

**International conference and inauguration of the  
Collaborative Research Centre SFB 1604  
›Production of Migration: Figures, Infrastructures and Spaces‹  
23–25 October 2024, Osnabrück University**

**Conference venue:**

Main building (Castle) of Osnabrück University: Aula  
Neuer Graben 29, 49074 Osnabrück ([Map](#))

**Information & Contact details:**

[conference2024.producingmigration.org](https://conference2024.producingmigration.org)  
[sfb1604@uni-osnabrueck.de](mailto:sfb1604@uni-osnabrueck.de)

**Opening Programme, 23 October 2024**

from 17:00 Arrival and Registration

**18.00–20.00 OPENING OF THE SFB 1604**

**Opening addresses**

Susanne Menzel-Riedl (President of Osnabrück University)  
Falko Mohrs (Minister for Science and Culture, video message)  
Andreas Pott (SFB 1604 Spokesperson) and Helen Schwenken (IMIS Director)

**Panel discussion ›Migration research in times of social polarisation‹**

Janine Dahinden (Neuchâtel)  
Thomas Groß (SFB 1604)  
Stephan Lessenich (Frankfurt am Main)  
Moderation: Aladin El-Mafaalani (SFB 1604)

Music: Desislava Markova & Band

**from 20.00 RECEPTION**

- The opening event will be held in German, on-site translation into English will be provided. -

## Conference Programme, 24 October 2024

from 8.30 Arrival and Registration

### 9.00–9.30 PRODUCTION OF MIGRATION

Introduction into the SFB's Research Programme: Andreas Pott (SFB)

### 9.30–11.00 FIGURES

Catherine Ramírez (Santa Cruz): The Figure of the Migrant in the Postmigrant Moment  
 Karen Phaet (Leuven): The Social Production of Unequal Belonging: How Different Diversity Policies and Experiences Define Belonging for Muslim Immigrant Minorities in European Societies

Chair: Christoph Rass (SFB)

11.00–11.30 Coffee break

### 11.30–13.00 MIGRATION RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

Round Table with Adrian Favell (Cork), Maurice Stierl (SFB) and Martina Tazzioli (Bologna)

Chairs: Isabella Löhr (SFB) and Janine Dahinden (Neuchâtel/SFB)

13.00–14.00 Lunch break

### 14.00–15.30 INFRASTRUCTURES

Thomas Spijkerboer (Gent): The Global Mobility Infrastructure: Reconceptualising the Externalisation of Migration Control  
 Federica Infantino (Nice): Private Companies, Bureaucracies, Intermediaries, and People on the Move: A Street-Level View of Migration Infrastructuring

Comment: Sebastian Cobarrubias (Zaragoza)

Chair: Ulrich Schneckener (SFB)

### 15.30–16.00 VIRTUAL PRODUCTIONS

Presentation ›Building Exhibitions, Changing Places‹ with the Transfer Project Team (SFB)

16.00–16.30 Coffee break

### 16.30–18.00 SPACES

Parvati Raghuram (Open University): The Spaces of Migration  
 Henk van Houtum (Nijmegen): Free the Map: Towards a New Cartography of Migration

Chair: Christine Lang (SFB)

### 18.00–18.30 REFLECTION

Commentaries by Christiane Reinecke (SFB) and Boris Nieswand (Tübingen)

Chair: Helen Schwenken (SFB)

from 18.30 Get-together, food & drinks

## Information on Contributors

### INVITED SPEAKERS

**Sebastian Cobarrubias** is a researcher at ARAID, the Research & Development Foundation of Aragon, in the Geography Department of the Universidad de Zaragoza. PhD in Geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he has been steadily contributing to the field of Migration and Border Studies, publishing in journals such as *Political Geography*, *Antipode*, and *Geopolitics*. He is a founding board member of the NGO Border Forensics, and a Section Editor for *Oxford Intersections: Borders*. He is currently investigating the citizenship regime in Spain as a case of racial preference.

Selected Publications:

Casas-Cortés, M., & Cobarrubias, S. (2024). Rethinking Mobility in Social Theory: Yann Moulier-Boutang and the Motor of History. *European Journal of Social Theory*. doi: [10.1177/13684310241270435](https://doi.org/10.1177/13684310241270435)

Casas-Cortés, M., & Cobarrubias, S. (2023). Articulating Europe from the Sephardic Margin: Restoring Citizenship for Expulsed Jews, and not Muslims, in Spain? In K. Loftsdóttir, B. Hipfl, & S. Ponzanesi (eds.), *Creating Europe from the Margins: Mobilities and Racism in Postcolonial Europe* (pp 25-40). Routledge.

