



# Annual Report 2018–2019

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CENTRE FOR GLOBAL MIGRATION STUDIES  
University of Göttingen

# Centre for Global Migration Studies, University of Göttingen

Migration is one of the most pressing and complex issues of the 21st century. The Centre for Global Migration Studies (CeMig) brings together scholars of the Göttingen Campus from six different colleges, known as ‘faculties’ in the German context, plus the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (MPIMMG). CeMig studies the complex challenges of migration under very different thematic and regional foci, that by engaging in interdisciplinary collaboration and by pooling together diverse methodological approaches. The result is a deep, multilayered understanding of migration and the provision of innovative policy approaches to deal with this supremely important issue.

CeMig establishes innovative forms of knowledge transfer in addition to strengthening research and teaching in the area of Migration Studies. It contributes to public debates, and facilitates the inclusion in the discussion of stakeholders from civil society, politics, industry and business.

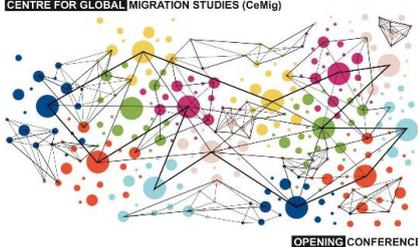
CeMig offers:

- International Conferences
- Interdisciplinary Working Groups
- Joint Research in the Field of Migration Studies
- Teaching Activities related to Migration Studies
- Support to Early-Career Academics
- Support for Research Projects Externally Funded
- Collaboration with Stakeholders from Civil Society, Politics, Industry and Business

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# 1. Highlights 2018–2019



**Migration as a Global Challenge**  
Interdisciplinary Perspectives on a Complex Field

This opening conference of the Centre for Global Migration Studies (CeMig) focuses on migration as a global phenomenon. It offers cross-regional and interdisciplinary perspectives to contribute to the understanding that current migration can only be understood in the context of global processes rather than national frameworks. This is illustrated in various panels covering a broad range of conjoining factors, such as human rights, climate change, education, labor or religious pluralization.

**21. - 23.06.2018 University of Göttingen**

For more information on the program and how to register visit: [www.uni-goettingen.de/en/583305.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/583305.html)  
Registration deadline 10.06.2018 (Students and all who are interested are welcome to join).  
Sponsored by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Kultur.

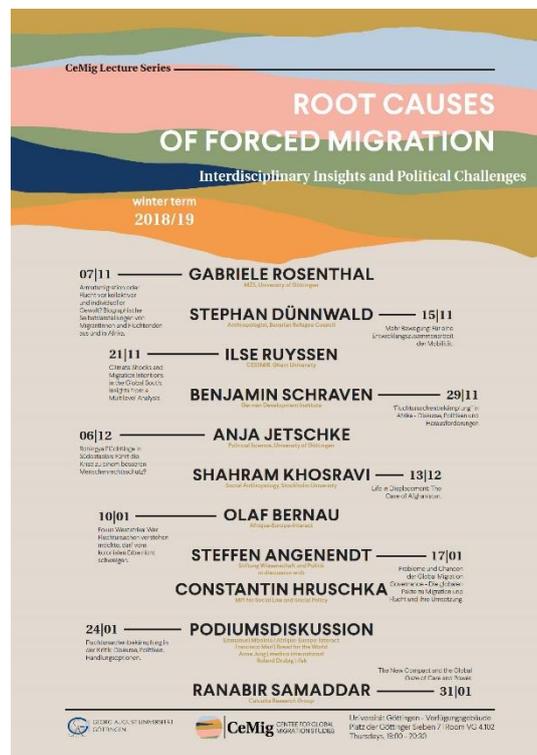



## CeMig Opening Conference, ‘Migration as a Global Challenge: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on a Complex Field’ (21–23 June 2018)

This international conference offered cross-regional and interdisciplinary perspectives on migration. A total of 14 parallel-running panels, which were organised into 6 thematic streams, were dedicated to migration in connection with the topics of human rights, climate change, linguistic diversity and education, migration and border policies, the global circulation of knowledge, skills and people, as well as religious processes of pluralisation. The conference demonstrated quite vividly the added value of understanding migration within global frameworks.

## CeMig Lecture Series ‘Root Causes of Forced Migration: Interdisciplinary Insights and Political Challenges’ (winter term 2018/2019)

Talks by academics and practitioners provided a critical perspective on current debates and research regarding the root causes of forced migration. They highlighted the complex interrelations that lie behind the political narrative of preventing irregular migration by combatting its root causes. A broad range of topics were covered, from biographical self-representations of migrants and refugees, connections to development and humanitarian aid, to the analysis of linkages with colonial heritages. In addition, a discussion panel on ‘The Fight against the Root Causes of Forced Migration: Critique, Discourses, Politics and Options for Action’ involved activists and practitioners both with and without migration/flight biographies.



**CeMig Lecture Series**

**ROOT CAUSES OF FORCED MIGRATION**  
Interdisciplinary Insights and Political Challenges

winter term 2018/19

07 11	<b>GABRIELE ROSENTHAL</b> Anthropologie, Universität Bayreuth	15 11	<b>STEPHAN DÜNNWALD</b> Anthropologie, Universität Bayreuth
21 11	<b>ILSE RUYSSSEN</b> Climate Studies and Migration Laboratory, Universität Göttingen	29 11	<b>BENJAMIN SCHRAVEN</b> Development Studies, Universität Göttingen
06 12	<b>ANJA JETSCHKE</b> Political Sociology, Universität Göttingen	13 12	<b>SHAHRAM KHOSRAVI</b> Social Anthropology, Stockholm University
10 01	<b>OLAF BERNAU</b> Political Science, Universität Göttingen	17 01	<b>STEFFEN ANGENENDT</b> Sociology, Universität Göttingen
24 01	<b>PODIUMSDISKUSSION</b> The Fight against the Root Causes of Forced Migration: Critique, Discourses, Politics and Options for Action	31 01	<b>RANABIR SAMADDAR</b> Anthropology, Universität Göttingen

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen | CeMig | Universität Göttingen, Verfügbare Räume: Platz der Göttinger Sieben / Room VG 4302, Thursday, 10:00 - 10:50

## **‘Urban Lab: Migration Moves Göttingen’ (March 2019–March 2020)**



Researchers from CeMig initiated the ‘Urban Lab’ as an innovative format of science communication. They opened up a physical and social space outside of the campus – in the building of a former pharmacy opposite the town hall. Together with over 20 groups – cultural institutions, migrant self-organisations, civil society initiatives and professional institutions – they discussed local and best practices on how to design a city in which all people, regardless of origins, nationality or residence status, have the right to live, reside and work. Together they held over 35 public

events: academic presentations, theatre performances, video productions, dialogue sessions and film screenings. The resulting policy paper ‘What makes a city for everyone? Impulses and recommendations for a solidarity-based Göttingen’ (Hess 2020; translated title, original in German) brought together 17 compelling analyses of the existing circumstances of (post-)migrant society and municipal integration politics in Göttingen.

## 2. History and Objective

### 2.1. History of CeMig

The Centre for Global Migration Studies was founded in June 2018 in light of the developments occurring with the so-called European ‘refugee crisis’ of 2015. It initially started as ‘Network for Global Migration Studies’ to launch a dialogue among and provide an interdisciplinary exchange forum for academics at the University of Göttingen. Together, they also intended to meet the increased demand for political expertise on migration and refugee policies. It was officially launched as the Centre for Global Migration Studies in June 2018, during the course of an ‘Opening Conference’ held at the University of Göttingen.

CeMig’s strength lies in its interdisciplinary setup: It includes altogether seven units of the Göttingen Campus. These are six colleges (known as ‘faculties’ in the German context) plus the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity. The latter is linked to CeMig via a Memorandum of Understanding in which both parties agreed on pursuing collaborative activities such as joint conferences, research projects, publications or informal exchanges.

