Call for Papers

Representations of Migration and Emotions of Exclusion

Workshop at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development

20–21 March 2019

Exclusion plays a determinant role in the lives of migrants and refugees and in the introduction and administration of migration policies and regulations. For migrants and refugees, exclusion regularly manifests itself in myriad ways with both short- and long-term implications for them and their families. To actors involved in developing and administering migration policies and practices in sending and receiving states, exclusion constitutes a cohort of other factors. In migration studies, the notion of exclusion opens up a vast and productive field of research in contemporary and historical contexts involving migrants and refugees on a local and transnational scale. Experiences of exclusion and the emotions that are embedded in these experiences are often represented, reconstructed and mediated in narratives. With a focus on representations of migration and emotions of exclusion, this workshop explores questions on the interrelationship between emotional narratives of exclusion across contexts of migration. How are emotions of exclusion represented and expressed by different actors—from policy developers and administrators to the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers? How do emotions of exclusion change across historical and geopolitical contexts? And more generally, how do individual and collective emotions associated with migration change discursively over time? The workshop brings together an interdisciplinary team of graduate students and researchers interested in exploring historical and contemporary forms of migration with an emphasis on experiences, emotions and narratives of migration and, particularly, exclusion.

Since tensions and complexities associated with experiences and emotions of exclusion are embroiled in the process of their narrativization, our underlying interest in this workshop interrogates how narrativization (in archival materials, oral histories, ego-documents and other sources of this nature) produces emotions and discourse about migration within the medialized and global public domain. While suggesting that public emotions and opinions about migration are produced through narrativized and memorialized data, we acknowledge that these emotions have a deep impact on changing notions of family, society, nation administrative policies; and class and gender. Moreover, we believe that these emotions have the potential to transform conceptual ideologies about war, peace, poverty and health. Our workshop thus, encourages participants from diverse fields to reflect on ways in which notions of exclusion interact, engage, and converse with the history of emotions and narratives of migration. We elicit contributions that draw from primary sources, particularly, archive materials, ego-documents, oral histories, and related sources.
This two-day workshop will be held on 20 and 21 March 2019 as a part of the Research Initiative of the Max Planck Society “The Challenges of Migration, Integration and Exclusion,” located at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin.

We invite 8 researchers to present their papers on topics that relate to narratives of exclusion among migrants and refugees from a global or European perspective. Presentations are 20 min. followed by a 10 min. session for Q/A and discussion. The institute will cover the travel and accommodation costs. Please submit an abstract of your paper (ca. 1,000 words) and a short academic biography by 31 October 2018.

We invite 5 additional participants among doctoral students and junior researchers based in Berlin or its vicinity to participate in the workshop with their posters. Should you wish to present a poster at the workshop, please send us a paragraph outlining your affiliation, current research, and the nature of your interest in the workshop (max. 200 words) by 31 October 2018.

Selected contributors as well as poster session participants will be notified by 10 December 2018. Please direct your abstracts, proposals and any enquiries to Karola Rockmann (cfp-emotions@mpib-berlin.mpg.de).

Organizers: Sonia Cancian, Ph.D., Deepra Dandekar, Ph.D. and Soňa Mikulová, Ph.D.