course of this, for example by means of the debate on the vaccination campaign, the question of the disproportionate affectedness hereby of migrants and postmigrant communities was once again brought to the fore. In the process, it became ever more apparent that there is comparably far too little data and current research on the links between structural inequality and racism in terms of healthcare in Germany – a research area that CeMig will take up and pursue more intensively henceforth.

Furthermore, the measures taken to prevent the spread of the virus continued to influence our ways of working. Events and meetings were held predominantly online – having the advantage that researchers and interlocutors could be connected from all over the world and global networks maintained regardless. Internally, despite fewer opportunities to interact on a personal level, CeMig members nevertheless succeeded, in addition to the pursuit of individual research projects, in strengthening interdisciplinary cooperation and expanding joint lines of research.

Among the various [thematic areas at CeMig](#), the following strands in particular were the main focus in 2021:

The current situation worldwide saw expertise on the subject of **migration and health** be more strongly sought after. Meanwhile, perspectives on intensified interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers from the Faculties of Social Sciences, Humanities, Business and Economics, and Biology and Psychology as well as from Medical Ethics and the History of Medicine (both University Medical Center Göttingen) were developed further. A transdisciplinary public roundtable and workshop on trauma, ruptured memories and agency in the context of global migration, that had to be cancelled in 2020 but could be made up for in 2021, came at the right time in this sense, also

in terms of building bridges with practitioners in the field. The newly funded CeMig research group on ‘Public Health and Migration’ (starting 2022) intends to join forces around the question of how the ‘protection of life’ and the ‘right to health’ should be best defined, encoded and implemented in relation to migrant populations and postcolonial minorities.

The common interest among researchers from the Faculties of Social Sciences, Humanities and Law in developing interdisciplinary **socio-legal perspectives on migration and borders** gave rise to the further drafting of a joint proposal for a ‘Research Training Group’ (RTG) on mobility rights (submitted 07/2022). The foundations for continuing to pursue this topic in the years ahead were further laid by strengthening existing international cooperation on this key subject area.

The theme of **environmental issues and migration, especially climate change and its impact on the latter**, brought closer together, in particular, researchers from the Faculties of Law and Social Sciences. In the context of a ‘Migration Research Lab’, they invited leading international experts in the field to share their thoughts on the most pressing open research questions with regards to (im)mobility, human rights and climate justice.

Concerning CeMig’s approach to understand migration on the global scale, **the regional focus** was directed in 2021 especially towards the **African continent**. An online lecture series, in cooperation with renowned institutions in both Africa and Europe, discussed Afro–European relations in the context of migration governance. Nine events in total critically discussed European Union migration governance in African states and the latter’s responses within the multiple entanglements making up border control, development and security.

The initiative and contributions for a proposed ‘Collaborative Research Centre’ (SFB) on sustainable development, with a focus on **South Asia**,

spotlights yet another world region strongly represented at the university's Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS). Researchers from both CeMig and CeMIS together seek to address mobilities and migration governance in India and neighbouring countries herewith.

In 2021, discussion of the eventual reorganisation of the university's centres remained ongoing. The many interdisciplinary initiatives and collaborative activities underway clearly show how migration is, and will continue to be in the future, a cross-cutting subject matter. It is also one intricately linked to the university's regional as well as thematic foci, as part of its relentless striving to analyse and find answers to today's most pressing concerns (such as e.g. sustainable development).

This annual report describes in more detail all the collective projects coming under the umbrella of CeMig in the task fields: 1) research; 2) education; and 3) outreach and cooperation.

## Research

3 ongoing initiatives for joint research projects

16 ongoing research projects by individual CeMig members

Including 5 newly funded projects in 2021

57 publications by CeMig members

### Ongoing Initiatives for Joint Research Projects

#### Socio-Legal Perspectives

Following the international convergence of legal and social/cultural scientific perspectives, CeMig's researchers amplified further their interest in cross-disciplinary exchange aiming to go beyond the more prevalent 'interdisciplinary legal research' found in Germany. Together, they seek to explore the added value of a common perspective ('third space') on the part of Law and the Social Sciences (Legal Anthropology / Geography / Political Science / Sociology). The ambition here is to find shared ground for both disciplinary knowledge practices to fruitfully enrich each other and to identify the theoretical, conceptual and practical challenges which interdisciplinarity raises. To connect such interdisciplinary exchange to the international state of the art on socio-legal perspectives, greater cooperation with international experts continued to be sought. As an initial outcome, postdoctoral research fellow Kari Drangslund (University of Bergen) was invited to be a research fellow at CeMig in 2022. A joint workshop together with her colleagues from the project 'Temporary protection as a durable solution? The "return turn" in asylum policies in Europe' is planned, so as to reflect on interdisciplinarity in migration research – especially with regard to combining the viewpoints of Law and Anthropology.

