



Annual Report 2022

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 twenty-first 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, multi-layered 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 field 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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INTRODUCTION

In 2022, the activities of the Centre for Global Migration Studies (CeMig) in its three task fields of research, education and outreach were first and foremost devoted to advancing two joint interdisciplinary initiatives:

On the one hand, a draft proposal for a **Research Training Group (RTG) “Mobility Rights in the Global Context of Multiple Crisis”**, seeing the involvement of researchers from three faculties, was submitted to the German Research Foundation (DFG). The application brings together common interests identified in one of the thematic areas around which CeMig organises its research (see Table 1 below & CeMig Annual Report 2018/2019): From the perspective of “Legal and Policy Regimes, as well as Migration Governance”, the proposal aims to establish systematic training for early-career researchers with a focus on mobility rights in view of the current intertwining of multiple crises worldwide. Specifically, an interdisciplinary, so-called socio-legal approach is to be developed which trains both social/humanities scientists and legal scholars in building common perspectives from the two fields. The RTG thus offers thematic as well as methodological-conceptual expertise on law-related issues. The training will allow the PhD candidates to link up with current trends in the field of Migration Studies internationally. It will also qualify them for other occupational fields in politics, administration, non-governmental organisations and similar.

On the other hand, the interdisciplinary research group **“Public Health and Migration”** has begun to explore the intersection of migration-governance rationales with public-health policies. Also, against the backdrop of the observations and queries arising during the three years of the Covid-19 pandemic, CeMig is thus establishing a new, sixth thematic area (Table 1). It contributes herewith to a scholarly field

which is only just beginning to emerge in the German research landscape.

Besides these two joint ambitions, this annual report also refers to new research projects involving CeMig’s individual members as well as numerous other activities, such as Migration Research Labs or public events, arising from the Centre’s ongoing research.

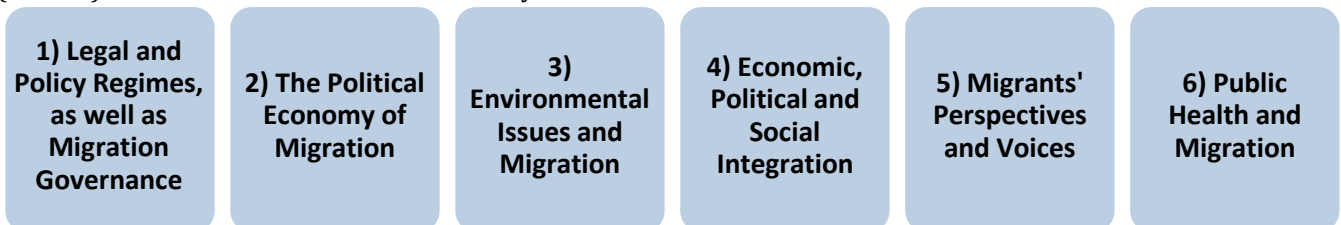


Figure 1 Research perspectives at CeMig are organised along six thematic areas

RESEARCH

2 ongoing (initiatives for) joint research projects

16 ongoing research projects by individual CeMig members; including 2 newly funded projects in 2022

54 publications by CeMig members

4 affiliations

Ongoing (Initiatives for) Joint Research Projects

Legal and Policy Regimes, as well as Migration Governance

In July 2022, ten researchers from the Faculties of Social Sciences, Humanities and Law jointly submitted a draft proposal (in the meantime, the DFG has recommended the preparation of a full establishment proposal) for the **RTG “Mobility Rights in the Global Context of Multiple Crises”**. Following the observation that the challenges facing existing migration law, the weakness of global norm-building and the “juridification” of mobility rights are all becoming increasingly apparent as a result of, for example, the European refugee (political) crisis, climate change or the Covid-19 pandemic, this consortium aims to further interdisciplinary exchange on the question of how mobility rights are being challenged, claimed and reshaped by the current intersection of multiple crises. The latter’s implications for the “right to stay”, the “right to move” and the “right to enter” are to be examined on a normative-ethical, theoretical-conceptual and empirical-qualitative (or ethnographic) level. Different research fields will focus on topics central to Migration Studies (work, education, housing, religion, borders, climate change) or take a closer look at the formation of political and social norms (international organisations, migration ethics).