The participating faculties include:

- The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences
- The Faculty of Business and Economics
- The Faculty of Humanities (in charge)
- The Faculty of Law
- The Faculty of Social Sciences
- The Faculty of Theology

These diverse disciplines are also reflected in the range of methodological approaches taken, which cover both qualitative (ethnographic, interpretive) and quantitative (big data) research.

### 2.2. Objective: A transregional global perspective

CeMig investigates migration as a complex phenomenon embedded in social, political, economic, religious and cultural contexts. CeMig members study all types of migration – from voluntary to involuntary, such as labour migration, educational migration, marriage-related migration, forced migration (refugee) or climate-induced migration. They explore and critically analyse the determinants and effects of migration, different migration practices and discourses, as well as migration politics and governance.

CeMig’s distinguishing approach is that it analyses migration on a global scale. Apart from projects on Germany, research relates to countries of the Middle East (Jordan, Turkey), South, East and Southeast Asia (especially China, India, Japan, Korea), Oceania (especially the Central Pacific), Africa (especially West Africa) and Central America. This global perspective helps to systematically compare migration and refugee policies and experiences, and to put European migration issues into perspective. It allows CeMig to provide sound answers to the diverse social, political, cultural and economic challenges associated with the governing of migration flows worldwide and the shaping of (post-)migrant societies in Germany and elsewhere.

CeMig’s activities are being increasingly recognised nationwide. They complement the German research landscape in important ways. CeMig’s global approach differentiates it from other migration centres in Lower Saxony and Germany, such as the Institute for Migration

Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS), University of Osnabrück, and the German Center for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM) in Berlin. They focus more on migration from, to and through Germany, and study its causes and effects especially in terms of societal integration.

The expressed aims of CeMig are:

- to connect the existing research expertise of different faculties and institutes on the Göttingen Campus,
- to strengthen the perceptibility of Migration Studies among scholars internally as well as externally,
- to generate synergies from different disciplinary and methodological approaches, and
- to contribute to inter-/transdisciplinary research programmes in the long term.

CeMig offers an institutionalised, coordinated infrastructure to link diverse research projects and teaching activities on Migration and Refugee Studies. Through its participating academics, it contributes to existing regional, national and international migration research networks and integrates existing national and international contacts into local activities. CeMig promotes early-career researchers and trains them for excellence (e.g. through research colloquia, junior academies or doctoral programmes). A special concern of CeMig is to establish new forms of knowledge transfer in the sense of the

university's own 'third mission'. It strives to contribute to public debate and to involve actors from civil society, politics, industry and business.

In the first two years since its establishment, the following priorities have been set in a number of distinct task fields that are outlined in more detail below:

**Research:** Developing new interdisciplinary projects reflecting the global perspective of CeMig on Migration and Refugee Studies.

**Thematic Areas:** Capturing the range of research topics and approaches in existence, and intensifying internal exchange further establishing migration as a cross-cutting topic on Göttingen Campus and becoming visible as a centre of Migration Studies within both the German and international research landscapes.

**Education:** Building a forum and network for early-career scholars and exemplifying migration-themed lectures and seminars to enable more comprehensive, interest-led research in the field of Migration Studies.

**Outreach, third mission and societal impact:** Promoting knowledge transfer and further establishing relations to practitioners and stakeholders.

**Cooperation and network:** Further development of research partnerships on Göttingen Campus as well as within the regional, national and international research landscapes.

## 3. Task Fields

### 3.1. Research

CeMig is one of the few centres on migration that studies the phenomenon on a truly global level. Its trans- and cross-regional approach as well as the breadth of participating fields offers the opportunity to develop interdisciplinary perspectives on specific topics. Hence, developing new interdisciplinary projects reflecting the global perspective of CeMig on Migration and Refugee Studies is one key aim of research. This requires first, however, a better understanding of the how and what CeMig members study. In the long term, in order to further strengthen and expand the profile of Global Migration Studies in research and teaching activities (particularly with regard to the development of a Master's programme), it would be desirable that the financial means for the establishment of a junior professorship are provided.

The research that is being conducted within the framework of CeMig can be broadly divided into 'voluntary' migration and 'forced' migration (Refugee Studies). Migration as well as refugee researchers come from all participating disciplines, and all focus in one way or another on the cultural, economic, political and social determinants, as well as consequences, of transnational, cross-border migration. Their study units are individuals, groups and communities, organisations, states but also regional and international regimes and institutions. This makes CeMig a research hub of considerable breadth and global expertise, but naturally also poses challenges for facilitating collaboration among researchers with highly diverse research interests and disciplinary approaches.

The academic literature traditionally differentiates between migration and refuge (see figure below). These reflect the differing motives for

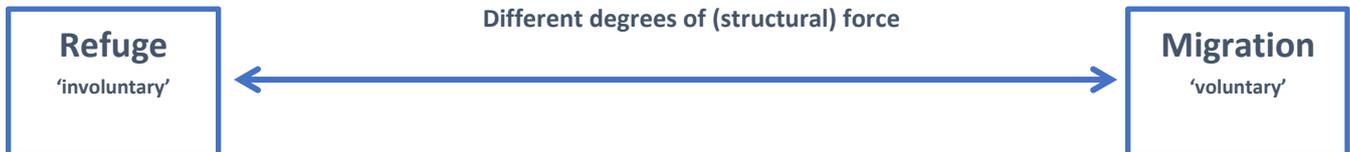
transferring to another country. Refugee flows are a type of forced migration, where individuals are compelled to leave their countries of origin. Migration flows are a type of voluntary out-movement meanwhile, where individuals primarily go abroad in seeking better opportunities to improve their own personal well-being as well as that of their families. The former typically captures the individual and his or her family who has to flee because of internal conflicts and war. The latter includes the student who seeks excellent training opportunities in another country, the seasonal worker making a living on a plantation or farm, or the highly skilled IT expert looking for new challenges and opportunities in the international labour market.

Considerable debate exists over what constitutes legitimate reasons for forced migration: Is it only personal political persecution, as prevalent in international and in European and Latin American refugee law in particular? Or, is it also general persecution due to ethnically or religiously motivated violence, as defined in African refugee law? And, how about non-political motives to involuntarily leave one's home country, such as droughts, economic hardship and the effects of climate change? As working definitions, researchers at CeMig identify the states of refuge and migration as lying on a continuum where the exact position is determined by the degree of force involved. Voluntary migration defines one pole, and involuntary migration – also referred to as 'refuge' – the other.

Some of CeMig's researchers deconstruct the categories of migration and refuge in an attempt to broaden definitions as well as to provide a critical corrective on related political debates. For example, the woman who flees her