The development of a socio-legal approach to migration and borders – still largely a desideratum in the German-speaking research landscape – is also the theoretical-methodological goal of the

**submitted draft proposal for a RTG to the German Research Foundation (DFG)** (submission of the draft proposal: 07/2022; two-step procedure; planned project launch: 10/2024). The RTG **‘Mobility rights in the global context of multiple crises’** brings together ten scholars from the Faculties of Philosophy, Social Sciences and Law to examine the question of how mobility rights are being challenged, claimed and reshaped by the current global intersection of multiple crises. In the context of the pressing contemporary one – for example, as a result of the European refugee (political) crisis, climate change or the Covid-19 pandemic – the challenges for existing migration law, the weakness of global norm-building and the ‘juridification’ of mobility rights are all becoming increasingly apparent.

Taking as examples topics central to Migration Studies (work, education, housing, religion, borders, climate and environmental conditions), and with regards to the formation of political and social norms (international organisations, migration ethics), this relationship will be examined from an interdisciplinary, comparative and multi-level perspective on the normative-ethical, theoretical-conceptual and empirical-qualitative (or ethnographic) level. This will be done, too, with a view to various world regions and levels of regulation (global, regional, national and local). For Germany, the RTG will be the first systematic context training young scholars in a socio-legal approach to the thematic fields of (forced) migration and mobility.

### Health and Migration

In 2021 CeMig was also able to secure the necessary funds for the establishment of a new **research area on public health and migration** (planned duration: 04/2022–03/2024). The university’s presidential board would support this initiative by ten scholars from Political Science (Faculty of Social Sciences), Cultural Anthropology and Philosophy (Faculty of Humanities), Development Economics (Faculty of Business and Economics), Communication and Social Psychology (Faculty of Biology and Psychology) as well as Medical Ethics and History of Medicine (University Medical Center Göttingen). Starting from the observation that

in political practice health coverage and entitlements remain highly unevenly distributed across countries globally, and against the backdrop of the disproportionately greater risk of migrants being affected by Covid-19 or related hygiene measures, the research group aims to address the problem of how the ‘protection of life’ and the ‘right to health’ are defined, encoded and implemented in relation to migrant populations and postcolonial minorities. As well, the key ethical, social and political questions arising herewith will be given close scrutiny.

The research group is particularly interested in two main research areas: 1) ‘The right-to-health approach in global norm-building’, focusing on how international and regional organisations even define the nexus between migration and health. The research group is particularly interested in the question of whether the right-to-health norm helps these organisations to establish a focal point for international action, enabling them to better influence national policies. It seeks to analyse how global standard-setting occurs and how it influences the regional and domestic levels, too. 2) ‘Conceptualisations of eligibility and access provisions to health infrastructures and services’, focusing on norm-building and policy formulation on the national level. The research group is particularly interested in the ways in which ‘health equality’ and ‘migration’ are currently framed by public health actors and how access policies are conceptualised. Each research group will be led and supported by a guest researcher as well as short-term visiting senior scholars. Corresponding selection interviews were held in the course of the year. Aleksandra Lewicki (Senior Lecturer in Sociology, University of Sussex and Co-Director of the Sussex European Institute) agreed to a three-month research stay in Göttingen in 2022 so as to contribute her expertise on the state of the art regarding welfare systems, institutional racism and discrimination.

### Legal and Policy Regimes, Migration Governance

CeMig members were also involved in the application for a **DFG-funded ‘Collaborative Research Centre on Sustainable Development’, with a focus on South Asia (speaker: Sebastian Vollmer)**. Sabine Hess, in collaboration with

Srirupa Roy (CeMIS), is taking part herein with a project on ‘The Emerging Development-Integration-Migration Control Nexus in South Asia: A comparative Study of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan’. Against the backdrop of the now-emerging research field on the entanglement of migration (control) policies and development aid, as leading to an intensified ‘development-migration nexus’, the research project by Hess and Roy intends to shed light on policy developments in this context in South Asia especially – a region under-researched in this regard so far.