Linked to this thematic focus is the RTG’s theoretical-methodological goal to develop a cross-disciplinary “socio-legal approach” to the analysis of mobility rights. Following the international convergence of legal and social/cultural scientific perspectives, the RTG aims to represent the first systematic training context here for young scholars in Germany.

Specifically, in the sense of a mutually reflective and enriching debate between the disciplines of Law and Social Studies / Cultural Studies with regards to the thematic fields of (forced) migration and mobility.

Education and Outreach

In the course of the year, interdisciplinary cooperation was intensified in order to further deepen and elaborate the joint proposal:

On the one hand, a **joint workshop “[Socio-Legal Perspectives in Migration Research: Potentials and Challenges](#)”** (9 May 2022) was held to further unpack the added value of a common perspective (“third space”) between Law and the Social Sciences (Legal Anthropology / Geography / Political Science / Sociology). In cooperation with the research project “Temporary Protection as a Durable Solution? The ‘Return Turn’ in Asylum Policies in Europe” (TemPro) of the University of Bergen and the Christian Michelsen Institute (CMI), an interdisciplinary collaboration between Anthropology, Geography and Law which explores the turn towards temporary protection for refugees in Denmark, Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom since 2015, researchers with different experiences of conducting interdisciplinary work were brought into dialogue with one another. The discussion was devoted to the following questions: How can we find common ground where diverse disciplinary knowledge practices can fruitfully enrich each other? What theoretical, conceptual and practical challenges does interdisciplinarity raise, and how might we work through and with these challenges?

On the other hand, two crises which stood out in 2022 were – together with being addressed in related speeches by renowned guests – examined in greater detail: 1) the human rights crisis of the European Union and 2) climate change and the emerging (legal) implications for mobility rights.

1) The Human Rights Crisis of the European Union

Not long after the EU Commission had announced on 1 December 2021 that it wants to make access to asylum even more difficult and allow people seeking protection to be detained for up to 20 weeks, journalist Christian Jakob was invited on the occasion of CeMig’s Annual Meeting to give a **public talk on the [situation of refugees in the Polish–Belarusian border area](#)** (“Between the Fronts: On the Situation of Refugees in the Polish–Belarusian Border Area”, in German, 26 January 2022, online). He contextualised the EU Commission’s move as a response to Belarusian ruler Alexander Lukashenko’s strategy of

sending refugees across the EU's external borders to Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. As a result, tens of thousands of people were stranded, sometimes for months, in complete disenfranchisement in no-man's land at the borders with Belarus. At least 21 people had died by the beginning of 2022 alone. Poland's government spoke of a "war", calling the refugees a "hybrid weapon". Germany and the EU adopted these formulations and thus prepared the further dismantling of refugee protection in the EU. Jakob visited eastern Poland several times in this period, reporting on the situation on the ground and the consequences for European asylum law and legislative processes. His talk and the discussion afterwards also raised questions about the possibilities for and approaches of refugee and migration research as opposed to critical journalism.

This violence, the violation of the rule of law as well as international/European protection norms at the EU's external borders were made the subject of a **symposium** asking **"Escalating Violence at the EU's External Borders – Representation and Image Politics at Their Limits?"** (in German, 10 November 2022). Organised in cooperation with Stiftung Adam von Trott, Imshausen e.V. (sponsored by the Hessian Literature Council), the symposium brought together scholars, human rights NGOs and media workers who all question the political impasse given these crimes have been well-documented by NGOs, academia and the media alike. An exchange of perspectives occurred on: 1) the current situation at the EU's external borders and the situation for research, (strategic) litigation and monitoring; 2) adequate media strategies and image politics to respond to the escalating border violence; and 3) the prospective scope for joint action and future communication or media formats. The symposium ended with a public reading in the evening, **"The Summer on the Mediterranean: Sea Rescue as a Graphic Novel"** (in German), at the Literarische Zentrum Göttingen. Adrian Pourviseh, author and activist, presented one example of an alternative visual language, giving insights into his work on his first graphic novel *The Summer on the Mediterranean* about his experience as part of the Sea-Watch crew.

