

Programme of the MIMAP Closing Conference

Irregularly staying Migrants: Empirical Findings and Methodological Advances

May 20 – 21, 2025 | Nuremberg

Participation is free of charge and
Registration is open now!
More Information:



Tuesday, May 20

12:00 – 13:00 **Registration with Coffee & Snacks**

13:00 – 15:00 **Opening & Keynotes**

Moderation: Axel Kreienbrink (Director of the BAMF Research Centre)

1. *Opening & welcome*
Katrin Hirsland (BAMF Vice President)
2. *What do we know about irregularly staying migrants in Germany? The main findings of the MIMAP research project*
Laura Peitz, Randy Stache, Anne-Kathrin Carwehl, Lisa Johnson (BAMF Research Centre)
3. *Keynote speech: Irregular migration: What we (can) know and how this knowledge can inform policymaking*
Albert Kraler (Assistant Professor at University for Continuing Education Krems)

15:00 – 15:30 **Coffee Break**

15:30 – 17:00 **Panel 1: Participation, Exclusion & Wellbeing**

Chair: Lisa Johnson & Marita Selig

1. *Differentiated access to socio-economic integration in Germany: The case of Black African asylum seekers and tolerated migrants*
Jonas Aubert Nchoundoungam (HU Berlin)
2. *Investigating the Causal Effect of the Asylum Decision on Refugees' Mental Health in Germany*
Emily Frank & Jan Paul Heisig (WZB Berlin)
3. *The Paradox of Im-/Mobility: Systematic Labour Exploitation Among Migrant Workers in Berlin's Delivery Sector*
Bastian Vollmer & Beatrice Bianca Salamena (Catholic University of Applied Sciences Mainz)
4. *Well-being Consequences of Irregularisation: A counterfactual Analysis to explain Differences in Life Satisfaction between rejected and recognised Asylum Seekers in Germany*
Randy Stache (BAMF Research Centre)

Panel 2: Im-/Mobility & Decision Making

Chair: Laura Peitz & Anne-Kathrin Carwehl

1. *Migration Governance and Migrants' Decision-Making: Comparing Understandings about the Determinants of Migration Decisions*
Carlotta Minnella (EUI), Lena Detlefsen (IFW Kiel), Tobias Heidland (IFW Kiel) & Siegfried Manschein (EUI)
2. *Children of European irregular staying migrants*
Onallia Esther Osei (Maastricht University)
3. *Staying in Germany or Returning? Subjective Point of View of Nigerians in the Context of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration*
Kerstin Reith (Evangelische Hochschule Freiburg) & Yorck Wurms (IRARA)
4. *Asylum-seeker disengagement and the move into irregularity: causes, consequences, and solutions*
Peter Walsh (University of Oxford)

19:00 **Conference Dinner (self-paid) at "Zum Spießgesellen"**

Wednesday, May 21

9:00 – 9:30

Morning Input Session

Moderation: Tatjana Baraulina

(Head of Research Field I: International migration and migration management)

Ethical standards in the research of tolerated migrants without a right to stay.

The toolkit of ethical benchmarking

Norbert Cyrus (IMIS Osnabrück)

9:30 – 9:40

Short Break

9:40 – 11:40

Panel 3: Regularisation

Chair: Laura Peitz & Marita Selig

1. *Promising alternatives to enforced return? Exploring labor-based regularization mechanisms in Germany through a multi-perspective approach*
Elina Jonitz & Arjen Leerkes (Erasmus University Rotterdam)
2. *The Opportunities of the Opportunity Residence Act: Insights into Germany's newest regularization program*
Anne-Kathrin Carwehl & Laura Peitz (BAMF Research Centre)
3. *Trajectories of interaction between people with a temporary suspension of deportation and migration office staff: Insights into the implementation of the Chancen-Aufenthaltsrecht*
Stephanie Schneider (University of Siegen)
4. *Non-state regulators? Civil Society as extension of the State in a context of a regularization scheme for undocumented migrants*
Jan-Erik Refle (Université de Genève)

Panel 4: Practices of Local Authorities

Chair: Randy Stache & Lisa Johnson

1. *Access to Vocational Training: Migration Authorities and Unclear Identity of Tolerated Migrants in Germany*
Franziska Schreyer (IAB Institute for Employment Research)
2. *Reaching: Bridging Gaps in Outreach and Counselling for Hard-to-Reach Irregular Migrants*
Maria Belen Zanzuchi & Bertrand Steiner (Migration Policy Institute Europe)
3. *Situation of young people with a temporary suspension of removal (Duldung) or a temporary residence permit (Aufenthaltsgestattung) in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany*
Miriam Martin (FOGS GmbH), Lutz Wende (Lutz Wende Organisationsberatung) & Kim Singfield (FOGS GmbH)
4. *Deportation and ill-health: Perspectives from Practice and Human Rights Obligations*
Anna Suerhoff & Claudia Engelmann (German Institute for Human Rights)

11:40 – 12:00

Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:00

Open Dialogue

Moderation: Axel Kreienbrink (Director of the BAMF Research Centre)

The management of irregular migration in Europe –

How to transfer research insights into practice (with a view to the EU Commission's proposal on return)?

Discussants:

Victoria Rietig (Head of the Center for Migration at the German Council on Foreign Relations DGAP, Berlin)

N.N. (European Commission, to be confirmed)

Information on the Keynote:



Albert Kraller is Assistant Professor in Migration Studies and Co-Director of the Centre for Migration and Globalisation Research at the Department for Migration and Globalisation at University for Continuing Education – Danube University Krems. His research interests include migration and asylum governance, irregular migration, integration policy and research – policy relations. He is the coordinator of the Horizon Europe funded project MIRreM (Measuring Irregular Migration and related policies).

Irregular migration: What we (can) know and how this knowledge can inform policymaking

In this talk, I will reflect on the role of scientific knowledge in policy making on irregular migration. I will start off from a brief reflection on the relationship between research and policymaking, different approaches to conceive – and practice – research policy dialogues that are related to important differences in the nature of problems at hand, including the degree to which conflicting values and competing interests are involved.

In a next step, I will try to delineate the subject of study of migrant irregularity, arguing for a contextual understanding. Such a contextual understanding should allow to bring different aspects together under one or multiple overarching concepts (such as ‘irregular migrants’ or ‘migrants with a precarious residence status’, while being open to other fields of studies or possible framings (e.g. forced migration and refugee studies, citizenship studies, etc.). In addition, such a contextual understanding also emphasizes the need for differentiated and specific perspectives, under which specific ‘figurations of migrant irregularity’ are analysed or specific dynamics and experiences of particular categories

of migrants in an irregular situation are examined. I will take the example of ‘taxonomy’ of migrants with a precarious legal status developed in the MIRreM project to illustrate how a differentiated understanding of irregularity can help clarifying both the diversity of legal status positions, migrants’ legal status trajectories and pathways in and out of irregularity. Secondly, taking the example of another ongoing EU funded research project, DignityFirm, how an analysis considering the wider context of irregular work connecting different themes (employment, migration, ‘supply chains’ and production networks) examining particular ‘figurations’ (Norbert Elias) of irregular migrant work can help to avoid a ‘migrantisation’ bias and present a better analysis of dynamics in the field.

In a final step, I will return to the starting point of my talk, the role of scientific knowledge in policymaking on irregular migration. Reflecting on the findings on the MIMAP project I will point at particular lessons for policy making and reflect on ways how these lessons can be best fed into the policy process.