### Research Projects by Individual CeMig Members

Among the **16 ongoing research projects** by individual CeMig members, 5 were newly funded from 2021:

#### Economic, Political and Social Integration

Under the research theme 4) Economic, Political and Social Integration, Alexander-Kenneth Nagel (Institute of Sociology) received funding from the Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony (as part of the initiative ‘Pro Niedersachsen’) for a three-year project on ‘[Religious communalization of migrants in rural areas](#)’. The project takes as its starting point how the proportion of people with a migration background in small-town and rural areas has increased significantly in recent years. Immigration and cultural diversity can no longer be considered a phenomenon only of large cities; however, the genesis and development of religious communalization among migrants in rural areas is shaped differently. On the one hand, this is due to the rural spatial structure (low settlement density and spatial distance, low density of migrant self-organisations, and lack of financial and personnel resources in the municipalities), and on the other, to the work of building local relationships itself (with the local administration/politics, other civil society actors and within the framework of intercultural as well as intra- and interreligious activities). Against this background, the project focuses attention on a multisited ethnography of the religious communalisation of different migration groups in two selected counties in Lower Saxony. Two questions

are of central importance here: Under which contextual conditions do religious migrant groups form and network in the countryside? And, in what ways do they interact with the local environment? The research project promises a better understanding of the significance of rural areas for the religious self-organisation of migrants. In the long term, it could provide key impulses for helping shape cultural and religious diversity in small towns and rural regions, which is likely to become more important in view of the increased settlement of refugees in such locations.

#### [‘Coming to America: Immigration, Political Campaigning, and Polarization’](#)

(DFG) is a joint project between the Chair of Development Economics (with the participation of CeMig member Sarah Langlotz), the Chair of International Economic and Development Policy at the Ruprechts-Karls-University of Heidelberg and the University of Western Australia. Against the backdrop of rising political polarisation and increasing migration flows in the United States in recent decades, in addition to growing social and political cleavages around the topic of immigration, the project aims to examine the impact of immigration on political ideologies and polarisation along a number of dimensions: a) the impact of immigrants and refugees on political ideologies and polarisation at the local level; b) the political impact of immigration on 16 million campaign donors; and 3) the use of immigration-related political advertising and its influence on polarisation. The project draws on unique and previously unexplored individual-level microdata on the universe of refugees that entered the US between 1975 and 2015, bolstered with county-level data up to 2018. Moreover, a new identification strategy will be developed based on an arbitrary distance threshold within which refugees without family ties in the US have to be settled.

#### Migrants’ Perspectives and Voices

Under research theme 5) Migrants’ Perspectives and Voices, Sabine Hess (Institute of Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnography) started a new project on ‘[Re/Assembling Anti-Racist Struggles](#)’ (Federal Agency for Civic Education, bpb). In collaboration with other renowned migration and racism scholars (Annita Kalpaka,

HAW Hamburg and Vassilis Tsianos, FH Kiel) as well as the Migration Museum, Cologne, and the FHXB Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Museum, Berlin, a one-year networking and research process was initiated as a first step towards developing a narrative of Germany's history from the perspective of struggles against racism. Methodologically, the project takes a multidirectional and collaborative approach in seeking to gather all the different experiences and perspectives of the last 70 years of resistance against the various forms of racism experienced in East and West Germany. New ways of collecting (e.g. in archives) and representing (e.g. through exhibitions) are hereby sought, too. Led by 'community curators' and 'community researchers', the following are the main topics to be pursued here: political memory struggles and moments of solidarity after the racist arson attacks in Mölln (1992) and Cologne (2004); the complex history of the pogrom of Rostock-Lichtenhagen in 1992 and its reappraisal until today; structural racism in the German Democratic Republic; the chronicles of activist movements around racial profiling as well as Jewish-feminist self-organisation and networking work in the context of feminist anti-racist awakenings. The first project phase finds completion with a three-day assembly in May 2022, with it looking at the history of anti-racist struggles across movements, places and time.

#### **Further Projects That Include Migration as a Factor**

Claudia Neu (Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development) includes migration as a factor in two of her newly granted projects: '[Yesterday as today - showing attitude!](#)' (Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth as part of the initiative 'Demokratie leben', in cooperation with the Adam von Trott Foundation, Imshausen e.V.). The project emphasises the teaching of democratic trust and a strengthening of the culture of democratic debate as a direct response to right-wing rhetoric. It aims to address adolescents and young adults at vocational schools in the rural areas situated near the borders of eastern Hesse and western Thuringia – a highly diverse target group consisting of secondary school and high school graduates, a high proportion of migrants and refugees, as well as young

people who are far removed from politics. This latter group, especially in (peripheral) rural areas, often lacks opportunities for participation as well as meeting places, exposure to cultural diversity and available leisure activities – as particularly true for girls. With participative, target group-oriented and socio-spatially located educational work, the ambition is that young people who – even after leaving school – remain in their region, in rural areas, have their participation in civil society strengthened so as to create a sustainable and lasting impact in the region.