As another aspect of the EU's human rights crisis, the paradigm shift from re-settlement and integration as core immigration values to return and deterrence as key parts of the EU's migration and border management was illuminated by Marie Sandberg, Associate Professor in European Ethnology at the Saxo Institute and Director of the Centre for Advanced Migration Studies at the University of Copenhagen. On the occasion of the "Third Annual Lecture in European

Ethnology: Cultural Anthropological Perspectives on Europe" by the Institute of European Ethnology/ Cultural Anthropology in cooperation with CeMig, her talk **"'With a View to Temporary Stay'. An Ethnological Perspective on Europe's Politics of Exception after the 'Return Turn'"** (16 November 2022) specifically focused on the example of Denmark, which since 2019 has issued all residence permits "with a view to temporary stay" – as the blanket approach taken to all refugees, regardless of protection status. Based on preliminary insights from her collaborative research-practice project "Boundary work. New interfaces between state and civil society: Volunteerism and refugees in a self-support and repatriation context", she addressed the everyday consequences of permanent temporariness for both refugees and civil society volunteers.

The **7th Migration Research Lab "Researching the Politics of Deterrence in Practice"** (17 November 2022) then offered attending PhD students the opportunity to zoom in on dilemmas and possible ways of moving forward when researching the European deterrence regime in practice. Whereas the politico-juridical implications of the EU's deterrence policy agenda have been well-described in the research literature, according to Sandberg there is still an urgent need to critically discuss new potential approaches to the documentation and analysis of the consequences hereof. This includes on how that regime is experienced in practice and the precarious everyday lives of those affected by halting refugee status and long-term residence permits. In the workshop, Sandberg briefly presented some of the strategies pursued in "Boundary work", emphasising the need for collaborative research with relevant NGOs, local partners and not least those refugees living in Denmark on a "permanent temporary" basis when exploring new approaches to the study of deterrence in practice. The PhD students then detailed their own ongoing projects as well as the main challenges they encounter with regards to methodology, ethics and epistemology.

To provide another forum for PhD students to discuss up-to-date multidisciplinary and critical understandings of the EU border regime(s) as well as the time and the space to engage in in-depth dialogue in relation to their own case studies and research experiences, CeMig started planning a **summer school in 2023 in cooperation with partners from the Migration Studies centres of the ENLIGHT network**. The summer school's key focus areas would be the increasing contestation or suspension of the rule of law at the border, border violence(s) and practices of resistance, as well as their criminalisation.

2) Climate Change and the Emerging (Legal) Implications for Mobility Rights

Taking up another pillar of the planned RTG, CeMig brought into conversation the ongoing research on climate change and the emerging (legal) implications for mobility rights, especially at the interface between legal and social sciences / ethnographic perspectives. A three-part series of online public lectures in Winter Term 2022/2023 covered the following topics:

First, Fanny Thornton, Senior Scientist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Adjunct Associate Professor in Law at the University of Canberra, kicked off the series with a [lecture on “Emerging Law and Policy Responses to Climate Mobility in the Pacific Islands Region”](#) (22 November 2022). Her presentation charted recent regional law and policy developments concerning climate mobility in the Pacific Islands region, their advantages and their shortcomings. The Pacific Islands region is often noted for being at the forefront of climate change impacts on human mobility. It is also at the forefront of developing legal and policy responses to climate mobility, including at the regional level. The talk therefore concluded with lessons for other regions, too.

The second event of the series shifted focus to another world region in which human-induced climate change has long been noticeable: the Sahel. Olaf Bernau, sociologist and author of the book “Brennpunkt Westafrika. Die Fluchtursachen und was Europa tun sollte” [*Focus on West Africa. The root causes of forced migration and what Europe should do*], and Moctar Dan Yaye, human rights defender and one of the founding members of *Alarme Phone Sahara*, described in their [presentation and accompanying discussion “How Climate Crisis and other Crises Affect \(Circular\) Migration Processes in the Sahel”](#) (6 December 2022). Both addressed the different migration realities in the Sahel in the past through today following environmental events (such as droughts) and climate change impacts – from local mobility and adaptation strategies, to circular mobility in the region to long-distance migration as far away as Europe. They also took into account that the climate crisis is closely linked to other crises, such as that of the state, democracy and security.

The third and final lecture in this series by Walter Kälin, Professor Emeritus of Constitutional Law and International Law at the University of Bern, spotlighted the importance of protection from deportation in times of climate change (“[When Adaptation in the Country of Origin or a Return there is not Possible – Protection against](#)

[Deportation in Times of Climate Change](#)”, in German, 17 January 2023). People forced to leave their country of origin due to creeping natural disasters and the adverse effects of climate change can only invoke protection from deportation under refugee law in exceptional circumstances. In contrast, the “Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration” recommends that states develop solutions for individuals, including those for whom adaptation in or return to the country of origin is not possible. The talk addressed a number of questions: Can protection against deportation be derived from this, and what would be its requirements? If so, what would be its legal basis? What contribution can human rights, especially the right to life, make here? And, what strategies and approaches are there to strengthen protection against deportation for such people?

