



Call for Papers

9th International Conference

Thursday, 25th June to Saturday, 27th June 2009
in Trier, Germany and Dudelange, Luxembourg

„Migration, Politik und Arbeit“ „Migration, Politics, and Work“

Organizers

- Institute for Regional and Migration Research (IRM) (Trier, Germany)
- Centre de Documentation sur les Migrations Humaines (Dudelange, Luxembourg)
- Institute of Integration and Participation at the School for Social Work (FHNW) (Olten, Switzerland)

Labor market politics is one central aspect of recent political debate on a range of migration topics. In the years to come, because of demographic developments the number of employees retiring in European industrial states will be higher than the level of new employees entering the labor market. Since there are already increased demand for qualified and skilled labor, it can be assumed that competition in the international labor market for qualified labor will intensify. Indeed, those sectors requiring lower or minor qualifications will also encounter labour force shortages unable to attract the appropriate number of workers.

This structural development has been absorbed to a certain extent through the expansion of the EU into the former Eastern bloc countries in recent years. Migrant laborers from the Baltic states, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria have filled existing 'gaps'. In the meantime, this outward migration of labor has led to problems. For example, Poland and Romania have started campaigns to re-recruit 'their' labor. For these countries, this is especially urgent since the possibility to mitigate the need for labor through migration from eastern neighboring states has been limited because of EU-politics. In line with securing the external frontier of the Union, a policy of foreclosing further migration has been implemented and a liberalization of migrational policies, e.g. creating short and long term possibilities of immigration and settlement, has taken place with little effect so far. One consequence of these policies is the increasing number of undocumented immigrants.

Within the national migration policies of individual European states, the right to immigrate has been examined and regulated from a national-political perspective. An active migrational policy has often involved the selective facilitation of immigration in the case of preferential labor whereas it was possible to exclude political questions concerning social and political participation to a great extent. The EU's harmonization of asylum and migrational policies via the selection of migrants - as determined on a country-by-country basis and oriented toward specific labor market requirements - is largely intact. Since the 1980s, this EU-policy has been subject of discussion and criticism under the keywords - "fortress Europe".

On a theoretical basis, the interrelation between migration and labor poses a specific contradictory problem for modern labor societies. While the discussion on migration from a political point of view deals with questions of affiliation to a political community together with the

individual rights to be protected and to participate, the economical point of view centers on the optimal utilization of labor that has been made available through migration. The relationship between politics and labor is full of tension insofar as these distinct interests are not always identical under capitalistic conditions. Hence, the social endeavors for “integration”, as the new political guidelines formulated at the beginning of the 21st Century, have lead to contradictory results.

In general, under changed social and political conditions it is not only (labor) migration that is prone to change (consider the form and extent of migration motives and chances of realization), but also the policies of migration that change and react to new social, political, and economic conditions. In the course of the conference “Migration, Politik und Arbeit - Migration, Politics, and Work”, these transformations shall be considered, discussed, and illuminated from an interdisciplinary and international perspective.

We would like to invite you to submit a proposal dealing with “Migration, Politics, and Work” in reference to one of the following topics. Please indicate the topic to which your proposal refers:

- Migration and global market for labor
- Historical development of labor migration
- Labor migration in exhibitions and museums
- Migrational and labor market politics in Europe
- Undocumented labor migrants in Europe – social, legal, and economic aspects
- Feminization of migration and labor migration
- Self-organization of labor migrants
- Migration and labor unions
- Migration and the social state

If you are interested in giving a speech, we kindly ask you to submit a short abstract (max. of 500 words) with the title of your speech, a short biography, and contact details (e-mail, mobile/telephone, and postal address). **Please follow the attached guidelines!**

Deadline for proposals: **21st December 2008**

Selection by the program committee: **5th February 2009**

Conference languages: German and English

Information and contact: www.irm-trier.de; Tagung2009@irm-trier.de

Members of the program committee:

- Yasemin Ahi, IRM, Istanbul (Turkey)
- Sylvia Bürkler, IRM and University of Applied Sciences in Education Central-Switzerland (Switzerland)
- Dr. Thomas Geisen, IRM and Institute of Integration and Participation at the College of Social Work (FHNW) (Switzerland)
- Antoinette Reuter, Centre de Documentation sur les Migrations Humaine (Luxembourg)
- Tobias Studer, IRM, University of Zurich (Switzerland) and University of the Federal Armed Forces Munich (Germany)
- Lisa Weiller, IRM, Winterthur (Switzerland)

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Please note:

The summary/abstract should accord with the following format, since it is the basis for the Conference Announcement on the IRM homepage.



Proposal for:

„Migration, Politik und Arbeit“

„Migration, Politics, and Work“

Author:

[name]

[title of your proposed paper]

[short description, max. 500 words]

[what questions will be touched, 3 leading questions of your planned presentation]

[short CV, max. 15 lines, full sentences]

[full contact details]