

Selected Topics in International Politics:  
**Exodus: Conflict, Migration and Refugees**

MA Seminar (10 ECTS)  
HWS 2015

Thursday 12:00-13:30, B 317

Prof. Dr. Lilli Banholzer

Office Hours:

Tuesday 11:00 – 12:30 (sign up in list on office door)

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#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The seminar addresses a burning issue in international relations: the linkage between displacement, refugee flows, international migration and conflict. According to a June 2015 report by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), worldwide displacement has now hit an all time high, with close to 60 million people forced to leave home and seek safety elsewhere. To come to grips with the complex relation between conflict and displacement, we start off with some fact-finding and definitions: Who is a refugee, an asylum seeker and an economic migrant? Which overlaps exist between the different concepts and how can they be separated? What are recent global and regional trends and how do they compare to past records? In a second step, we will examine those factors that lead people to leave home and flee across borders or even seas. What are the major causes of displacements and refugees flows, and how do they compare to other patterns of international migration? When and how do people seek refuge in another country? What are the motives behind migration? What are the inter-linkages between conflict and migration? In addition, we will have a closer look at the effects of humanitarian aid and assess possible risks associated with the establishment

of refugees camp especially, notably the recruitment of combatants. In the light of the current mass refugee movements, we also study the consequences that refugee and migration flows have in the recipient countries. We look at direct neighbors of conflict-ridden regions, notably the EU and other developed countries. What are their policies towards refugees and migrants? Which social and economic issues are at stake? What instruments have been or are being put in place at the international level to address displacement, and how effective are they? In a final part of the seminar, we will apply the knowledge and insights gained and deep-dive into several case studies.

## OVERVIEW

Week 1 (10.09)	Introduction / Distribution of presentations
Week 2 (17.09)	Putting the facts on the table: Terms, trends and figures.
Week 3 (24.09)	Migrants: Causes of migration: economics, politics and security.
Week 4 (01.10)	No class
Week 5 (08.10)	Migrants: Winners or losers?
Week 6 (15.10)	Migrants: Refugee warriors
Week 7 (22.10)	Movie: God grew tired of us
Week 8 (29.10)	The recipient population: Social & economic and political consequences for the host country.
Week 9 (05.11)	Left behind: Social & economic and political consequences in the country of origin
Week 10 (12.11)	Guest Speaker: Borderline Europe
Week 11 (19.11)	The International Politics of Migration
Week 12 (26.11)	Research Design Week
Week 13 (4.12)	The Psychological Consequences of Migration
Week 14 (10.12)	Wrap-up

### Course Requirements & Assessment:

- Regular attendance & active class participation
- Class presentation & leading the class discussion
- A research paper, DEADLINE: 10. January 2016

#### Participation:

Students are expected to come prepared to the sessions, having read the reading for class discussion. Particular emphasis will be placed on the *critical discussion of the readings*, which should generally be dominated by you, not me, and the discussion of and feedback on your work. To facilitate critical engagement with the reading, you need to email the discussant and me 1-2 discussion questions about the required reading (for the weeks where there are such readings). These questions should stimulate a critical engagement and debate with the text, i.e. they should not focus on merely reproducing key arguments, but should go beyond this, e.g. by linking the arguments to current events, highlighting strengths and weaknesses etc. You need to email your discussion questions to us by **Tuesday preceding the Thursday meeting**, so allow the presenter to include your questions if appropriate.

#### Presentation and leading class discussion

You need to sign up for one presentation and lead the seminar discussion. Note that in the presentation, you need to go beyond the reading. The presentation should provide a substantial insight into the topic and discuss the methods and data used in the research articles. **Group works are very welcome!**

Important: Every student **must** see me **one week before** the presentation. Bring your Power Point presentation to this meeting. Make sure you sign up at my office door in due time!

#### Research paper

Each student needs to hand in a research paper before or on the **10<sup>th</sup> of January 2016** (midnight – sharp, every day late means minus one full grade). The paper can either be based on your presentation or related to any other topic we have covered in class. It should not exceed 15 pages, including all. Length is not a criteria for quality.

## DETAILED COURSE PLAN

### **Week 1: Introduction to the seminar**

September 10

Guiding Questions: What will we be talking about in this seminar? Who will do which presentation?

No reading

### **Week 2: Putting the facts on the table: Terms, facts and figures.**

September 17

Guiding Questions: This session aims to prepare the ground for a later well-informed discussion. Who is a refugee, an asylum seeker and an economic migrant? Which overlaps exist between the different concepts and how can they be separated? What are recent global and regional trends and how do they compare to past records? Why does migration increase?