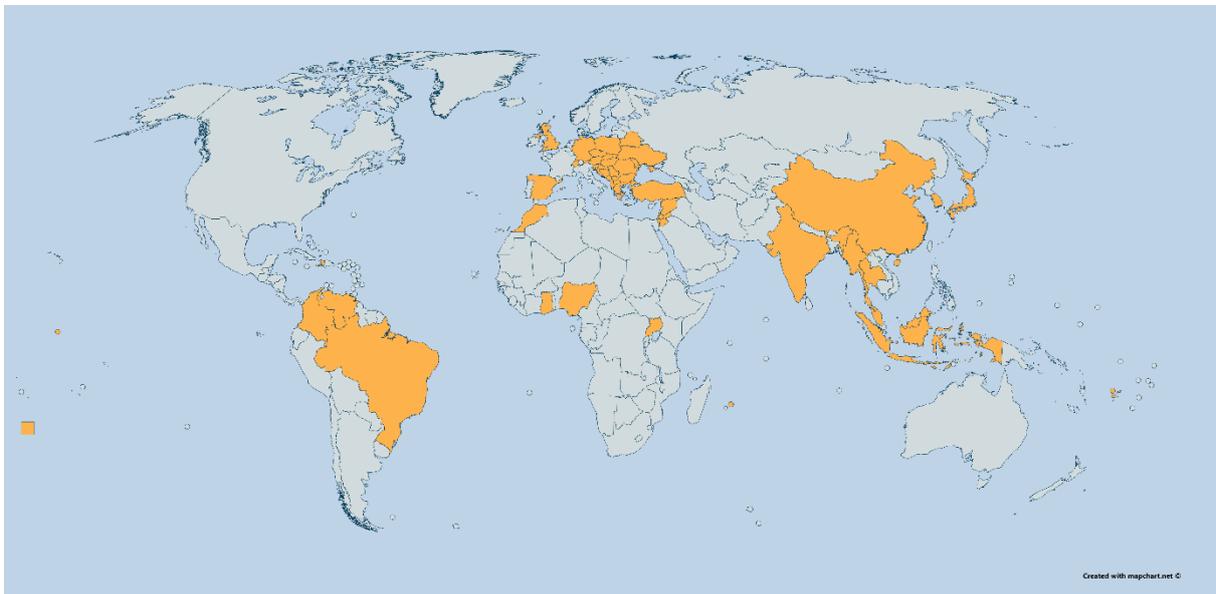
native country because she has been forcibly married and whose labour has been exploited by her husband's family neither experiences state persecution nor leaves her home voluntarily. Her journey does not fall under the

standard definitions of migration, but she might be equally likely to end up on the borders of Europe as the religiously persecuted Syrian Yezidian woman.



CeMig researchers conduct projects worldwide. It unites research findings from:

- **Europe**, esp. the Balkan States/Eastern Europe, Germany, Greece, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom
- **Asia**, esp. East Asia (China, Japan, Korea), South Asia (India), Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand)
- **Oceania**, esp. Central Pacific (Fiji, Kiribati)
- **Africa**, esp. North Africa (Morocco and the Spanish borderlands), West Africa (Ghana, Nigeria), Mauritius, Uganda
- **Middle East**, esp. Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Turkey and the Syrian borderlands
- **the Americas**, esp. Central America (Haiti), South America (Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela)



CeMig researchers focus on countries of origin, transit and destination, each with a different history of emigration and immigration. They gain differentiated insights into how societies deal with associated challenges. CeMig takes a comparative perspective across the globe: It looks at the fact that governments deal quite differently with migration and refugee flows,

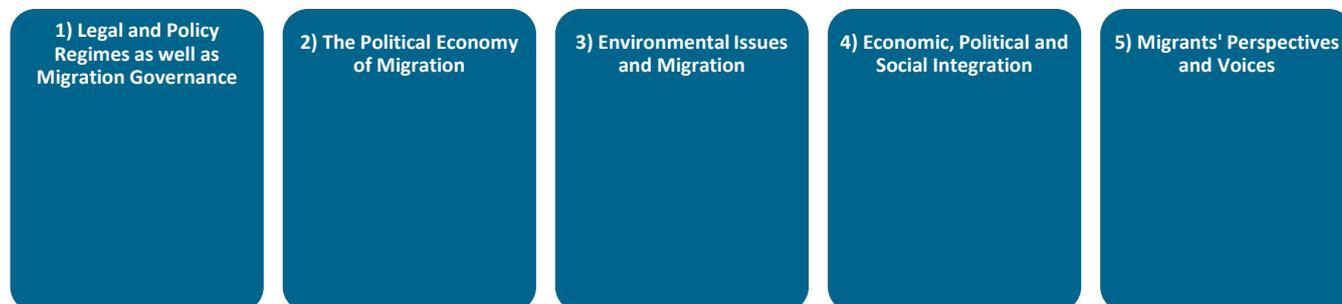
assigning them varying statuses and granting them different numbers of rights. Also, these studies from around the globe point to the various migration decisions to leave, move on, settle in or return, thereby covering the entire migration process. They look at the everyday realities in, for example, diaspora communities, how such individuals form relations, organise

or construct multiple belongings across national or even continental borders. These varied insights into national, regional and local contexts of migration, into situated practices,

allow for a global and decentralised perspective – as well as for greater understanding of transnational entanglements.

## 3.2. Thematic areas

In the longer term, and in order to take full advantage of the breadth and interdisciplinary nature of the collaboration occurring at CeMig, the Centre aims to organise its research along five thematic areas:



These different thematic areas comprise ongoing research projects and perspectives, and open up common ground for the discussion and development of new interdisciplinary research proposals:

**1) Legal and policy regimes as well as migration governance** are systematically explored and explained on a state, regional and international level. It is examined how different governments deal with migration and refugee flows. Some are relatively open towards refugees and migrants, and grant them rights; others regard them as guests having not many rights. On a regional level, there are ones where countries have developed a common migration and asylum policy based on international protection regimes like the 1951 Refugee Convention, such as in the European Union; whereas in others, such as Southeast Asia, a regional refugee protection system is lacking, with migration being managed on the individual-state level.

The focus on migration regimes also encompasses empirical research on border politics and the social construction of borders. The network of actors, practices, discourses and materialities is considered in particular in relation to recent developments on the EU's external borders. Under this focus, members mainly from the Faculties of Social Sciences, Humanities and Law are brought together: namely, from

the Institutes of Political Science and Sociology, the Centre of Methods in Social Sciences, the Critical Migration and Border Regime Research Laboratory at the Institute for Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology and the Chair of Civil, Labour and Social Law.

Seeking the collaboration of Development Economics, social and cultural scientists submitted a larger grant proposal to study **state responses to large flows of refugees on a state and regional level** ('Forced Migration and Policies: Mapping and Explaining State Responses across World Regions', submitted to the Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony in September 2019). The project systematically compares state responses across six world regions in countries that have recently seen large refugee flows from neighbouring states, such as Thailand in Southeast Asia, Jordan in the Middle East or Morocco in North Africa.

How migration and refugee flows are being managed on a state, regional and international level are also questions taken up by political scientists at the Department for International Relations, headed by Anja Jetschke. Research there is investigating for example: **Why do non-democratic governments commit to human rights on a regional level?** They argue that the negative externalities of political repression, operationalised as large amounts of transnational refugee flows, positively affect states'

willingness to commit to human rights. Neighbouring governments commit to human rights meanwhile to send a signal to their repressive neighbours that their behaviour will no longer be tolerated.

Sabine Hess and Alexander-Kenneth Nagel are the German principal investigators in the EU Horizon 2020 project 'RESPOND. Multilevel Governance of Mass Migration to Europe'. The consortium is formed of 14 partners from 11 source, transit and destination countries, and is coordinated by Uppsala University, Sweden. The main aim of this Europe-wide project is to provide an in-depth understanding of the **governance of recent forced migration movements at the macro, meso and micro levels** through cross-country comparative research and to critically analyse governance practices. RESPOND comprises five thematic fields: (1) Border management and migration control, (2) Refugee protection regimes, (3) Reception policies, (4) Integration policies and (5) Conflicting Europeanization. The University of Göttingen heads the work packages on border management and migration control as well as on reception policies. Another Horizon 2020 application with a similar consortium was submitted in March 2020 under the 'Narrative of Migration' programme.

Another project that looks at migration governance is the PhD programme 'Boundary Formations in Migration Societies' (funded by the Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony) that was jointly organised by CeMig and researchers at the Universities of Oldenburg and Osnabrück. It has a main cluster on **European border and asylum policies**, focusing on German, Italian and EU political developments since 2015 from an interdisciplinary perspective.

