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CONFERENCE



REFUGEES

INTEGRATION
HARMONISATION
SOLIDARITY
HOSPITALITY
OR WHAT?

**Philosophies, Policies,
and Practices in Turkey
and Germany**

Conveners

Franck DUVELL, *Osnabruck University, IMIS*
Ali Zafer SAGIROGLU, *AYBU, GPM*

Advisory Board

Ahmet ICDUYGU, *MiReKoc, Koc University*
Basak KALE, *Middle East Technical University*
Saima OZCURUMUZ, *Bilkent University*
Annette KORNTHEUER, *KU Eichstädt Ingolstadt*
Zeynep YANASMAYAN, *DeZIM*

Date 26 November 2021
Venue Point Hotel Barbaros, Istanbul

Hybrid Event **Registration for Online Participation**
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Turkey Migration Studies Network

TurkMiS



RATIONALE

Turkey is hosting over 3 million refugees, mostly from Syria but also many other countries near and afar. In recent years, people, administrations and the government have been incredibly generous and resilient with regards to hosting forced migrants. However, attitudes of Turkish people and diverse social actors are increasingly mixed (Erdogan 2020). It is widely acknowledged that hosting large numbers of refugees is a morally, politically and practically complex issue and that the future of Syrian and other refugees in Turkey relies on successfully navigating the diverse challenges. The dominant perception of state and society has been based on the idea of republicanism and recently a more religiously inspired perspective. This is shaping the way in which the country deals with minorities, immigration and diversity. Various concepts have been applied such as social harmony (“uyum”) and solidarity as referred to in Turkish law; hospitality, a rather vague concept; or integration, a rather conventional but also opalescent and partly contested concept (Schinkel 2018, Favell 2019) which is increasingly understood as national civic integration (Joppke 2007). Alternative concepts that have also been suggested are inclusion, interculturalism and social cohesion (Zapata Barrero 2017). Notably the latter have usually been considered at the local level.

The Republic of Turkey and its predecessor, the Ottoman empire have a long history of immigration. There were several periods in history when the country received significant numbers of migrants and refugees. More recently, over the last two decades, Turkey has been going through a migration transition meaning that the country has transformed from a net emigration to a net immigration country. This has been further reinforced by the arrival of a few million Syrian refugees. Refugees are the largest of these recent immigrant groups. Initially, it was expected that persons under temporary protection meaning Syrians as well as conditional refugees would only be staying temporarily, hence their impermanent status; however, in the meantime, and as long as Syria’s president Assad remains in power, matters are rather taking form of a protracted refugee situation meaning that many are likely to eventually stay in Turkey. This though is now intensely politically contested. Given that they host the people, cities and municipalities are at the forefront of this process. This situation generated an almost ontological challenge with regards to the country’s and its host communities’ identity (Icduygu 2021).

These recent developments represent a fundamental change within a very short period of time. However, this is not quite as exceptional as some voices suggest. In fact, large scale migrations have been recorded on the Indian sub-continent, from Vietnam, former Yugoslavia, within and from the former Soviet Union or during the migration transition of the southern European countries (Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece). Turkey’s experience of a migration transition is thus not entirely unique - though the large-scale refugee influx adds a specific notion - but resembles a trajectory most other modern countries experience under conditions of global integration. Turkey has thus - but within limits - always been and is now becoming even more diverse.

Germany, too, has a long tradition of hosting large numbers of displaced persons and migrants. Within the EU, it is hosting the largest number of Syrians, 820,000, as well as many other refugees - 1.8 million in total. Turkey and Germany and its societies and municipalities thus share long experiences with migration and the challenges to social cohesion. However, there are major differences in the respective countries’ trajectories and perspectives - one was for long rather a sending country, the other is for a hundred years rather a receiving country. While on the practical level much can be learned from one another, on the philosophical and policy level, specific approaches might be required.

AIMS

The conference aims to offer an inclusive and diverse environment and facilitate an open conversation and cooperation between German and Turkish academics, enriched by some international experts on how to think about and how to govern (new) diversity with the view to also underpin the practical challenges especially on the level of municipalities in both countries. The conference is designed as an academic event though with a policy audience in mind and thus with some applied touch. Accordingly, efforts shall be made to communicate scientific results to a mixed audience of policy makers and practitioners on local and national level.

The event has a sustainable ambition, this is facilitated by a side-event, a follow-up meeting, two special issues of academic journals, a reporting loop to the Turkish-German municipalities partnership conference and follow-up events.

BACKGROUND, FORMAT AND FUNDING

The conference is funded by the Turkish-German exchange Project on the Integration of Syrian Refugees into Host Communities, commissioned by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). It will take place in the context of the Turkish-German Conference on Municipal Cooperation.

The conference is a one-day event facilitating an interactive environment by offering a mix of plenaries, debates, and thematic panels, and a side-event of GAR and NFFF.

It is in principle a Turkish-German conference though with some international contributions; thus, all panels and break-out sessions will involve Turkish and German scholars. We aim at a hybrid format (see below).