Public Health and Migration

In April 2022, a **new interdisciplinary research group at CeMig on “Public Health and Migration from a Global and Interdisciplinary Perspective”** started its activities.

Funded by the University of Göttingen’s Structural and Innovation Fund for a period of two years, the research group takes up the observation that the “right to health” and the “protection of life” manifest themselves unequally despite the proclamation that everyone should have the same access to healthcare. The recent Covid-19 pandemic, in particular, has revealed that the discrepancy between binding obligations under international law and restrictive national legal situations as well as general structural deficiencies in state healthcare systems has a particularly negative impact on migrant populations and minorities. For them, accessing the healthcare system becomes intimately interwoven with citizenship, residence/visa status, refugeehood, ethnic/racial belonging and public discourses around the nation, borders, migration politics and the negotiation of health as a public good.

Aiming to address the question of how the “right to health” and the “protection of life” are produced, defined and implemented in Germany, guest researcher **Reza Bayat (April 2022–March 2024)**, under the guidance of principal investigator (PI) Sabine Hess, set up a locally focused yet multi-level research design on migrants’ and refugees’ ability to access general care and the role of general practitioners (GPs) as the first “gatekeepers” for that access to the healthcare system in Göttingen. By

addressing the gaps in GP care there, this research promises to produce a comprehensive understanding of how the health of migrants and refugees is categorised and which forms of structural discrimination are being produced through these categorisations. To that end, the research pursues three interrelated perspectives: 1) GPs: By conducting expert interviews with GPs in different parts of the city, the project seeks to understand the production of migrant health in Göttingen on the one hand and the challenges of GP care for migrant populations on the other; 2) Refugees, migrants and racialised groups: A local survey in 14 languages as well as semi-structured interviews aim to grasp refugees' and migrants' access to GP care in Göttingen from their own perspective; 3) Healthcare organisations in Göttingen: Another set of expert interviews turn to these central actors in the German healthcare system to understand their role in the provision of access thereto for refugees and migrants in Göttingen.

For a period of three months, **Aleksandra Lewicki (May–July 2022)**, Co-Director of the Sussex European Institute and Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Sussex, as well as one of the few distinguished experts on migration and the healthcare system in Germany, joined the research group as a senior guest researcher. During her stay, she shared her findings from three research projects on institutional racism within the German welfare state – including on “Care Ethics and the Production of Racial and Moral Others” as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Free University of Berlin and two collaborative follow-up projects on discrimination in healthcare provision commissioned by the Stiftung Mercator and Antidiskriminierungsstelle des Bundes respectively. The group discussions also benefitted from her expertise on the specific risk complex according to which migrants or those with a migration background (“Menschen mit Migrationshintergrund”) were more negatively affected during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Education and Outreach

In addition to the research group's internal discussions and reading circles, a series of public events were also organised by the group to engage, both Germany-wide and internationally, with other researchers and practitioners in the field. **Two online lecture series and one Migration Research Lab** proved particularly beneficial in reviewing the state of the art together with renowned guest speakers, broadening the research group's network and in raising its profile within this nascent research field.

In **Summer Term 2022**, a three-part series sought to explore the intersection of migration and public health by focusing on the accessibility of healthcare for migrants and refugees in Germany, different narratives and discourses surrounding the health of migrant populations and minorities, institutional discrimination and racism here, as well as the challenges of data collection in these regards:

Oliver Razum, Dean of the School of Public Health and PI of the research group “Epidemiology and International Public Health” at the University of Bielefeld, opened the discussion with his talk on [“Health of Migrants and Ethnic Minorities in Germany. Reflecting on Normative Agendas”](#) (2 May 2022). He showed how a life-course perspective can help to better understand the health-related diversity, or heterogeneity, of today's societies in Europe – wherein immigrants experience health risks and develop health needs which may both differ from those of the population at large; specific barriers to healthcare access may be faced, too. Further, he illustrated how related services address this heterogeneity, with a particular emphasis on entitlement restrictions and access barriers to healthcare in Germany.