['ENKOR – Engagement Constellations in Rural Areas: An East-West Comparison'](#) (Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture) looks at manifestations, context factors, interdependencies, traditions and innovations, as well as future potential for civic engagement, in nine rural communities in eastern and western Germany. Within three years a cartography of different types and constellations of civic engagement in rural areas is to be developed. It can then be used as an example to assess and support such rural civic engagement elsewhere. In addition to the University of Göttingen, the Thünen Institute for Regional Development, the Institute for Transformation, Housing and Socio-Spatial Development (TRAWOS) and the Zittau/Görlitz University of Applied Sciences are also involved in this project.



## Education

- 1 international Migration Research Lab
- 2 international fellow doctoral students
- 27 seminars and lectures on the subject of migration given by CeMig members at their institutes
- 41 doctoral candidates supervised by CeMig members (5 of whom are co-supervised by two members)

The diverse research conducted in the field of Migration Studies at the University of Göttingen is also reflected in the teaching of individual CeMig members. Each term, CeMig produces an overview of the current courses to facilitate an interest-led study even across disciplines.

In order to provide support for the **over 40 doctoral students and numerous postdoctoral scholars** dealing in their work with migration, CeMig aims to build a forum of exchange for early-career researchers. Migration Research Labs offer PhD and postdoctoral candidates the opportunity to present their ongoing research and to discuss methodological questions or analytical challenges among peers. The format also allows them to invite leading experts with whom they can exchange ideas and perspectives on their pressing research themes.

In October, the format was continued with the **6th Migration Research Lab ‘(Im)mobilities, Human Rights and Climate Justice’** (15.10.2021, online) initiated by CeMig members Elfriede Hermann (Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology) and Angela Schwerdtfeger (Chair of Public Law) based on the concept put forwards by their master’s and doctoral students Nicola Adam and Leon-Fabian Caspari respectively. The input by Carol Farbotko (Griffith University) and Monika Mayrhofer (Ludwig Boltzman Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights) initiated exchange, meanwhile, on the current state of research on climate change and human (im)mobility, in discussing what an (im)mobility perspective has to offer in terms of human rights and climate justice. Being

primarily aimed at PhD and postdoctoral candidates from various disciplines, the Research Lab offers the opportunity to critically debate the challenges and open questions in their research designs and analyses in light of the global reality of climate change and human (im)mobility.

CeMig’s diverse and interdisciplinary research environment, as well as the multitude of (inter)national cooperation networks, have aroused interest in local affiliation. In 2021, **two fellow students became affiliates** of CeMig and would be supervised by the latter’s members: Eçe Cim (Istanbul University, Turkey) was hosted and supervised by Sabine Hess (Institute of Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology) from September 2020 until October 2021, as part of conducting empirical research for her dissertation on ‘Return Migration, Collective Memory and Transnational Spaces: The Case of Turkey–Germany’. Her stay was funded by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey. Lea Cejvan (Purdue University, US) would be a Fulbright research student at CeMig from September 2021 until July 2022. CeMig members Sabine Hess and Carna Brkovic (both Institute of Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology) offered guidance in the course of her ethnographic study on migration from the Balkans to Germany and the US.

## Outreach and Cooperation

18 public CeMig events

3 public events or contributions to academic conferences by individual CeMig members

14 consultation or outreach activities (policy briefs, non-academic publications etc.) by individual CeMig members

4 issues in CeMig's paper series *Global Migration Studies*

### CeMig Events

In addition to the numerous contributions by individual members to academic conferences or public symposiums, CeMig also organised and hosted various events per its various core thematic areas so as to communicate research findings to the general public or engage in pressing debates with relevant experts and stakeholders. Various events that CeMig supported as co-host resulted from cooperation occurring within the ongoing research projects of its members. However, these events also allowed for (inter)national cooperation on an institutional level, in addition to the numerous cooperation networks in which CeMig members are involved due to their research-related activities, networks and projects.

