

SPECIAL SECTION: STUDENTS RESEARCH ON MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

Student Research in the Focus: Contributions on Origin and Future

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Abstract. This special section hosts five articles written by Bachelor and Master students across Europe, coming from the fields of politics, philosophy, development cooperation, culture, gender and identity studies. We start with two articles that analyze the German situation from different angles, before we move on to the situation on the ground in Jordan and on to individual perspectives of female refugees. We close with a rather philosophical discussion on the birthright lottery.

Keywords: *refugees, migration, integration, Europe,*

Aims of this special section

Welcome to the Journal of Identity and Migration Studies' special section on student research on flight, migration and integration. This special section contains five articles, written by Bachelor and Master students across Europe. We believe that this collection of articles provides very interesting insights into student research and provides perspectives from various specializations and fields.

Before we detail on the content of this special section, we want to shortly share how this project came about. In the wave of the so called "refugee crisis" in Germany in 2015, also our students became interested in what was happening and we received an increasing amount of final student thesis dealing with the topics of refugees, migration and integration. As the situation in Europe was perceived as new – even though similar migration waves have existed before (Kleist, 2017) – much of the student research was actually developing interesting new approaches and gathering interesting data. We felt that this knowledge that the students accumulated should be spread to a wider public and not just rot in our offices and archives like many student theses unfortunately do. Hence, we started an



interdisciplinary student conference “Herkunft_Zukunft” (Origin_Future) at our University in Berlin. Even though we had planned it as a small scale and local event, soon we received applications from students all across Europe, being eager to share their insights and results.

In 2019 we held the 4th student conference “Herkunft_Zukunft” and by now about half of our applicants are from outside Germany. We screen the Abstracts of the applicants and only invite the 15 best approaches to present at our small conference. Over the years, not only did we get more international applications, but also the quality of the student research is increasing impressively. Hence, with this special section, we invited the presenters of the last two cohorts of the conference for a competitive call for papers. All papers we received underwent a double-blind review process by two external reviewers. Hence, the papers you will read in this special section are the edited version of the top five of all received applications.

Content of the Special Section

We continue following our interdisciplinary approach, as in our conferences. Hence, this special section hosts papers from the fields of politics, philosophy, development cooperation, culture, gender and identity studies.

We start with two articles that analyze the German situation from different angles, before we move on to the situation on the ground in Jordan and on to individual perspectives of female refugees. We close with a rather philosophical discussion on the birthright lottery.

In the first article, Friederike Alm uses the ranking in by the Multiculturalism Policy Index (Banting; Kymlicka, 2013) to compare the Canadian and German implementation of multicultural policies. She argues that Canada is more advanced in the application of multicultural policies and suggests that certain aspects of the Canadian model of multiculturalism could be applied to the German context for integration. This discussion is in line with current findings of Igarashi (2019) on a comparison with data from 20 European countries.

In the second article, Tim Zumloh analyses the discussion protocols of the German Bundestag from the 1970s to demonstrate how the labeling of refugees and asylum seekers changed. This historical analysis is interesting in the light of current political debate and labeling. As current research focuses more on labeling in media (Holmes; Castañeda, 2016; Szczepanik, M. 2016, Greussing; Boomgaarden, 2017),

this historic perspective and its analogies to the current political debate – at least in Germany – is enlightening – if not scary and is especially important, if we consider Krause’s (2016) assertion that labeling influences identity and belonging.

The third article by Alexander C. Burlin analyses the development programs applied in Jordan as a response to the Syrian refugee influx and argues that the challenges that arose are rooted in the structural dynamics of the humanitarian-development industry, mainly their lack of adaption to the local context. These insights, supported with data from field work, are especially interesting as the EU-Jordan compact is seen as a potential model for development cooperation in the face of large migration flows (Lenner; Turner, 2018; Huang, et al. 2018).

In the fourth article, Sara Eltokhy explores how and if Syrian refugee women during their early stages of settlement in Milan develop a sense of belonging. This sense of belonging is essential for the integration process (Krause, 2016) and has been considered important for mental health and stability (Çelebi; Verkuyten; Bağcı, 2017). The paper points to relatively simple policy measures that can contribute substantially to developing a sense of belonging.

The last and final article by Marvin Jammerman critically discusses Ayelet Shachar’s concept of *The Birthright Lottery* (2009). He elaborates on the concepts of birthright citizenship, *Ius Nexi* and global inequalities, and revises and extends the concept. With this he presents a different and critical perspective and invites the reader to question current systems.

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