These projects indicate another emerging focus of CeMig: **Border Studies**, an interdisciplinary research field that is internationally growing but that has only been marginally institutionalised up to now within German academia, espe-

cially in relation to migration control. The project 'The Social Construction of Border Zones: A Comparison of Two Geopolitical Cases' (headed by Gabriele Rosenthal, and funded by the German Research Foundation, DFG) as well as The Critical Migration and Border Regime Research Laboratory both look at the political and social construction of border zones and border activities by various actors. These scholars from the Social Sciences and Cultural Anthropology are especially interested in the practical implementation – the 'doing' – of borders. Hence, they examine 'border(ing) activities' on a local, national and transnational level such as the EU border management policies as well as the subjective border experiences of members of different groupings (migrants, police forces, NGOs, smugglers, inhabitants of border regions etc.).

Members of the Faculty of Law focus on different legal areas and **how migration requires the adaptation or modification of international and domestic law**. In the field of labour law, scholars ask how regulations are being adapted in response to the increase of migration within and from outside of Europe. Migration meanwhile not only poses a challenge to domestic law, but also needs to be assessed and evaluated in the context of European integration.

**2) The political economy of migration** deals with the economic contexts to the phenomenon. Researchers are interested in the determinants and effects of migration and refuge in different countries and regions on the one hand, and study the relationship between labour and migration more generally on the other – also from a historical perspective. The research area therefore unites researchers from the Faculty of Business and Economics, Development Economics and History.

Various projects at the Department of Economics by the Chair of Human Resources Management and Asian Business focus on the conditions of leadership through **the integration of**

**migrants and expatriates in international companies.** For example, the project ‘Knowledge and Innovation in, to, and from Emerging Markets’ (K.I.T.F.E.M.; headed by Fabian J. Froese, and funded by Horizon 2020) aims to study the management of knowledge and innovation in, to and from emerging markets, with special emphasis on impacts on the EU. With the proposed secondment of 15 partners in 9 countries around the world and across 4 continents, individuals from both academic and non-academic sectors, KITFEM combines research on the issue of knowledge and innovation between emerging markets and European enterprises, and knowledge sharing and dissemination around the world so as to enhance the impact of European innovation.

The impact that migration has on **development** in countries of destination/origin is studied by Development Economics. In particular, these scholars assess the welfare impact of remittances on poor and non-poor households in sending countries, as well as the importance of governmental policies that promote reductions in the cost of sending remittances – given the important role they play in fostering economic development in these countries. A second line of research relates to the effect of migration on wages in receiving countries, in particular in Central America and South America. One issue that has been investigated is whether the reception of immigrants lowers the wages of natives, and to what extent this differs by occupation and sector for the case of Nicaragua. This research is going to be extended to Colombia and the particular case of migrants from Venezuela. A third line of research focuses on the analysis of the socio-economic and political determinants of bilateral migration and asylum flows, including ‘push’ and ‘pull’ factors – with a special focus on Germany, as one of the main receiving countries of asylum seekers.

The relationship between **migration and labour** is picked up by Ravi Ahuja as head of the research group ‘Modern Indian History’. He takes a global and South Asian perspective by

examining, for example, the social history of South Asian seafarers and the emergence of a labour-centred social policy in mid-20th century India.

**3) Environmental issues and migration** addresses the question of how environmental contexts and factors interrelate with migration decisions and patterns, and how communities deal with these circumstances. The level of governance and regulation is also of importance here, with a special focus on how environmentally induced migration and flight are legally and politically framed and regulated. These questions are tackled mainly by researchers from Social Anthropology, Development Economics and Human Geography.

Relocation due to environmental transformations and the imagination of migration due to impacts of climate change have been studied by Elfriede Hermann. Research focuses on how projected consequences of climate change influence the **cultural constituting of belonging and attitudes towards migration in the atoll state of Kiribati and in the state of Fiji, both in Oceania.** Looking both at government policies and local discourses, research attended to how policymakers and citizens deal with *in situ* adaptation and the question of migration as adaptation. Studies traced different politics of hope emerging from climate-change-policy discourses and practices regarding migration.

Development economists (headed by Inmaculada Martinez-Zarzoso) address the gaps that remain in our understanding of the complex linkages between climate change and migration by identifying **stylised facts about the nexus between climatic factors and migration.** They distinguish between fast onset and slow onset climatic events, while considering the heterogeneity of both origin countries and of types of migrants. Moreover, they shed light on the underlying mechanisms behind this nexus as well as the interplay between different means of adaptation.

**4) Economic, political and social integration of migrants and refugees into the societies of host states** is the focus of the fourth research cluster. What are the necessary conditions for successful integration? While the ultimate effects of migration on societies might differ from country to country and between world regions, on an analytical level the challenges posed by migration in its voluntary and involuntary forms are rather similar. Migrants and refugees need to be hosted and housed, their children need to be schooled, they want and need to be trained, have access to regular work, enjoy the benefits of medical and social systems, and to acquire entitlement to political participation. Here, not only legal statuses but also rather classical sociological categories of ethnicity, gender, religious affiliation, cultural background and level of education explain the integration pathways and trajectories of migrants and refugees; these are consequently all explored. CeMig – from the perspectives of Interpretive Social Research, Sociology, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Theology, Development Economics, German Studies, Agroecology and History – assembles a broad range of studies within this cluster, again covering different contemporary and historical perspectives from respective world regions:

There is for example the research project ‘Dynamic Figurations of Refugees, Migrants and Long-Time Residents in Jordan’ funded by the DFG that takes a **longitudinal perspective, and focuses on the successful integration of refugees in Jordan from 1946 onwards**. Jordan has seen the integration of migrants from neighbouring countries for many decades now. This project, headed by Gabriele Rosenthal, seeks to identify the conditions of success. Another research project by Gabriele Rosenthal focusing on processes of inclusion and participation is entitled ‘Biographies of Migrants from Syria and West Africa in Brazil and in Germany’. This comparative project reconstructs the **biographical and collective histories of people**

**from Syria and West Africa who have been living in Brazil or in Germany** for a number of years. Whereas it mainly focuses on those migrants generally labelled ‘irregular’ ones in the dominant social discourses, the aim is to analyse how people settle in very different life-worlds and in respective official and social contexts – as well as how processes of inclusion and participation vary in Brazil and Germany.

With a view on **religion** as a main identity category, Alexander Nagel heads a qualitative, comparative project on religious immigrant communities in Germany and Switzerland. The project aims to analyse strategies of adaptation, preservation and change in collective identity constructions and their impacts on civil society. Patrick Eisenlohr heads the research group ‘Society and Culture in Modern India’. They are interested in the study of religion, media and sociocultural diversity on the basis of their research on social and cultural transformations in contemporary India, and within Indian diasporas. As a principal investigator in the Erasmus + Jean Monnet network “Peace, War and the World in European Security challenges” Martin Tamcke studies migration of oriental-orthodox ethnic groups from a theological perspective. A workshop on “Religious fragmentation as factor of conflict” (April 2019) targeted on discussion of religious, cultural and social specific aspects of regional conflicts and migration.

**Gender-related research** projects analyse recent experiences in the field of refugee reception and integration. They combine micro-analytical approaches on life biographies with policy-oriented research approaches focusing on law. The research project ‘Gender, Forced Migration and the Politics of Reception: Processes of Gendered Inclusion and Exclusion in Lower Saxony’ (headed by Sabine Hess, and funded by the Ministry for Science and Culture) addresses gender as a category of differentiation in the multilevel governance of refugee re-

ception in Germany and points out rationalisations for, circumstances in and effects of women-specific support structures.

Research on refugee camps in Germany and Europe such as in Greece, Montenegro and Serbia by scholars from the Social Sciences and Cultural Anthropology focuses on **humanitarian patterns**, ‘camp life’ as well as on social, legal, political and technical infrastructures of encampment policies and their implementation.

