



## Call For Papers: Researching norms and values in the field of migration and refugee studies

Values define how societies look upon themselves. However, while this seems to be important to their self-understanding and, hence, their behaviour and expectation towards newcomers, there is often an absence of awareness of these values, and their enabling or, on the other hand, constraining and excluding function. Moreover, different values often compete with each other in a society, and take on shifting priority: those promoted by European institutions, those considered as collective and societal, those pertaining to specific nations or ideologies; and those considered personal. Talk of European values, for example, is in many cases vague and references to them often primarily aim at discrediting political opponents or decisions at the European and member state level. At the same time, there is a need for stabilisation and cohesion on various societal levels in Europe on the basis of common norms and values in order to find appropriate solutions to the multiple crises it faces, especially given growing tensions in the context of the so-called refugee-crisis.

As a field, migration and refugee studies have a long history of studying immigrant integration into societies of nation states, and into cities and neighbourhoods. However, such research has largely been oblivious of values and norms. Supposedly this is because the concept of values, and its related normative categories of norms and rights, seem to belong to a specific discipline (philosophy, political science). Nevertheless, values and norms have since long been debated in national politics on immigration, both explicitly and implicitly. As such, they have not only shaped immigration and integration policy profoundly, but also the lived experience of immigrant and societal integration.

This workshop addresses the question on how to study this field and how to create fruitful debates between already existing lines of research in migration studies and philosopher interested in the significance of norms and/or values in the broader migration and integration context. How do we get from the normative to the empirical and vice versa? How do we accommodate narratives of lived experiences with wider normative questions? How do we get into a conversation across disciplines? Or how do we approach these questions from an interdisciplinary perspective?

This workshop invites contributions particularly – but not exclusively – on the following topics:

- Value agents (i.e. formal and informal groups and institutions mediating values) on various levels in society; their motivation, activities and target groups
- Policy processes; for example, the implementation of shared values into policies
- Public and political debates; for example, current and past dominating values, their shifting positions and their relation to wider political-economic processes
- The potential significance of fundamental values like gender equality, humanitarianism/hospitality and religious pluralism in various European societies and/or translocal social spheres?
- Diversity in a cosmopolitan and/or a nationalist Europe

The workshop invites 6-10 papers that show a range of different approaches to the study of values and norms in migration. Ideally, the presentations would, in different sessions, address normative, methodological or thematic concerns. This workshop is organised in the framework of the recently funded H2020 project “NoVaMigra – Norms and Values in the European Migration and Refugee Crisis” (2018-21), and serves to open up the academic discussion.





**Convenors:**

Johanna Gördemann, University of Duisburg-Essen  
Prof. Dr. Andreas Niederberger, University of Duisburg-Essen  
Dr. Brigitte Suter, Malmö University

## The "Refugees, Borders and Membership" Conference, 24-26 October

**Workshop 1: "Researching Norms and Values in Migration and Refugee Studies"**

**Convenors:** Johanna Gördemann, Andreas Niederberger, Brigitte Suter

**Time for presentation:**

20 minutes

**Venue:**

Malmö University,  
Nordenskiöldsgatan 1,  
Niagara building,  
room A0311

**Session1: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October, 14-17**

Introduction

Andreas Niederberger, University Duisburg-Essen

Johanna Gördemann, University Duisburg-Essen

Brigitte Suter, Malmö University

**Presentations 1-4**

Focus on how individuals (migrants) deal with the norms and values (and tensions) they are exposed to

1. **Repercussions of gendered values on (self)perceptions of Afghan refugees in Germany and**

**Switzerland**, Carolin Fischer and Anna Wyss, University of Neuchâtel

2. **Shifting European values and intra-European mobility**, Magdalena Nowicka, Humboldt University Berlin

**Discussant: Therese Herrmann, University Duisburg-Essen**

**BREAK**

Focus on non-state actors, state apparatus, bureaucrats

1. **The Discursive Construction of Solidarity and Europe's Migration Crisis**, Stefan Wallaschek, University of Bremen

2. **Narrating the humanitarian border: Moral deliberations of territorial borderworkers on the EU's Mediterranean border**, Daniela DeBono, Malmö University and European University Institute

**Discussant: Johan Ekstedt, Malmö University**

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**Session 2: Thursday 25th October, 9-12.30**

**Presentations 5-8**

Focus on civil society actors

**5. Moved to Act – Acting to Move: Civil Society Actors and Sentimental Education during the “Refugee Crisis” in Germany**, Christine Unrau, University Duisburg-Essen

**6. Cosmopolitanism between vision and practice: *Refugees Welcome* initiatives in Malmö, 2015-18**, Maja Povrzanovic Frykman and Fanny Mäkelä, Malmö University

**Discussant: Volker Heins, KWI, University Duisburg-Essen**

Focus on country norms, identities, attitudes and integration policies

**7. But some are more equal than others. Shared notions of *Danskhed* and *Svenskhet* and their marks on Danish and Swedish integration policies**, Marilena Geugjes, Heidelberg University

**8. Exploring Consumer Discourse on the Multicultural Society**, Sofia Ulver, Lund University

**Discussant: Tawat Mahama, Malmö University and Higher School of Economics, Moscow**

**BREAK**