Cobarrubias, S. (2020). Scale in Motion? Rethinking Scalar Production and Border Externalization. *Political Geography*, 80. doi: [10.1016/j.polgeo.2020.102184](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2020.102184)

**Adrian Favell** directs the Radical Humanities Laboratory at University College Cork. He currently leads the ERC AdG project (2024-28), »MIGMOBS - The Orders and Borders of Global Inequality: Migration and Mobility in Late Capitalism«. He has been an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* since 2000, is a board member of *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

Selected Publications:

Favell, A. (2022). *The Integration Nation: Immigration and Colonial Power in Liberal Democracies*. Polity Press.

Favell, A. (2008). *Eurostars and Eurocities: Free Movement and Mobility in an Integrating Europe*. Blackwell.

Favell, A. (2000). *Philosophies of Integration: Immigration and the Idea of Citizenship in France and Britain*. Macmillan.

**Federica Infantino** is a political scientist and holds the junior chair in migration at the Université Côte d'Azur & IRD (URMIS). Building on ethnographic methodologies and comparative perspectives, her research has investigated migration and border control on the ground by focusing on the implementation of policy instruments such as EU visa policy, immigration detention, and returns. She is particularly interested in the actors and organisations that put migration and border control policies into practice, including state actors and private companies.

Selected Publications:

Infantino, F. (2023). The Interdependency of Border Bureaucracies and Mobility Intermediaries: A Street-Level View of Migration Infrastructuring. *Comparative Migration Studies*, 11(1), 1. doi: [10.1186/s40878-022-00324-x](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-022-00324-x)

Infantino, F. (2019). *Schengen Visa Implementation and Transnational Policymaking: Bordering Europe*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Infantino, F. (2017). *Outsourcing Border Control: Politics and Practice of Contracted Visa Policy in Morocco*. Palgrave Macmillan.



**Boris Nieswand** is Professor of Sociology with focus on Migration and Diversity at the University of Tübingen. He worked, among others, at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (Halle/Saale) and at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (Göttingen). His research focuses on migration and diversity, urban conviviality, and morality. His research perspectives can be characterized as reflexive and are normally based on an ethnographic approach.

Selected Publications:

Nieswand, B. (2018). Border Dispositifs and Border Effects. Exploring the Nexus between Transnationalism and Border Studies. *Identities*, 25(5), 592–609. doi: [10.1080/1070289X.2018.1507960](https://doi.org/10.1080/1070289X.2018.1507960)

Nieswand, B. (2017). Towards a Theorisation of Diversity. Configurations of Person-Related Differences in the Context of Youth Welfare Practices. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 43(10), 1714–1730. doi: [10.1080/1369183X.2017.1293593](https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2017.1293593)

Nieswand, B., & Drotbohm, H. (2014). *Kultur, Gesellschaft, Migration: Die reflexive Wende in der Migrationsforschung*. Springer VS.

**Karen Phalet** is Professor of Social and Cultural Psychology since 2006 and Chair of the Personality and Social Research and Methodology unit at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Leuven. Her research is motivated by the need to establish, understand and address persistent and often dramatic disparities in achievement, belonging and voice to the disadvantage of migrants and their offspring across European societies. Recent collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects cover migration-related topics at the nexus of ethnic diversity with exclusions or inequalities, such as generational change and mobility in migrant families, second-generation identities in European cities, religion and civic integration, and interethnic conflict, prejudice and discrimination. She has been involved in several major national and cross-national data infrastructure initiatives in European migration studies, publishes in disciplinary social psychology and sociology journals and interdisciplinary ethnic and migration studies journals, and contributes her knowledge and reflection on migration research and policies in several academic and non-academic advisory boards.

Selected Publications:

Hillekens, J., Baysu, G., & Phalet, K. (2023). Multiple Pathways of Integration: Acculturative Change and Associations with School Adjustment in Immigrant-Origin Adolescents. *Child Development*, 94(2), 544–562. doi: [10.1111/cdev.13876](https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13876)

Schwarzenthal, M., Phalet, K., & Kende, J. (2023). Enhancing or Reducing Interethnic Hierarchies? Teacher Diversity Approaches and Ethnic Majority and Minority Students' Ethnic Attitudes and Discrimination Experiences. *Journal of School Psychology*, 97, 101–122. doi: [10.1016/j.jsp.2023.01.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsp.2023.01.005)

Kende, J., Sarrasin, O., Manatschal, A., Phalet, K., & Green, E. G. T. (2022). Policies and Prejudice: Integration Policies Moderate the Link between Immigrant Presence and Anti-Immigrant Prejudice. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 123(2), 337–352. doi: [10.1037/pspi0000376](https://doi.org/10.1037/pspi0000376)

**Parvati Raghuram** is Professor in Geography and Migration at the Open University. Her research interests focus on the ways in which the mobility, of individuals, goods and of ideas is reshaping the world. Much of her more recent work explores the migration of skilled and lesser skilled women, particularly those moving from the Indian subcontinent. She has published widely on gender, migration and development and on postcolonial theory.