Members of the Sociological Research Institute Göttingen (SOFI) and the Chair of Sociology/Work, Companies and Economy are concerned with the composition and organisation of nationally and ethnically differentiated labour forces, and how different migrant groups are being integrated into the job market as well as into individual work sites. Several research projects on **work integration** investigate with quantitative as well as qualitative ethnographic approaches the recent refugee-migration movements since 2015 (Peter Birke) as well as the long-established labour migrants of the ‘guest worker system’ (Janina Söhn) and their more or less hierarchical inclusion in the German labour market and social system. Another historical perspective is taken by Bruno Witzel, associated with the Chair of Development Economics. The project ‘Labor, Livelihood, and Immigration in a Brazilian Plantation’ looks at integration processes of German-speaking immigrants to Brazil in the 19th century. From an agronomic perspective, how migration is affected by and impacts on agriculture and rural development is studied. In particular, members of the Chair Agribusiness Management examine different types of work migration (seasonal and temporary) in the agricultural sector. To what extent do the skills of migrants – many of them highly educated – meet the needs of the low-skilled labour sectors, such as in agriculture?

**Urban migration** and the question of how municipal authorities and civil society have shaped and continue to shape inclusion and

participation was the focus of the ‘Urban Lab: Migration Moves Göttingen’” (see also chapter 3.4). The project launched by social and cultural scientists from CeMig explored the conditions of success as well as deficits of local-integration politics and policies in Göttingen. It organised an interdisciplinary and intersectoral debate on the role of municipalities in regard of refugee reception and integration, and also looked at best practices elsewhere in both Germany and Europe. The Urban Lab developed cross-sectoral policy recommendations on how to improve the municipal politics and policies on-site in Göttingen. It gave impulses on how to improve solidarity and participation in welfare and educational infrastructures, as well as in civil society-related support programmes. A follow-up project will be submitted to the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) this year. It aims to focus on the expertise of (post-)migrant civil society and to use the wealth of experience of migrant self-organisations and immigrants in particular as a starting point for further shaping integration and participation processes. The Chair of Theory and Methods of History looks at meaning- and identity-generating strategies of migrants regarding how to position themselves between their former and new culture and environment in the cities of Berlin, London, Toronto and Singapore. The aim is to divulge structural changes in the positioning of migrant groups from the middle of the 19th to the beginning of the 21st century.

The challenges of mass migration for the **educational sector** are in particular addressed by the Professorship for Interculturality and Multilingualism at the Department for Intercultural German Studies. The central task is the formation of a theory that provides a link between ‘interculturality’ and ‘multilingualism’ (hitherto negotiated under different educational policy guidelines) in order to develop related research and teaching perspectives. These tensions between language(s), migration and internationalisation are differentiated with a view

to two areas: that of scientific reflection and that of mediation perspectives. In the context of migration and multilingualism, concepts for the mediation of German as a second, foreign, educational and scientific language could be developed. They juxtapose ‘multilingualism as an educational goal’ and ‘migration-related multilingualism’, and aim to develop an ‘educational language’ multilingualism beyond (deficit-oriented) language-support concepts. A pilot project developed an advanced training programme for the academic integration of teachers originally trained in Syria. It determined the specific needs vis-à-vis further education for the selected target group, and at the same time launched the official recognition procedure for their native diplomas.

**5) Migrants’ perspectives and voices** are the key focus of members from the Faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities. They bring migrants’ and refugees’ practices, as well as their own subjective understandings and conceptualisations, to the fore. This research focus is interested in practices of mobility and translocal life projects, alongside migrants’ and refugees’ experiences with belonging, home-making and participation in nationally organised societies. The experiences and voices of migrants often remain unheard in the politicised debates; therefore, many research projects in this cluster collaborate with public and cultural institutions such as museums to represent these views and outlooks.

The project ‘Uncertainty and Home-Making among Female Refugees in Lower Saxony’ (as part of the broader one ‘Gender, Forced Migration and the Politics of Reception’) aims to investigate **processes of making ‘home’ among refugee women** who are in a state of limbo and differ in age, ethnicity/race and social background. Based on biographical-narrative interviews, it explores how the search for a home functions as a coping strategy to address the uncertainties that arise from flight. The project examines how refugee women draw on various

elements of material culture, memories and networks in the home, transit and host countries in order to make a home for both themselves and family members. The research focuses on reception centres, community housing and on other forms of accommodation situated in Lower Saxony.

Local discourses on migration were studied as part of research on the topic ‘Dealing with Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise: **Transformations of Place and Belonging** in Today’s Kiribati’. Elfriede Hermann describes the disagreement that exists in this central Pacific atoll state about international migration as a response to the consequences of climate change, and the need for international relocation in future. Since all atoll inhabitants feel deeply attached to their land, the dominant discourse in this context is insisting on the right not to migrate. However, a minority have started to ‘imagine’ collective international migration when the Kiribati government purchased a large freehold estate in Fiji. The research project demonstrates vividly how people make sense of migration on their own terms.

If one had to decide what things to take with them upon leaving, what would they be? Individuals take with them the most astonishing things; some of them useful, other not. Why? The research project ‘On the Materiality of (Forced) Migration’ (funded by the BMBF) seeks to understand the **relationship between humans and things in the context of flight and migration**. The cooperative project between the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, the Museum Friedland and the Berlin-based exhibition agency ‘Die Exponauten. Exhibitions et cetera’ builds on ethnographic fieldwork in the Friedland Transit Camp (FTC). It follows people, things and discourses on their journey to other places, and investigates the process of their onward travel and arrival. The research examines the significance of things, the expectations for the future that inhabitants of the FTC connect with these things as well as

the perspectives of locals about the FTC as well  
as the topics of flight and migration.

### 3.3. Education

#### *Teaching*

The diverse nature of the research activities conducted in the field of Migration Studies at the University of Göttingen is also reflected in teaching. Each term CeMig collects migration-themed lectures and seminars from the six different faculties and makes them visible at a glance on its homepage. This enables more comprehensive, interest-led study in the field of Migration Studies. Among the many lectures and seminars (see Annex) are also various **research study projects**:

- Biographical histories of migrants: Processes of inclusion and participation in the context of so-called irregular migration I + II (Gabriele Rosenthal)
- Migration @ Work: Work and employment relationships of migrants (Peter Birke)
- Exploring and developing multilingual competences (Andrea Bogner und Jaqueline Gutjahr)
- Cities as laboratories of the immigration society: Cultural anthropological perspectives on migration, flight and city after the Summer of Migration 2015 (Sabine Hess)
- Success stories of arrivals: Interdisciplinary teaching research project in refugee aid (Alexander Nagel)

In the long run, CeMig envisions to join forces for an interdisciplinary curriculum or its own Master's programme.

#### *Migration Research Labs and support for (post)doctoral researchers*

Doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers alike benefit from CeMig's well-developed network both within and beyond Göttingen Campus. In addition to the already-existing conferences, lectures and talks hosted by

its members, CeMig organised Migration Research Labs in order to provide exchange fora in which early-career researchers from all fields can meet leading experts as well as learn from one another.

The **1st Lab (December 2018) with Prof. Dr. Shahram Khosravi (Stockholm University) and Prof. Dr. Sabine Hess (CeMig)** was designed to initiate discussion about critical migration and border regime studies in the EU and beyond. Empirical researchers working on topics like irregular migration, reception policies, border control and the transformations of migration governance, border regimes or humanitarianism were invited to share ethnographic insights, methodological questions and analytical challenges regarding current shifts and continuities in the European border regime.

The **2nd Lab (January 2019) with Prof. Dr. Ranabir Samaddar (Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group), Prof. Dr. Ravi Ahuja (Centre for Modern Indian Studies, CeMIS) and Prof. Dr. Sabine Hess (CeMig)** was jointly hosted by CeMIS and CeMig. It took as its starting point the fact that Europe's present situation bears remarkable similarity with the postcolonial bind in which South Asia and much of the world indeed finds itself. Taking a critical postcolonial perspective on both world regions, PhD students and postdoctoral researchers from various disciplines reflected on the concept of the nation state, constructs of borders as well as the often restrictive and contradictory policies and programmes relating to immigration and refugee protection. The focus was on the postcolonial political, ideological and discursive contexts in which migration appears as a 'crisis' for Europe, but also for other parts of the world too.