Aleksandra Lewicki, with her lecture, steered the debate towards [“Institutional Racism in Healthcare: Mechanisms, Dynamics and Narratives”](#) (in German, 2 June 2022, [available on CeMig's YouTube channel](#)). She argued that although it is widely known structural inequalities are also perpetuated in healthcare provision, the research literature has insufficiently addressed the concept of “institutional racism.” Drawing on three research projects conducted between 2016 and 2020, Lewicki outlined, first, the forms of unequal treatment hitherto documented and the mechanisms potentially underlying them. In the second part, she then illustrated how racist othering in the healthcare system is constantly being recreated, using the example of two particular welfare organisations.

[“Healthcare Access in the Age of Migration: Reluctance, Rights, Suffering”](#) (23 June 2022) was the subject of the third talk by Hannah Bradby, Professor at the Department of Sociology, Uppsala University. She questioned the effectiveness of the ideal of a human right to health as a means for forced, undocumented and former migrants to gain access to healthcare – showing that having formal rights thereto does not necessarily mean those rights can actually be claimed. Furthermore, healthcare which is formally accessible does not necessarily meet people's self-defined needs.

The continuation of the series in **Winter Term 2022/2023** was dedicated again to the nexus between migration and public health, specifically how international and regional organisations define this relationship:

Simon Fink, research group member and Professor of Political Science, took on the EU by looking at "[Party Politics and the Shaping of Migration and Welfare Policy in the Council of Ministers](#)" (24 November 2022). Based on a quantitative analysis of two legislative proposals at the intersection of migration and welfare policy, he tested the determinants of member state's policy positions within the Council of Ministers, the decision-making centre of EU migration policy.

Claudia Hövener, from the Robert Koch Institute, addressed in her own talk diversity-sensitive health monitoring ("[Towards Diversity-Sensitive Health Monitoring](#)", in German, 15 December 2022).

Hövener presented insights on the expansion of the Robert Koch Institute's health monitoring and health reporting in seeking to reach people with a migration background in nationwide health surveys. The aim here is to facilitate more accurate statements on their current health situation.

In the third lecture, "[What does the Human Right to Health Mean in Political Practice for Access to Healthcare for Migrants in Germany?](#)" (in German, 26 January 2023) Johanna Offe, from Ärzte der Welt e.V., offered a humanitarian organisation's perspective here. Ärzte der Welt works with medical aid and policy projects towards the realisation of the human right to non-discriminatory access to healthcare – both domestically and internationally. Offe reflected on the question of how international human rights instruments can be used in political work and what they can offer in seeking to counteract the instrumentalisation of access to healthcare in migration policy.

A [public panel discussion](#) (in German, 9 July 2022) organised by the research group as part of the University of Göttingen's "5th Night of Science" offered the opportunity to zoom in on questions of inequality and discrimination in healthcare. Aleksandra Lewicki moderated the discussion with experts from academia, civil society and journalism. Michael Knipper, Professor of Global Health, Migration and Cultural Studies in Medicine at the University of Giessen, Gilda Sahebi, journalist, doctor and author, and Hanna Kretschmer together with Robin Gerhard, both from Medinetz Göttingen, used concrete examples and experiences to illustrate gaps in healthcare, its structures and related legislation which

make people ill. Prejudices or a lack of sensitivity (also due to shortfalls in racial education) among physicians were also addressed.

The **6th Migration Research Lab** "[Health, Structural Inequality and Racism: Taking Stock of Data \(Collection\)](#)" (14 July 2022) offered exchange on related data collection. In contrast to the UK or the United States, in Germany meaningful data on these interlinkages is still lacking. Several input presentations opened the discussion in seeking to jointly examine the implications hereof. Tino Plümecke, from the Institute of Sociology at the University of Freiburg, began by giving an overview on what data is available and what gaps the Covid-19 pandemic has made visible. Linda Supik, from the Network Equality Data, Free University of Berlin, and Tereza Hendl, from mHealth, University of Augsburg and LMU Munich, reflected from their own research experience on what kinds of data would actually be required as well as the data-collection challenges and ethical considerations which remain in this regard.