Selected Publications:

Raghuram, P., Breines, M. R., & Gunter, A. (2024). De-Migrantizing as Methodology: Rethinking Migration Studies through Immobility and Liminality. *Comparative Migration Studies*, 12(1), 24. doi: [10.1186/s40878-024-00382-3](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-024-00382-3)

Raghuram, P., Breines, M., & Gunter, A. (2023). Conceptualising Place and Non-Place in Internationalisation of Higher Education Research. *Globalisation, Societies and Education*, 1–19. doi: [10.1080/14767724.2023.2248461](https://doi.org/10.1080/14767724.2023.2248461)

Raghuram, P. (2021). Interjecting the Geographies of Skills into International Skilled Migration Research: Political Economy and Ethics for a Renewed Research Agenda. *Population, Space and Place*, 27(5), e2463. doi: [10.1002/psp.2463](https://doi.org/10.1002/psp.2463)



**Catherine Ramírez**, chair of the Latin American and Latino Studies Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz, is a scholar of Latinx literature, history, visual culture, and performance. She has published extensively on immigration and assimilation, historical memory and erasure, and Mexican American women's history. She has also written for *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, and *The Washington Post*.

Selected Publications:

Ramírez, C. S., Falcón, S. M., Poblete, J., McKay, S. C., & Schaeffer, F. A. (eds.). (2021). *Precarity and Belonging: Labor, Migration, and Noncitizenship*. Rutgers University Press.

Ramírez, C. S. (2020). *Assimilation: An Alternative History*. University of California Press.

Ramírez, C. S. (2009). *The Woman in the Zoot Suit: Gender, Nationalism, and the Cultural Politics of Memory*. Duke University Press.

**Thomas Spijkerboer** is research professor of Migration Law at the Migration Law Research Group of Ghent University. Before, he was an asylum lawyer at Advokatenkollektief Zaanstreek (1986-1993), lecturer in Migration Law at the Katholieke (now Radboud) Universiteit Nijmegen (1993-2000), and professor of Migration Law at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

Selected Publications:

Ovacik, G., & Spijkerboer, T. (2024). Introduction to the Special Issue Asylum for Containment: The Contradictions of European External Asylum Policy. *European Journal of Migration and Law*, 26(2), 147–153. doi: [10.1163/15718166-12340174](https://doi.org/10.1163/15718166-12340174)

Spijkerboer, T. (2022). Coloniality and Case Law on the Australian Asylum Offshoring Scheme. *International Journal of Migration and Border Studies*, 7(2), 132–148. doi: [10.2139/ssrn.4138437](https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4138437)

Spijkerboer, T. (2021). The Geopolitics of Knowledge Production in International Migration Law. In C. Dauvergne (ed.), *Research Handbook on the Law and Politics of Migration* (pp 172–188). Edward Elgar.

**Martina Tazzioli** is Associate Professor in Geography at the University of Bologna. Before joining the University of Bologna, she was Reader in Politics & Technology at Goldsmiths. Her research is at the crossroad of Political Geography, Migration and Border Studies and Political Philosophy. Her current projects focus on the memory of border controls and migrant struggles, counter-mapping and legal geographies of border violence on the Central Mediterranean route, and social reproduction activities in camps.

Selected Publications:

Tazzioli, M. (2023). *Border Abolitionism: Migrants' Containment and the Genealogies of Struggles and Rescue*. Manchester University Press.

Tazzioli, M. (2020). *The Making of Migration: The Biopolitics of Mobility at Europe's Borders*. SAGE.

Tazzioli, M. (2015). *Spaces of Governmentality: Autonomous Migration and the Arab Uprisings*. Rowman and Littlefield.

**Henk van Houtum** is Professor of Geopolitics and Political Geography at Radboud University Nijmegen and head of the Nijmegen Centre for Border Research. He writes and teaches on the cartography and geopolitics of borders, bordering, and migration.