The **Critical Migration and Border Regime Research Laboratory** at the Institute for Cultural

Anthropology/European Ethnology brings together over 15 PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers on a regular basis. Based all over Germany, they continuously come together for an intensive course. The Laboratory especially tries to find innovative ways for peer feedback on the progress of their respective projects, and to learn from each other's varied disciplinary perspectives.

CeMig members were also involved in offering structured graduate programmes. The **PhD programme 'Boundary Formations in Migration Societies'** (2018–2020; funded by the Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony; participating CeMig members: Ravi Ahuja, Sabine Hess) combines the cultural-scientific research perspectives at the Centre for Migration, Education and Cultural Studies (CMC, University of Oldenburg), IMIS and the Critical Migration and Border Regime Research Laboratory (University of Göttingen). The programme offers a framework for doctoral projects that deal with the mutually constitutive relationship between the formation of boundaries and the constitution of orders of difference and belonging in migration societies.

Furthermore, CeMig provided support for individual researchers. In the reporting period it supported five applications for international **fellowships** (Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Fulbright Scholar Programme) and enabled two fellows to undertake a research stay at CeMig:

- H. Pinar Şenoğuz was hosted from 2016–2018 with means from the Philipp Schwartz Initiative, which funds fellowships for threatened foreign researchers. Currently she conducts research on uncertainty and home-making among female refugees in Lower Saxony within the framework of the project 'Gender, Forced Migration and the Politics of Reception'.
- Reza Bayat is supported by a scholarship from the DAAD. His PhD focuses on trauma

narratives among Iranian refugees and asylum seekers in Germany.

CeMig also provides a platform to support initiatives launched from among its PhD and postdoctoral members:

In December 2019, an interdisciplinary **pre-launch of the book *Globalization and the Rise of Mass Education*** (edited by David Mitch, University of Maryland-Baltimore County and Gabriele Cappelli, University of Sienna) was jointly organised by CeMig and the Courant Research Centre 'Poverty, Equity and Growth in Developing Countries'. It brought together specialists in the fields of Economic History and Development Economics to discuss the themes of globalisation, human-capital formation, long-term development and international migration.

#### *Promotion of equality, diversity and family-friendliness*

The promotion of early-career and (threatened) foreign researchers is but one pillar of a general commitment to the university's objective of facilitating all its employees and students enjoying equal opportunities and protection against discrimination, regardless of gender, age, sexual orientation, religion and belief, disability and chronic illness, ethnic and social origin, and irrespective of different experience backgrounds, household and family constellations, and life situations. The promotion of equal opportunities and diversity therefore forms an important cross-sectional framework to organise tasks, structures and processes at CeMig. In concrete terms this means for its activities that:

- Correspondence and publications are written in **gender-sensitive language**
- Meetings and events are scheduled in such a way as to ensure the **compatibility of academic studies/research/work life with family and private life**

- **Multilingualism** is considered to the greatest possible extent. Public events are either held in German or English, in order to integrate the (international) research community and/or the general interested public. Translation and interpreting are also offered in some cases. It is desirable and preferable to promote and realise multilingualism as a general concern in research communication. However, the necessary financial resources for this are currently lacking.
- CeMig supports the university's **research-oriented and research-based diversity strategy** by bringing relevant knowledge into respective policies or working groups (for example, participation in the exchange on the positioning of the university and especially the Faculty of Philosophy vis-à-vis right-wing extremism).

### 3.4. Outreach, Third Mission and Societal Impact

More than any other social phenomenon, migration affects societies worldwide. Currently it is the subject of extremely controversial debates and polarises societies not only in Germany and Europe, but in other world regions too. The protection of refugees, the governance of migration movements, the integration of newly arriving people or the shaping of the (post-)migrant society are but a few of these much-debated challenges. In view of these, research and teaching activities at CeMig are committed to reaching beyond the academic context. It is thus CeMig's aim to promote:

- **Outreach and knowledge transfer:** CeMig shares insights from ongoing research projects and makes them accessible to a wider public via its own paper series and various events
- **Collaborative research:** CeMig cultivates close relations to practitioners and actors from civil society in Göttingen, and seeks exchange with relevant stakeholders. It strives to embrace their knowledge by integrating it into research perspectives
- **Engagement in the public and political debate:** CeMig aims to make research expertise applicable to the questions of both today and tomorrow. It contextualises knowledge in order to objectify heated debates, or translates knowledge into policy implications in order to meet the societal demand for scientifically grounded solutions.

At the same time, CeMig leads self-reflexive discussion and critically examines the opportunities and risks of science communication. What role can migration researchers play in the public debate? What impact do migration researchers have on politics and the media? Which contexts and conditions make the dialogue between science and society easier or more difficult?

#### *Outreach and knowledge transfer*

To communicate research findings, CeMig has developed its own **working paper series**. '**Global Migration Studies**' provides a platform for migration research from various disciplinary standpoints that take a transnational and global perspective. The series aims to ensure the initial dissemination of cutting-edge migration research and of contributions from migrants, activists, politicians, policymakers and other relevant stakeholders. The first issue (Hess, Jetschke and Günther, forthcoming) combines talks from a CeMig lecture series with a special issue on 'Against the Mantra of Fighting the Root Causes of Migration: Discourses, Policies, Challenges' (translated title, contributions in German and English).

In order to share knowledge from ongoing research projects, CeMig also hosted and organised a number of **events** in various formats. Via the CeMig newsletter, university members and the broader public were invited to attend.

CeMig has its own **public lecture series**. In winter term 2018/2019 it was devoted to the subject of '**Root Causes of Forced Migration: Interdisciplinary Insights and Political Challenges**', and discussed critical perspectives on current debates and research regarding the root causes of forced migration. The contributions from academics and practitioners alike highlighted the complex interrelations that lie behind the political narrative of preventing irregular migration by combating its root causes. The series covered a range of topics, from biographical self-representations of migrants and refugees, connections to development and humanitarian aid, to the analysis of linkages with colonial heritages. In addition, a discussion panel on 'The Fight against the Causes of Forced Migration: Critique, Discourses, Politics and Options for Action' involved activists and practitioners with and without migration/flight biographies.

In summer term 2019, CeMig shed light on **‘Migration and Regimes of Migration Control’** in regional comparison. More directed towards the academic debate, well-known researchers spelled out migration regimes in various contexts: in the transnational movements and religious conversion of North Korean migrant-refugees, in ‘climate migration’, interstate cooperation on the deportation of irregular migrants between the EU and its member states, or in global skilled migration and neoliberal-language regimes. In the aftermath of the European elections in May 2019, a panel discussion illuminated the role of migration in the European (dis)integration process as well as in the reconfiguration of Europe’s borders and citizenship.

At the **4th Night of Science** (26 January 2019) held at the University of Göttingen, CeMig hosted a **panel discussion on the role of migration researchers in the public debate**. Together with migration researchers, the university’s vice president and journalists, it was discussed whether migration researchers are sufficiently heard in the media debate. Or if, in view of fake news and populism, they need to make themselves (more) heard in the news. In addition, bite-sized video clips were shown in cooperation with ‘Migration Matters’ (a non-profit organisation whose mission is to empower the public to have more nuanced and evidence-based conversations about migration). The videos complemented commonly held perceptions about migration with original ideas, research and solutions-oriented perspectives.

On the initiative of Margarete Boos (Head of the Department of Social and Communication Psychology), and in collaboration with the Incoming Office of the International Office of the Uni-

versity of Göttingen, CeMig is involved in building a regional network between partners of the university and stakeholder groups in order to exchange knowledge, formulate needs and develop concrete mutual plans regarding the **integration of refugees in the local education and labour markets**. A first networking workshop was held on 17 January 2020.