Research Projects by Individual CeMig Members

CeMig initiates continuous exchange among its members. A joint meeting was held in 2022 as an opportunity to present ongoing and new research projects in each of the thematic areas and to identify common research interests or identify new interdisciplinary research approaches. The following presentations were given (titles are translated from German):

Migration and climate change:

- "Climate change, migration, staying and human rights: A case study from the Pacific state of Kiribati" (Elfriede Hermann)
- The temporal scope of the human rights principle of non-refoulement - current challenges in the context of climate change (Nicola Adam)

Migration and labor /education /welfare and social policies

- "Work, migration and multiple precarity: Current research from the SOFI" (Peter Birke)
- "A new start? Latin American employment biographies in the Federal Republic of Germany 1973-1993" (Nele Falldorf)
- "Your own fault, right? Citizenship as a risk factor for homelessness in the (German) welfare state" (Timo Weishaupt)

Integration and social cohesion

- “Interim report on the project ‘Religious migrant communities in rural areas’” (Alexander-Kenneth Nagel)

Public Health and Migration

- “Presentation of a pilot study on intercultural dementia care” (Zümrüt Alpinar Sencan)
- “Interim report from the research group ‘Public Health and Migration from a Global and Interdisciplinary Perspective’ (Sabine Hess)

Migration Governance

- “Border violence and the crisis of the European asylum system: on the development of a socio-legal approach (Zif Research Group)” (Sabine Hess)
- “The BMBF research project ‘On the Materiality of Flight and Migration’: Insights and perspectives” (Andrea Lauser, Friedemann Yi-Neumann)

Among the **14 ongoing research projects** by individual CeMig members, two were newly funded in 2022.

Economic, Political and Social Integration

Tying in with results and desiderata emerging from the Refugees@Work project (2017–2021) at the Sociological Research Institute Göttingen, Peter Birke and his team received funding from the Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony for a period of three years to carry out the research project [“Transnational Local Societies. Labor, Migration and Precarity at Sites of Multinational Companies in the Meat Industry”](#). In 2020, industrial meat production hit the headlines in the face of mass Covid-19 infections. The public discourse shone a light on *how* food is produced, but it also exposed *who* does the work therein: namely, predominantly migrants whose working conditions often violated basic norms of labour law and human dignity. As a result, the German government intervened, leading to, among other things, a ban on work contracts and a partial ban on temporary work in core industrial sectors in early 2021. The project uses the example of important sites in the meat industry to ask about the scope of these new regulations. The starting point is the finding that the use of migrant labour is based on “multiple precarity”. To explain these problematic working conditions, it is necessary to take into account not only employment relationships and the company division

of labour but also precariousness in terms of residence and social law – or the life insecurities caused by housing conditions. The project examines, first, changes in corporate and management strategies triggered by the pandemic and related reforms, including the increasingly important issue of recruiting a suitable labour force. Second, it traces changing patterns of migration composition as mediated by a strengthening of the legal position of workers through direct employment, while at the same time forms of recruitment and production processes have often remained untouched. Third, it analyses the local socio-spatial context, given its key importance for the concrete implementation of the processes of change triggered by the new regulations.

Migrants’ Perspectives and Voices

The empirical interpretative study [“Individual and Collective Memories of Slavery and the Slave Trade: A Contrastive Comparison of Different Communities, Generations and Groupings in Ghana and Brazil”](#) (PI: Gabriele Rosenthal et al.; project coordination: Eva Bahl; funded by the DFG) focuses on a contrastive comparison of collective and individual memories of slavery across different regions, generations and groupings in Ghana and Brazil. The international research consortium uses an approach which combines methods from the sociology of knowledge and figurational sociology to reconstruct the interrelationships existing between different memory practices. While for white Europeans the age of the transcontinental slave trade is so remote that they do not connect it with their own family history, this cannot be said of people in Ghana and Brazil. Here, in both family and public memory as well as commemoration practices, this past, in all its facets, is less remote: there are many people who know their ancestors were enslaved, or that they enslaved others. However, within each country, attitudes to the history of the slave trade and slavery in general differ greatly. Sometimes they are even controversial, as seen in public discourses or places of remembrance, in family dialogues, among the members of different groupings and in different parts of the two countries. In carrying out a contrastive comparison of selected regions in Ghana and Brazil looking closely at these disparities, it is shown how such divergence is due to very different historical trajectories and changing social figurations. The following questions guide the investigation: What knowledge of the past has been handed down in communities and families? What kinds of slavery and slave trading (transatlantic, trans-Saharan, intra-African, intra-Brazilian) are thematised by whom, how

and in what contexts? What is said and what is not at places of remembrance and commemorative events in these regions, and which people are brought together at such sites or on such occasions?