The conference is organised by IMIS, AYBU-GPM and GIZ and in collaboration with FFVT (Forced Migration and Refugee Studies: Networking and Knowledge Transfer), and TurkMiS (Turkey Migration Studies Network).

PARTICIPATION, ROLES

The directing committee consists of four persons, Duvell (IMIS), Sagioglu (AYBU-GPM) and Thilo Moeller and Esme Bayar (both GIZ). In support, we set up a conference advisory board composed of Ahmet İçduygu (Koç University), Basak Kale (Middle East Technical University) and Saime Özçürümez (Bilkent University) from Turkey and Annette Korntheuer (Catholic University Eichstätt) and Zeynep Yanasmayan (German Institute for Integration and Migration Research) headed by Franck Duvell (IMIS).

The directing committee arranges the programme and speakers whereas GIZ takes care of the organisation and financing of the event.

Contributors have been identified by invitation as well via a call for papers for which we received over 80 proposals. Papers were selected on the basis of a peer review taking into account relevance to the call, quality, diversity of panelists as well as the coherence of the programme.

Finances For all presenters, costs will be covered by the organisers. For all other participants there is no conference fee.

Conference language The conference will be held in Turkish and English and interpretation will be provided on-site.

Pandemic Due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, we are organising a hybrid conference. This means that the presenters will attend the event on-site limiting the number of participants to 60 while the wider audience will be invited to follow the event and contribute online.

We pursue an adequate health protocol. On-site participants will be recovered, vaccinated and/or PCR tested. In addition, on the morning of the conference, all participants must show a negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test result. Tests will be provided by the organisers.



AGENDA

08:30-09:00 — **Registration, Coffee**

09:00-09:30 — **Welcome**

Franck DUVELL - *Osnabruck University, IMIS*, Ali Zafer SAGIROGLU - *AYBU-GPM*, Rubeena ESMail - *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Country Director, Ankara*, Thilo MOLLER - *Turkish German Exchange Project (GIZ), Ankara*

09:30-11:00 — **Plenary I**

Chair: Franck DUVELL - *Osnabruck University, IMIS*

Speakers: Ricard ZAPATA-BARRERO - *Universitat Pompeu Fabra*, Marinus PENNINX - *Free University*, Deniz YUKSEKER - *Istanbul Kent University*, Birgit GLORIUS - *TU Chemnitz*

11:15-12:45 — **Round of Panels I**

Panel 1: Role of municipalities"

Chair: Hakkı Onur ARINER - *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Ankara*

- 1. The Role of Local Governments and Local Integration of Refugees in Turkey** - Basak KALE - *Middle East Technical University, Ankara*
- 2. Localisation of Integration Policies in Turkey: Reflections from Kilis** - Ibrahim EFE - *Kilis University, Kilis*
- 3. Match'In. Pilot Project for the Dispersal of Asylum-Seekers with an Algorithm-Supported Matching Procedure** - Sonja REINHOLD - *FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg*
- 4. Bureaucratic Challenges Refugees Face With: Narratives from a Turkish City** - Elif TOPAL DEMIROGLU - *Marmara University, Istanbul*

Panel 2: Urban Perspectives

Chair: Ali Zafer SAGIROGLU - *AYBU-GPM*

- 1. The Role of Religious Institutions and Networks for the Integration of Syrians in Turkey** - Mahmut KAYA - *Harran University, Sanliurfa*
- 2. Understanding Experiences of Urban Protracted Displacement in Germany and Turkey Through a Transnational Chronotope Lens** - Paladia ZISS - *Institute for Research Into Superdiversity & University of Birmingham*
- 3. Determined to Succeed: How the Local Infrastructure Shapes the Integration Trajectories of Refugees in Germany**
Lidwina GUNDACKER - *Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Migration and International Labour Studies, Nuremberg*
- 4. Volunteers and Refugee Integration in Germany: Lessons from the Summer of Welcome** - Olaf KLEIST - *DeZIM, Berlin*

Panel 3: Role of Civil Society

Chair: Hidayet Siddıkođlu - *Bilim Organization for Research & Social Studies*

- 1. The Role of NGOs in Syrians' Integration to Turkey: Case of Ankara** - Hilal BARIN - *Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Ankara*
- 2. Vulnerability and Agency in the Asymmetric Relationship Between Refugees and Their Volunteer Supporters: A Critical Assessment of Germany's "Welcome Culture"**, Annette JUNEMANN - *Institute for International Politics, Sandra GOTTSCHKE - Helmut Schmidt University & Yaiza ROJAS-MATAS - University of the Federal Armed Forces in Hamburg*
- 3. Refugee Community Organizations: Capabilities, Interactions, Limitations** - Zeynep SAHIN MENCUTEK, Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC)
- 4. The Role of the State in Supporting Civil Society's refugee work: Germany's 'Live Democracy!' programme**
Seyran BOSTANCI - *DeZIM, Berlin*, Mirjam Weiberg-Salzmann - *DeZIM, Berlin*