In addition, CeMig members actively pass on their knowledge to a non-academic audience (see Annex) by:

- publishing and contributing to non-academic literature
- giving talks or engaging in dialogue with stakeholders at public events, expert symposiums or advanced trainings
- consulting and briefing stakeholders from civil society, politics, industry and business

#### *Collaborative research: ‘Urban Lab: Migration Moves Göttingen’*

In March 2019, cultural and social scientists from CeMig initiated a cooperative project with cultural institutions, civil society and practitioners from Göttingen. ‘Urban Lab: Migration Moves Göttingen’<sup>1</sup> opened a physical and social space outside of the campus – in the building of a former pharmacy, opposite the town hall – to discuss local and best practices on how to design a city in which all people, regardless of origin, nationality or residence status, have the right to live, reside and work.

The Urban Lab was driven by the principle of looking at the social phenomenon of migration more as a chance and less as a ‘crisis’ – as most political and often populist discourses do. It was inspired by the observation that in view of the European refugee and asylum policy crisis

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<sup>1</sup> [www.stadtlabor-migration.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.stadtlabor-migration.uni-goettingen.de) (March 2019–March 2020; funded by the Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony within the initiative ‘Niedersächsisches Vorab’ of the Volkswagen Foundation).

and the blockade attitude of many national governments as well, an increasing number of cities and municipalities are claiming a more humane and liberal migration policy. City governments and administrations network transnationally to demonstrate their willingness to receive refugees rescued from the Mediterranean Sea regardless of European quota agreements. At the same time, grassroots initiatives like ‘Solidarity City’ promote the right to urban citizenship and equal participation in urban society.

Over 20 groups – migrant self-organisations, civil society initiatives and professional organisations – became involved in the Urban Lab. Together with the initiating academic and cultural workers they held over 35 public events. In different formats – academic presentations, theatre performances, video productions, dialogue sessions, film screenings – participants aimed at exchanging views on the future design of (post-)migrant societies.

Research here was allocated the role of being primarily a listener to the experiences, expertise and questions of those who are usually consulted only as the subjects of research projects. Instead of talking and writing about them – as many research interactions especially during and after the ‘long summer of migration in 2015’ were perceived to be – the Urban Lab opened up a setting in which researchers started by listening to the analyses of migrants and refugees, or of those who are in direct contact with them as mediators. They contextualised perceptions and moderated exchange and dialogue between different actors, including the municipality. They facilitated a process in which those who are usually less heard in debates about the (post-)migrant society had a forum to become visible in and a position to speak from.

As a preliminary conclusion of the project taking place towards the end of the funding period, the brochure ‘What makes a city for everyone? Impulses and recommendations for a solidarity-based Göttingen’ (Hess 2020, translated

title, original in German) brought together 17 compelling analyses of the existing circumstances of the (post-)migrant society in Göttingen. Taken together, they clearly state demands for greater participation, involvement and solidarity: 1. migrant self-organisations should be supported with their expertise and in their role as mediators; 2. shaping integration also requires more access to municipal institutions and co-determination in municipal actions; 3. society’s diversity must also be reflected more strongly in cultural (self-)expressions and cultural institutions themselves; and, 4. discrimination and structural exclusions – in everyday life, at work, at home, in the housing market and in healthcare – must be effectively counteracted.

The Urban Lab resulted not only in new research questions and first proposals but also in sustainable networks and cooperative relations, so that CeMig can continue to pursue its ‘third mission’ in the future.

### *Engaging in the public debate*

Researchers at CeMig critically monitor the public debate on migration, flight and integration. They provide scientifically based assessments of currently debated issues. Beyond that, CeMig believes that at a time when exclusionary opinion-making and right-wing populist politics are developing ever-greater potential for mobilisation it is a challenge to society as a whole to counter divisive rhetoric and practices. Cultural institutions are an indispensable actor to help translate research knowledge for a broader public beyond the usual audience for academic events and readers of academic publications.

When the **Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration** became the subject of controversial and emotional debate in December 2019, cultural anthropologists, sociologists, political scientists and legal experts from CeMig criticised in a joint press release the fact that right-wing populist voices and conspiracy

theories far outweighed differentiated and objective debate. Instead, scholars assessed the opportunities and shortcomings of the Global Compact from their respective disciplinary perspectives. CeMig also compiled scientific publications, press articles and blogs with statements by other migration researchers and made them available on its homepage for further reading. The public was also invited to discuss the topic with invited guests of the lecture series. Dr. Steffen Angenendt (The German Institute for International and Security Affairs) and Dr. Constantin Hruschka (Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy Munich) discussed ‘Problems and opportunities of global migration governance – The global pacts on migration and flight, and their implementation’. Prof. Dr. Ranabir Samaddar (Calcutta Research Group) drew a postcolonial critique of the related emerging global apparatus of care and power.

In cooperation with the cultural centre KAZ (Göttinger Kommunikations- und Aktionszentrums) and a subsidiary of the municipality working to promote employment (Beschäftigungsförderung Göttingen), CeMig hosted the **exhibition ‘Omid – Hope’** (translated title, original in German) from May to June 2019. It was sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony and the Church District of Göttingen. Curated by artist-in-residence Ammar Hatem, the exhibition showed portrait photographs from Iran. The photos by graphic artist Arasch Zandieh and

journalist and documentary photographer Shirin Abedi who themselves were born in Iran but have been living in Germany for a long time were shown in the foyer of the Cultural Studies Centre of the University of Göttingen. The exhibition aimed at supporting and empowering artists who had to leave their countries of origin because of the consequences of war and violence, poverty or a lack of prospects. The artistic examination of questions of mobility, belonging and identity intended to revise the often problem-focused narrative and media coverage of (forced) migration. Instead, it made visible the skills and creativity of the migrants and refugees living among the (post-)migrant society.

Cooperation with participating institutions and artists was further expanded within the framework of the Urban Lab: It followed an exhibition by Arasch Zandieh with portraits of residents of one site of refugee accommodation (‘My new home’, translated title, September–October 2019). CeMig also supported the installation of an artwork designed by Ammar Hatem. The board game was installed on the campus to invite students and other passers-by to revive an old orientalist gaming tradition.

In view of the ongoing debates over **sea rescue or human rights violations on the EU’s external borders**, several events were also held as part of the Urban Lab (partly in cooperation with Seebrücke [Safe Harbours] Göttingen) to put forward models for a humane European migration policy.

## 4. Cooperation and Network

### *Göttingen Campus*

In order to further establish migration as a cross-cutting topic, CeMig cooperates with existing research networks and institutions on Göttingen Campus. Through joint events and research activities CeMig and its members are closely linked to:

- the Sociological Research Institute Göttingen (SOFI)
- the Göttingen Centre for Gender Studies (GCG)
- the Forum for Interdisciplinary Religious Studies (FIRSt)
- the Courant Research Centre ‘Poverty, Equity and Growth in Developing Countries’

To broaden the global perspective on migration, CeMig is also in close exchange with the **Global and Transregional Studies Platform – Göttingen** and its partner institutes, **especially the Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS)** and the **Centre for Modern East Asian Studies (CeMEAS)**.

### *Regional and national cooperation*

CeMig and its members are involved in several research-related activities, networks and projects on the **regional level in Lower Saxony**:

- **‘Boundary Formations in Migration Societies’**, PhD program in cooperation with the Center for Migration, Education and Cultural Studies (CMC), University of Oldenburg and the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS), University of Osnabrück
- **‘Gender, Forced Migration and the Politics of Reception’**, collaborative research project with the GCG, IMIS and the Centre for

Interdisciplinary Research on Women and Gender (ZFG), University of Oldenburg

- Guest professorship in Gender and Migration Studies (2017), resulting from the **Gender and Migration Research Network for Lower Saxony** launched by Sabine Hess (CeMig) and Helen Schwenken (IMIS)

Meanwhile, the coordinator and individual members of CeMig maintain close exchange and network activities with the:

- **Research and Transfer Office for Migration Policy**, University of Hildesheim: Mutual exchange at events (e.g. kick-off workshop ‘Transfer in Forced Migration Studies’ (1–2 April 2019, organised by the University of Hildesheim) or the public panel discussions ‘City – country – refuge’ (17 August 2020, as part of the Urban Lab) and continuous exchange on future possibilities for cooperation
- the **German Center for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM)** in Berlin and the member institutes of the DeZIM research association
- **Berlin Institute for Integration and Migration Research (BIM)** at the Humboldt University of Berlin

Members of CeMig are also part of the **Council for Migration** (Sabine Hess is a member of the board of directors).