Affiliations

In addition to **Aleksandra Lewicki**, three other individuals were also affiliated with CeMig in 2022:

Lea Cejvan, Purdue University, finished her ethnographic study on Bosnian migrants in Germany during her Fulbright Fellowship running from September 2021 until July 2022. Her research project looked at these individuals' socio-economic circumstances, their experiences in Germany as well as the cultural, linguistic and even religious pressures which come along with their position in German society. During her time in Göttingen, she also reflected on her own understanding of the migrant process resulting from her own positionality as an immigrant in the US.

Kari Anne K. Drangsdland, from the Centre for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Bergen, was affiliated at CeMig from January to August 2022 under the auspices of TemPro (see above). During her seven months in Hamburg, meanwhile, she explored how temporary protection is configured in law, policy and the everyday practices of state bureaucrats and as well as how it affects refugees. CeMig's and TemPro's research team jointly held a workshop on the opportunities and challenges arising in the cooperation between legal and social sciences researchers.

Mark Simon joined the Institute of Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology in May 2022. As a political sociologist, he has previously taught at the Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences (Shaninka), a non-state university which provides educational programmes in partnership with the University of Manchester. His research projects are focused on the issues of the political accommodation of diversity and artistic self-expression for migrants living in European and post-Soviet contexts. Under the auspices of his research fellowship at the Institute of Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology, he is exploring the networks of solidarity existing between post-Soviet artists forced to migrate to Germany in recent years.

EDUCATION

3 international Migration Research Lab

42 doctoral candidates supervised by CeMig members (6 of whom are co-supervised by 2 members)

17 seminars and lectures on the subject of migration given by CeMig members at their institutes

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

In 2022, CeMig continued its now-established series of **Migration Research Labs** to provide a forum for exchange with renowned international experts to its 43 PhD students but also to its postdoctoral researchers. In addition to the Migration Research Labs already listed above in line with the activities of the research group "Public Health and Migration" (6th: "Health, Structural Inequality and Racism: Taking Stock of Data (Collection)" and for the planned RTG "Mobility Rights in the Global Context of Multiple Crisis" (7th: "Researching the Politics of Deterrence in Practice"), another idea for the **8th Migration Research Lab** "[Ethnography as Guesthood, or Doing Research in \(Semi\)domestic Spaces: Prospects, Dilemmas and Lessons Learnt from HOMInG's Fieldwork](#)" (17 November 2022) emerged from the research project "On the materiality of (forced) migration" at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology. The project explores the relationship between people and things in the context of (forced) migration. On the invitation of CeMig associate Friedemann Yi-Neumann and Pinar Şenoğuz, former CeMig member and now of DaMigra e.V., Paolo Boccagni, Department of Sociology and Social Research at the University of Trento, revisited the potential, limitations and dilemmas of fieldwork done after having access, as a guest, to the home of someone else. His introduction was not meant to set any methodological benchmark; rather, it was intended to be a way to share expertise, experience and food for thought with the participants, who then joined in by

outlining their own research practices and methodological approaches.

OUTREACH

18 public CeMig events

27 public events or contributions to academic conferences / symposiums by individual CeMig members

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

For the collaborative activities of individual CeMig members

1 issue in CeMig's paper series *Global Migration Studies*

CeMig Events

Besides the events organised as part of the RTG proposal "Mobility Rights in the Global Context of Multiple Crisis" or the activities of the research group "Public Health and Migration", CeMig hosted a couple of additional academic and public ones in 2022 on the initiative of individual members to communicate research findings from ongoing projects.

Economic, Political and Social Integration

Academic migration was the subject of the talk Ieva Puzo, a postdoctoral researcher at Rīga Stradiņš University, gave during her ten-day guest visit at the Institute of Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology on the invitation of CeMig member Carna Brkovic. In her **online lecture** "[Peripheral Contingencies: Examining the Experiences of International Scholars in Latvia](#)" (6 May 2022; [available on CeMig's YouTube channel](#)), she examined the notion of an academic life course from the perspective of international scholars in Latvia – a research system in the European east characterised by fragmentation, limited funding and "projectarisation", yet also by visions of increased international visibility and competitiveness. The starting point for the discussion was the inherent contradiction embedded in contemporary regimes of knowledge production: while the ideal of gaining a permanent, stable job in academia remains aspirational, fixed-term contracts and uncertainty are the reality for an increasing number of research workers around the world.