Panel 4: Family, Children, Education

Chair: Deniz YUKSEKER - *Istanbul Kent University, Istanbul*

- 1. Germany Integrating Syrians in Turkey Higher Education** - Talip KUCUKCAN - *Marmara University, Istanbul*
- 2. Involving Civil Society Actors in Shaping Education Systems that are Sensitive to Intersectional Forms of Discrimination against 'Refugee students' - (New) Challenges in Light of a Global Education Governance** - Ellen KOLLENDER - *Helmut Schmidt University, Istanbul*
- 3. The Life of Syrian Children in a Temporary Shelter Center in Turkey: An Ethnographic Study on Primary School Education**
Mehmet FANSA - *Hatay İl Millî Eğitim Müdürlüğü, Hatay*
- 4. Syrian Refugees Between Gendered Kin-Contract and Citizenship in Germany and Turkey**
Hilal ALKAN - *Leibniz Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin*

12:45-14:00 — Lunch Break

14:00-15:30 — Round of Panels II

Panel 5: Concepts

Chair: Franck DUVELL - *Osnabruck University, IMIS*

1. Why does social cohesion remedy uncertainty and precarity in forced migration contexts?

Saime OZCURUMUZ - *Bilkent University, Ankara*

2. Inclusive Pathways? Applying an Intersectional Lens on the Integration of Diverse Newcomers in Germany

Annette KORNTHEUER - *KU Eichstätt Ingolstadt*

3. Social Cohesion "on the Sly": The Consequences of Turkey's Covert Harmonization Policy and Options for Pragmatic Durable Solutions - Hakkı Onur ARINER - *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Ankara*

4. Concepts of Refugee Protection in Islamic Tradition - Arafat SHOUKRI - *Al Jazeera Centre for Studies, Qatar*

Panel 6: Issues of Access: Statuses and Public Services

Chair: Olaf Kleist - *DeZIM, Berlin*

1. Projecting Post-Pandemic Refugee Context in Turkey and Revisiting the NGO and Public Humanitarian Response

Arda AKCICEK - *Medipol University, Istanbul*

2. Panoramic Evaluation on Syrians' Access to Healthcare Services: The Barrier Faced at Field Level and the Opportunities Projected at Central Level - Erdem AYCICEK - *Mülteciler ve Sığınmacılarla Yardımlasma, Dayanışma ve Destekleme Derneği*

3. Access to Citizenship in Turkey and Germany - Zeynep YANASMAYAN - *DeZIM, Berlin*

4. Thinking of Gaziantep Provincial Migration Management Directorate Request, Complaint and Suggestion Form as an Example of Good Practice - Fatih AYNA - *Gaziantep Provincial Directorate of Migration Management & Elif Yagmur SAHBUDAK - Gaziantep University, Gaziantep*

Panel 7: Economics, Labour Market

Chair: Lidwina GUNDACKER - *Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Migration and International Labour Studies, Nuremberg*

1. Optimistic Immigrants, Disenchanted Refugees? Educational Plans Among Young Adult Refugees and Other Immigrant Groups in Germany - Christian HUNKLER & Zerrin SALIKUTLUK - *Berlin Institute for Integration and Migration Research (BIM)*

2. Labour Market Integration of Forced Migrants in Turkey: Overview and Outlook - Semih TUMEN - *TED University, Ankara*

3. Study on Labor Market Prospects of Women with a Refugee Background - Ulrike SCHULZ - *City of Munich Department of Labor & Economic Development, City of Munich*

4. Ethnic Enclaves and Economic Integration of Syrian Refugees in Turkey - Aysegül KAYAOĞLU - *Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul*

Panel 8: How to Talk About Controversies?

Chair: Basak KALE - *Middle East Technical University, Ankara*

1. Safe Zones and Return of Refugees: A Debate on Syrians in Turkey

Ahmet ICDUYGU & Birce DEMIRYONTAR - *MireKoç / Koc University, Istanbul*

2. Migrations from Afghanistan: Securitization of Afghan Refugees in Turkey: Issues of Integration and Social Cohesion

Hidayet SIDDIKOĞLU - *Bilim Organization for Research & Social Studies, Ankara*

3. Syrians Barometer: "Social Acceptance" and "Securitization from Society" - Murat ERDOĞAN - *Turkish German University*

4. Immigrant Policies in Germany and Turkey: Welfare State's "Integration" versus Neoliberal "Precarious Inclusion"

Gizem KOLBASI MUYAN - *Independent Researcher*

15:30-16:00 — Coffee Break

16:00-17:30 — Plenary II

Chairs: Franck DUVELL - *Osnabruck University, IMIS*, Ali Zafer SAGIROĞLU - *AYBU-GPM*

Speakers: Didem DANIS - *Galatasaray University, GAR*, Ahmet ICDUYGU - *Koç University, Istanbul*, Annette KORNTHEUER - *KU Eichstätt*

Zeynep YANASMAYAN - *DeZIM, Berlin*

17:30-17:45 — Closing

Franck DUVELL - *Osnabruck University, IMIS*, Ali Zafer SAGIROĞLU - *AYBU-GPM*

19:30 — After Conference Dinner