### *International cooperation and networks*

Beyond the individual networks of its members, CeMig (see Annex) maintains international exchange on an institutional level.

### **CeMig Opening Conference: ‘Migration as a Global Challenge: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on a Complex Field’ (21–23 June 2018)**

The transregional global perspective in research was highlighted at the CeMig Opening Conference in June 2018. Researchers from all six faculties and the MPIMMG were involved in planning, organisation and hosting, so that the conference further intensified internal exchange. Presentations by invited colleagues from various world regions testified to existing research networks and provided the basis for future cooperation. Among the 147 conference participants were representatives of important migration centres (including IMIS, DeZIM, the Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees (CESSMIR, University of Ghent) and the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford). The conference also brought together researchers from the Universities of Ghent, Groningen, Uppsala and Göttingen, who, within the strategic partnership of the U4Society Network, are seeking further cooperation within a cluster focus on ‘Migration’.

#### **U4**

The U4Society Network is a European University Network that includes five partners: the University of Ghent, University of Göttingen, University of Groningen, University of Tartu, Estonia, and Uppsala University. The topic of migration is well established within the Social Sciences, Economics and Law (SSEL) cluster. U4 network members were invited to actively contribute to CeMig’s Opening Conference. From an internal meeting resulted the agreement to intensify the exchange especially on theoretical and methodological questions. CeMig and CESSMIR therefore convened a roundtable on the interaction between legal and socio-legal empirical perspectives on migration at the cluster’s conference in November 2018. To jointly host a series of summer schools is an anticipated goal for the coming years. CeMig members also closely cooperate with the

Department of Social Psychology, University of Groningen, on issues related to the integration of refugees (teaching concepts; labour-market integration).

#### **Further international research networks:**

In addition to cooperative relations between CeMig members (see Annex), there are also sustainable cooperation initiatives and networks that exist through the aforementioned various research projects:

- **14 partners from source, transit and destination countries** as part of the project consortium of ‘RESPOND: Multilevel Governance of Mass Migration in Europe and Beyond’ (Uppsala University, Sweden/ Glasgow Caledonian University, UK/ University of Göttingen, Germany/ University of Cambridge, UK/ Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey/ Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, Turkey/ University of Florence, Italy/ Ozyegin, Turkey/ University of the Aegean, Greece/ Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria/ University of Warsaw, Poland/ University of Copenhagen, Denmark/ Lebanon Support, Lebanon/ Hamurabi Human Rights Organisation, Iraq)
- A network of **European and emerging countries’ (i.e. Argentina, China, Mexico, Morocco and Vietnam) knowledge and innovation scientists, universities and research centres** as part of the project “K.I.F.T.E.M.: Knowledge and Innovation in, to and from Emerging Markets” (CUNEF, Spain/ Università del Salento, Italy/ University of Göttingen, Germany/ Ministerio Ciencia, Tecnología, innovación productiva, Argentina/ Al Akhawayn University, Morocco/ Jinan University, China/ Naica, Italy/ Peking University, China/ Southern Denmark University, Denmark/ Vietnam National University – University of Economics and Business, Vietnam/ Renmin University of China, China/ EKA,

Italy/ ITESM, Mexico/ MADRIMASD, Spain)

- A network of **partner universities from the Balkan states** jointly organise a series of summer schools. The summer school ‘Migration in the Western Balkans – From Transit to Reception’ (Belgrade, 24–28 September 2018) addressed the situation faced by (trans)migrants in the Western Balkans after the closure of the ‘formalised corridor’ in March 2016. It was a joint project of the Department of Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology, University of Göttingen, the Research Centre of the Academy of Sciences and Arts (Slovenia), the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research (Croatia), and the Institute of Ethnography SASA (Serbia). It was funded by the DAAD, with the German Federal Foreign Office contributing. As a result, a special issue on ‘The European Border Regime in the Balkans’ in *movements: journal for critical and migration and border regime studies* was launched. The editorial board brings together members of CeMig, of the Ethnographic Institute, Belgrade, and of the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb. A second summer school in critical migration and border studies is planned in 2020 in Rijeka, Croatia, with funds from the Faculty of Humanities, University of Göttingen, and the Ministry for Education of Croatia.
- CeMig hosted the workshop ‘Intersections of Humanitarianism’ in November 2019. It was the kick-off event for the **Anthropology of Humanitarianism Network (AHN) of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)** (funded by the Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony, EASA and the Council for European Studies, Columbia University).
- CeMig members cooperate with **partner universities in India** (University of Mumbai and Savitribai Phule Pune University)

within an institutional partnership funded by the DAAD. Together, they develop theoretical concepts and analyse contexts of multilingualism in India and Germany.

### *Prospects*

- CeMig is included in the ENLIGHT application of the University of Göttingen. Together with eight other European universities, it aims to form a **European University Network** to promote equal quality of life, sustainability and global engagement through higher education transformation.
- When successful, the proposed **research alliance** on ‘Forced Migration and Policies: Mapping and Explaining State Responses across World Regions’ (submitted to the Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony) intends to further expand national as well as international cooperation.
- Under development is a cooperation initiative with university partners in the Middle East, especially with the **American University in Cairo**, Egypt, and with **Lebanon Support**, an independent non-governmental, non-religious, non-political and non-profit information and research centre. CeMig cooperates in a summer school organised by both partners on ‘Governing Migration in the MENA Region: European Politics, the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, and National Responses’ (expected to be in June 2020).
- Membership of the **European Network International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE)** would be desirable for further networking. To date, the membership fee is beyond the financial means of CeMig.

## 5. Prospects

In the coming years, CeMig will work on the further interdisciplinary integration of research and teaching activities in the field of Migration Studies and towards the further anchoring of it in the research and teaching profile on Göttingen Campus.

To this end, important milestones and essential infrastructural premises are the:

- **Consolidation of innovative interdisciplinary research alliances by submitting joint proposals:** The thematic areas identified in Section 3.2 point the way forward in pooling multifaceted research expertise and disciplinary approaches so as to form innovative research consortia and submit joint applications as part of current proposals.
  - **Establishment of migration as a cross-cutting theme in new research projects and the general aims of the University of Göttingen:** The existing cooperation with other institutions and centres on Göttingen Campus (see Section 4) is a viable starting point for responding to both current developments and future challenges. CeMig can make a valuable contribution to the number of sustainability-oriented research projects at the university. Migration opens up a
- new perspective on existing topics, and it connects hitherto unrelated ones – for example on (im)mobility and climate change, land and resource use, development and global health. In this sense, CeMig can both play a strong role and be institutionally strengthened during preparations for forthcoming excellence strategies.
- **Strengthening of innovative research and teaching profiles:** In order to remain connected to current developments and trends in Global Migration Studies, CeMig will lobby for establishing tenure-track positions that promise to make innovative contributions to issues of global migration. The establishment of a junior professorship for Global Migration Studies would help to further link research-oriented teaching projects and realise a respective Master's programme.
  - **Increase and consolidation of the resources for a coordinated infrastructure:** The internal and external networking activities necessary for the success of CeMig's tasks and activities require a well-equipped coordinator's position. The increase and consolidation of respective resources is of great concern for CeMig's future.

# Impressum

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