Mobility across borders is a crucial element of this tension: it is part of the academic life course which is supposed to lead to a permanent job in the future, yet often turns into an indefinite process of moving from one country and institution to the next. Based on semi-structured interviews with international scholars in Latvia as well as other ethnographic data, Puzo examined how this contradiction may be experienced in more peripheral contexts of academic knowledge production. Through the narratives of her interlocutors, she suggested that international scholars in Latvia encounter both heightened job insecurity and, simultaneously, professional and personal opportunities.

Shortly after publication, CeMig hosted the **online book presentation of the edited volume “Solidarity – Cooperation – Conflict: Migrant Organizing and Trade Unions in the 1970s/80s”** (in German, 11 July 2022) by CeMig director Sabine Hess, Anna Lisa Carstensen, University of Kassel, Lisa Riedner, LMU Munich, and Helen Schwenken, University of Osnabrück. At this event, the authors presented their perspectives on how migrant and trade union mobilisation influenced each other in the 1970s and 1980s. The book combines six detailed case studies on the conflicts marking the history of labour migration: for more rights and better working conditions, against racism and unemployment. It also tells of moments of solidarity, conflict and cooperation with Germany's trade unions. On the one hand, the latter spoke out politically against immigration; on the other, they repeatedly stood up for the interests of colleagues not holding a German passport. And migrants themselves demanded their situation in the workplace and in society be part of the trade union agenda. The commentators Peter Birke, CeMig and Sociological Research Institute Göttingen, and Petra Wlecklik, former head of the "Migration and Participation" department at the Executive Board of IG Metall, now freelance consultant, directed the discussion also to the question of to what extent these historical insights contribute to a better understanding of the current role of trade unions in a “society of the many”.

Migrants' Perspectives and Voices

On the initiative of CeMig associates Khorshid Khodabakhshreshad and Reza Bayat, and in cooperation with the Institute of Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology as well as the Institute of Iranian Studies, CeMig co-hosted the lecture series “Migration & the Iranian Diaspora in the Global North”. Shahram Khosravi, Professor of Social

Anthropology at the University of Stockholm, kicked off the series with his talk on [**“Displaced Futures: Precarious Lives in Iran”**](#) (29 April 2022). Following Walter Benjamin's methodology, he aimed to understand the constitution of the Iranian diaspora by juxtaposing fragmented parts of what he proposed as the constellation “Migration. Diaspora. Youth. Precarity. Waiting. Hope. Kharej. Farang. Iran. 1979 revolution. Belaataklifi. Stuckedness. Ethics of migration. Culture of migration. Fragmented diaspora. Diaspora brokers. Mobility. Future imaginary. Education. Persian whiteness. Generation. Home(land)lessness. Iranian modernity.”

CeMig Publications

Global Migration Studies provides a platform for migration research from various disciplinary standpoints. Its papers take a transnational and global perspective, ensuring the initial dissemination of cutting-edge migration research and contributions from migrants, activists, politicians, policymakers and other relevant stakeholders. In 2021, issue no. 05 [**“International Migration and the History of Education in the Brazilian Countryside: Interview and Book Review”**](#) was published on the initiative of CeMig member and member of the editorial board Bruno Witzel de Souza. The issue takes as its starting point the fact that, during the age of mass migration, around 250,000 German speakers immigrated to Brazil. Even if numerically limited, these immigrants played a central role in the consolidation of Brazilian culture, society and economy. German-speaking immigrants arriving in Brazil also influenced the country's settlement policies in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and had a feedback effect on international labour markets during the first age of globalisation.

In this compilation for *Global Migration Studies*, Flavia da Silva Varolo discusses in an interview her research on German settlements in the Riograndense Colony, a project which involved selling land to foreigners in the western portion of the State of São Paulo. She debates the persistence of established cultural habits among the descendants of immigrants and the negative effects of violently imposed assimilation, such as that perpetrated by the Brazilian state in the 1930s and 1940s. As a linguist and education historian, Flavia Varolo highlights the importance of interdisciplinarity for studying immigration history. In the sequence, Luiz Mateus da Silva Ferreira reviews her book. His review situates the case study at hand within the general framework of the Age of Mass Migration and presents its economic aspects related to education

history. The review also points to the need to critically assess the attempts at influence exercised by the Nazi Party over the Latin American regions which had been received German-speaking immigrants since the nineteenth century.

Impressum

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December 2023