### Legal and Policy Regimes, Migration Governance

In January 2021, in the context of the annual meeting of CeMig members and in view of the intention to strengthen interdisciplinary exchange on the subject of sustainable development, CeMig Advisory Board member Marion Panizzon (University of Bern and World Trade Institute) was invited to give a **public lecture on ['From One Crisis to the Next: Could the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) Contribute to Govern Migration Better?'](#)** (20.01.2021, online). In her talk, she explained why the dynamics of migration governance would be redrawn during the 2015–16 refugee crisis and again during the Covid-19 pandemic emerging from 2020. While the policy response to

the refugee crisis shifted the levels of governance to the global regime, during the health crisis national politics awakened so as to alleviate the consequences for migrants and refugees. The talk ended with a discussion of whether Agenda 2030's Sustainable Development Goals are more apt than the holistic approach of the Global Compact for Migration in the fight against the crisis-induced rise in multiple forms of discrimination facing migrants.

As a result of the cooperation with four academic institutions in both Africa and Europe – namely, the Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA), the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute at the University of Freiburg (ABI), the Centre for Migration Studies at the University of Ghana and the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala (NAI) – and the research network on African Migration, Mobility and Displacement (AMMODI), CeMig co-organised and co-hosted a **lecture series on ['Critical Reflections on Afro-European Relations in Migration Governance'](#)** (September–November 2021, online). A total of **nine events critically** looked at the Afro-European relations arising out of EU migration-governance interests and the African responses to these, challenging widely held political assumptions or public perceptions on African migration to Europe. Each of the three thematic parts – 'I Securitisation', 'II Perceptions of Migration' and 'III Flipping the Script' – were organised in different formats to frame the issue from a variety of perspectives and to address diverse audiences: While the keynote lectures introduced the state of the art, the Research Labs allowed mostly early-career academics to discuss their work in progress. The public roundtables were aimed at a broader interested public and involved civil society members and activists from the field as well. The diversity of topics – from a Nigerien perspective on European externalisation interests (Keynote 1), to a discussion of African scholarship and breaking down knowledge asymmetries (Panel 2), to examining European immigrants in Angola and Mozambique (Research Lab 3) – in the presentations and panel debates led to lively discussion. Simultaneous translation from English to French and vice-versa facilitated the participation of both Anglophone as well as Francophone scholars.

The plenary session [‘Migration and Security Policy: African and EU Perspectives’](#) (12.10.2021, online) co-organised together with the German Development Institute in the context of the ‘17th Annual Workshop of the Households in Conflict Network: Conflict, Migration, and Displacement’, organised by CeMig member Sarah Langlotz (Development Economics), tied in perfectly with the lecture series. Critically discussed was the complex interplay between migration and security in various African countries. Taking different perspectives on this matter, the four speakers – namely, Ruben Andersson (Oxford University), Mercy Fekadu (Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia), Michael Owiso (Maseno University, Kenya) and Camille le Coz (Migration Policy Institute, Washington, D.C.) – shed light on how Afro-European relations take shape in the context of migration control, national-security governance and international refugee policies.

#### **Economic, Political and Social Integration**

Together with its members from the research project [‘On the Materiality of \(Forced\) Migration’](#) (a joint collaboration between the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Museum Friedland and Die Exponauten; funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research), CeMig promoted an event series in March 2021 as part of the accompanying programme to the pop-up exhibition [‘Hostile Terrain 94’](#) (HT94) (co-organisation: CeMig member Friedemann Yi-Neumann and CeMig affiliate Hatice Pinar Senoguz). HT94 is a participatory art project sponsored and organised by the Undocumented Migration Project (UMP), a non-profit research-art-education-media collective. The exhibition is composed of over 3,200 handwritten toe tags that represent the numerous migrants who died trying to cross the Sonoran Desert of Arizona between the mid-1990s and 2019. The [event series](#) (04./09./18.03.2021, online) discussed archaeological and ethnographic approaches to the infrastructures and assemblages of deadly borders between Mexico and the US, in the Middle East and in the European Mediterranean, too.

As part of the conference [‘Border Narratives – Brexit, Europe, and the UK’](#) organised by its members Lars Klein (Erasmus Mundus MA Euroculture) and Kirsten Sandrock (English Department), CeMig together with the Institute for Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology co-hosted a **public talk** [‘How Did it Come to This? Britain, Brexit and Euroscepticism from an Anthropological Perspective’](#) (05.05.2021, online) by Cris Shore (Goldsmiths, University of London). It explored the events surrounding the referendum and questioned conventional explanations including fears about immigration, the rise of populism and neo-nationalism by highlighting the widespread Euroscepticism that underpinned the Brexit vote.