Reading:

- UNHCR (2014): World at War. Global Trends. Forced Displacement in 2014.
- Collier, Paul (2013): Exodus: Immigration and Multiculturalism in the 21st Century. London, Allen Lane. **Chapter 1 & 2.**

### **Week 3: Migrants: Causes of migration - economics, politics and security.**

September 24

Guiding Questions:

What are the structural causes for migration? Which factors matter most? How do spatial factors such as geography and location affect voluntary and forced migration? Which theoretical approaches can help to explain migration? What kind of datasets are available?

Reading:

- Schmeidl, Susanne (1997): Exploring the Causes of Forced Migration: A Pooled Time-Series Analysis, 1971-1990.

Further Reading:

- Öberg, Magnus and Melander, Erik (2006): Time to Go? Duration Dependence in Forced Migration. *International Interactions* 32(2), 1-24.
- King, Russel (2012): Theories and Typologies of Migration: an overview and a primer. Willy Brandt Series of Working Papers in International Migration and Ethnic Relations. 3/12. Available at:  
<https://www.mah.se/upload/Forskningscentrum/MIM/WB/WB%203.12.pdf>

- Zanker, Jessica (2008): Why do people migrate? A review of the theoretical literature. MPRA Paper No. 28197. Available at: <http://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/28197/>

**Week 4: No class**

October 1

**Week 5: Migrants: Winners or losers?**

October 8

Guiding Questions: To which extent are migrants the winners, to which extent are they the losers?

Reading:

- Collier, Paul (2013): Exodus: Immigration and Multiculturalism in the 21st Century. London, Allen Lane. **Chapter 6 & 7.**

**Week 6: Refugee warriors: Refugee camps as dangerous sanctuaries**

October 15

Guiding Questions: Under what conditions do refugee crises lead to the spread of civil war across borders? How can refugee relief organizations respond when militants use humanitarian assistance as a tool of war? What government actions can prevent or reduce conflict?

Reading:

- Lischer, Sarah Kenyon. 2005. "Dangerous Sanctuaries: Refugee Camps, Civil War and the Dilemmas of Humanitarian Aid." New York: Cornell University Press. **Chapter 1.**
- Stedman, Stephen and Fred Tanner. 2003. "Refugee Manipulation: War, Politics, and the Abuse of Human Suffering." Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institute Press. **Chapter 1 & 2**

**Week 7: Movie: God grew tired of us**

October 22

**Week 8: The recipient population: Social & economic and political consequences for the host country.**

October 29

Guiding Questions: Which consequences does migration have on the recipient countries? Is there a limit to what countries can / should take in? Which positive effects and chances are there?

Reading:

- Collier, Paul (2013): Exodus: Immigration and Multiculturalism in the 21st Century. London, Allen Lane. **Chapter 3, 4 & 5**
- Mayda, Anna Maria (2006): Who is against Immigration? A Cross-Country Investigation of Individual Attitudes towards Immigrants, The Review of Economics and Statistics, Vol. 88 (3), 510-530. (browse only).

Further Reading:

- Mulvey, Gareth. 2010. When Policy creates politics: the Problematizing of Immigration and the Consequences for Refugee Integration in the UK. Journal of Refugee Studies. 23(4).
- Lesinka, Magdalena. 2014. The European backlash against immigration and multiculturalism. Journal of Sociology. 50(1), 37-50.

**Week 9: Left behind: Social & economic and political consequences in the country of origin**

November 5

Guiding Questions: Does migration hinder development and democratization? Does the “brain drain” hurt countries? What happens to the people that are “left behind”?

Reading:

- Collier, Paul (2013): Exodus: Immigration and Multiculturalism in the 21st Century. London, Allen Lane. **Chapter 8, 9 & 10**
- Docquier, Frédéric et al. (2011): Emigration and democracy. Working Papers, Bar-Ilan University, Department of Economics, No. 2011-02.

Further Reading:

- Choi, Seung-Whan and James A. Piazza (2014): Internally Displaced Populations and Suicide Terrorism. Journal of Conflict Resolution 1-33
- Bradley, Matthew Todd (2005): Civil Society, Emigration and Democracy in Africa. An Alternative Proposition.
- Docquier, Frédéric and Hillel Rapoport (2012). Globalization, Brain Drain, and Development. Journal of Economic Literature. 50(3), 681-730.

**Week 10: Guest Speaker**

November 12

**Week 11: The International Politics of Migration**

November 19

Guiding Questions:

Which national and international political approaches exist? How do different countries react to migrants and asylum seekers?

Reading:

Collier, Paul (2013): Exodus: Immigration and Multiculturalism in the 21st Century.

London, Allen Lane. **Chapter 11 & 12**

Castles, Stephen. 2003: The International Politics of Forced Migration. Development, 46(3), 11-20(10)

**Week 12: Research Design Week**

November 26

**Week 13: The Psychological Consequences of Migration**

December 4

**Week 14: Wrap-up & discussion of research design**

December 10