

Workshop:

Managing Return/Migration through 'Voluntariness'

Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Time: 16.00 – 18.00

Location: Besprechungsraum des
Dekanats für Sozialwissenschaften,
Rooseveltplatz 2, 1090, 4. Stock

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New research project:

"REvolTURN – Managing Migrant Return through 'Voluntariness'"

Researcher: Reinhard Schweitzer
Supervisor: Prof. Sieglinde Rosenberger
Project duration: 1.10.2018 - 30.9.2020
Funding: Horizon 2020 (H2020-MSCA-IF-2017 - Project no. 790197)

Project summary & Aims

In their efforts to more effectively "manage migration" many western states increasingly rely on public policies for the so-called 'voluntary return' of irregular migrants and (refused) asylum seekers. Relatively little is known about how these approaches work in practice, whether they meet their stated goals, and what implications they have for migrants' rights and agency.

The project **REvolTURN** seeks to address this research gap through a close and comparative analysis of 'voluntary return' policies in Austria and the UK, including their adoption, implementation and immediate outcome. More specifically, it will examine:

- how voluntariness of return is constructed and framed in law, policy and public discourse,
- which notions of voluntariness are crucial for policy implementation, and
- what impact this has on migrants' own decision-making about their return;

This will require a mixed-method approach that combines comparative policy and discourse analysis, detailed institutional ethnography (through observation and in-depth interviews) and a survey among potential returnees.

Overall, the project aims to contribute to recent scholarship on the in/effectiveness of migration policies and the agency of migrants holding no or highly precarious statuses.

Aim of the Workshop

The aims of this dedicated workshop are:

- To present the research project to a wider audience within and beyond the University,
- To discuss (potential) conceptual and methodological challenges across disciplinary boundaries, and
- To initiate a broader theoretical debate on the role that 'voluntariness' plays in relation to various (other) aspects of the so-called "management of migration";