#### **Migration and Health**

The international **workshop and public roundtable** [‘Beyond Victimhood and Stigmatization: Trauma, Ruptured Memories and Agency in the Context of Global Migration’](#) (04.-05.03.2021, online) that had to be cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic was made up for in March 2021. The initiative by CeMig member Reza Bayat (Institute of Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology) and Maedeh Mashhadireza (Department of Intercultural German Studies) to address the question of global migration and mental health was made possible thanks to the funding and close collaboration of the project “‘Resistance – Democracy – Internationality’”, a cooperation between the University of Göttingen and the Stiftung Adam von Trott Foundation, Imshausen e.V. sponsored by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media. The event was opened with a public roundtable to question representations of migrants and refugees as traumatised masses – an image omnipresent in European media and politics since at least the long summer of migration. Bringing together social and cultural anthropologists with academic and practice psychologists – namely, Orkideh Behrouzan (Department of Anthropology and Sociology, SOAS University of London), Maria Belz (Network for Traumatized Refugees in Lower Saxony) and Shahram Khosravi (Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University) – the discussion explored whether ‘trauma’ as a notion and analytical

concept is suited to use in the field of global migration. It was asked what other concepts are available to move away from individualising, from pathologising, ahistorical and depoliticised notions. In the workshop that followed, 16 early-career scholars presented their research to deepen the transdisciplinary conversation around a number of key tensions in the methodological, analytical and practical engagement with pain, suffering and violation. The exchange emphasised the urgent need to challenge basic, pervasive psychological notions like coping, resilience and post-traumatic growth, in asking whose interests are met by such concepts in the face of ongoing structural, state, political violence. A special issue in CeMig's paper series *Global Migration Studies* is planned so as to publish some of these contributions on trauma, migration and borders.

### CeMig Publications

*Global Migration Studies* provides a platform for migration research from various disciplinary standpoints. Its papers take a transnational and global perspective, and ensure the initial dissemination of cutting-edge migration research and of contributions from migrants, activists, politicians, policymakers and other relevant stakeholders. In 2021, **four issues were published**: Issues 01 and 02 resulted from CeMig's lecture series on 'Root Causes of Forced Migration: Interdisciplinary Insights and Political Challenges' in Winter Term 2018/2019. In '[Dispositives of \(Im\)mobilization: Fighting the Root Causes of Forced Migration in Genealogical Perspective](#)' (Issue 01, title translated into English), Laura Stielike (postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS) at the University of Osnabrück) explores two core assumptions in the current debate on 'addressing the root

causes of forced displacement' (*Fluchtursachenbekämpfung*): namely, the idea of a sedentary lifestyle as the norm and the belief that migration can be reduced through development respectively. In '[Mobility as a Social and Cultural Normality: Why the EU's Foreclosure Policy in West Africa Must Fail](#)' (Issue 02, title translated into English), Olaf Bernau (member of the coordination circle of Afrique-Europe-Interact) argues that the EU should not declare closure but circular mobility as the leitmotif of its migration policy – as has been the case for centuries in West Africa.

Issue 03 '[Migration research in Brazil in times of Covid-19: Conversations with Alejandro Goldberg, Maria do Carmo dos Santos Gonçalves, Ercílio Langa, Kassoum Dieme and María del Carmen Villarreal Villamar](#)' by CeMig member Eva Bahl and Lucas Cé Sangalli (both Center of Methods in Social Sciences) publishes interviews with fellow social scientists about their research experiences in Brazil during the Covid-19 pandemic. These interviews represent one way of broadening the scope of empirical research on migration during an especially challenging period for scholars working in and on Brazil.

Issue 04 '[Navigating Through Increasing Social Inequalities in Times of Covid-19: A Research Report on Interviews with Migrants in the Middle East and Europe and Migrants and Indigenous People in South America](#)' by CeMig members Gabriele Rosenthal and Eva Bahl (both Center of Methods in Social Sciences) is an account of research in times of Covid-19 within the framework of ongoing empirical research in the geographical regions of West Africa, Western Europe, the Middle East and South America, as carried out by a team at the Center of Methods in Social Sciences, University of Göttingen.

# Impressum

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The board of directors of the Centre for Global Migration Studies (CeMig)

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## **September 2022**