Selected Publications:

Bueno Lacy, R., & van Houtum, H. (2024). Europe's Spectacular Borderlines: On Refugee Camps, Banlieues and Other Spaces of Exception. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 47(12), 2652–2674. doi: [10.1080/01419870.2024.2344685](https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2024.2344685)

van Houtum, H., & van Uden, A. (2021). The Birth of the Paper Prison. The Global Inequality Trap of Visa Borders. *Environment and Planning C*, 40(1), 20–27.

van Houtum, H., & Bueno Lacy, R. (2020). The Autoimmunity of the EU's Deadly B/ordering Regime; Overcoming its Paradoxical Paper, Iron and Camp Borders. *Geopolitics*, 25(3), 706–733. doi: [10.1080/14650045.2020.1728743](https://doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2020.1728743)



## SFB SPEAKERS & MODERATORS

<b>Janine Dahinden</b>	Professor of Transnational Studies, University of Neuchâtel, and SFB 1604 Mercator Fellow
<b>Christine Lang</b>	Professor of Social Geography and Reflexive Migration Studies, Osnabrück University, and SFB Principal Investigator (C3 and IRTG)
<b>Isabella Löhr</b>	Professor of International History of the 20th Century, FU Berlin and Head of the Department ›Globalizations in a Divided World‹, Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF), and SFB Principal Investigator (A5)
<b>Andreas Pott</b>	Professor of Social Geography, Osnabrück University, SFB Spokesperson and Principal Investigator (C1, C5)
<b>Christoph Rass</b>	Professor of Modern History and Historical Migration Studies, Osnabrück University, and SFB Principal Investigator (A3, Transfer Project)
<b>Christiane Reinecke</b>	Professor for Modern European History, Europa-Universität Flensburg, and SFB Principal Investigator (C2)
<b>Ulrich Schneckener</b>	Professor of International Relations & Peace and Conflict Studies, Osnabrück University, and SFB Principal Investigator (B2)
<b>Helen Schwenken</b>	Professor of Migration and Society, Osnabrück University, SFB 1604 Deputy Spokesperson and Principal Investigator (B3, IRTG)
<b>Maurice Stierl</b>	Head of the research group ›The Production of Knowledge on Migration‹, Osnabrück University, and SFB Principal Investigator (C4)
<b>Transfer Project</b>	Michael Brinkmeier (Professor for Computer Science Didactics, Osnabrück University), Annika Heyen (Project Coordinator), Christoph Rass (PI)



## Keynote Abstracts

### FIGURES

*Catherine Ramírez*

#### **The Figure of the Migrant in the Postmigrant Moment**

What does the figure of the migrant mean to the nation and society shaped by migration, but that reject migration? To address this question, this talk examines two migrant figures: the child migrant and the economic migrant. Focusing on the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and the »child migrant crisis« at the US-Mexico border, I analyze the significance of vitality and vulnerability in understanding and managing racial capitalism and migration in the United States in the twenty-first century. I close with a brief discussion of a performance by Little Amal, a puppet representing an unaccompanied Syrian refugee girl, near the US-Mexico border in November 2023.

*Karen Phalet*

#### **The Social Production of Unequal Belonging: How Different Diversity Policies and Experiences Define Belonging for Muslim Immigrant Minorities in European Societies**

The starting point of my talk is a challenged sense of belonging in diverse societies and its downstream consequences for social inclusion and democratic resilience. In line with the focus of this conference on the social production of migration, my research articulates everyday experiences of diversity in social interactions, networks and groups of majority and minority citizens or peers in countries, cities, schools as migration contexts. Drawing on our studies with Muslim communities, youth and newcomers, I will discuss illustrative evidence linking conflicted or challenged belonging to discriminatory diversity climates – and I will present an empirical case for inclusive diversity policies as a game changer. More precisely, I will show how different diversity policies afford more or less equal diversity experiences on the ground through the way they (re)define belonging in more or less inclusive ways. I will conclude with some reflections on our role as social scientists in the production of difference and (non)belonging.



## INFRASTRUCTURES

*Thomas Spijkerboer*

### **The Global Mobility Infrastructure: Reconceptualising the Externalisation of Migration Control**

Academic analysis of migration law and policy highlight the increasing restrictions on the mobility of third country nationals, in particular those from the global South. However, these restrictions are closely related to the simultaneous laws and policies stimulating of the mobility of Europeans and their descendants in settler colonies in North America, Australia and New Zealand, as well as a limited number of states which have been assimilated to their status (Japan, South Korea). The notion of the global mobility infrastructure allows us to understand the closely related processes of inclusion and exclusion, and to identify the intersecting role of race, class and gender in those processes.

*Federica Infantino*

### **Private Companies, Bureaucracies, Intermediaries, and People on the Move: A Street-Level View of Migration Infrastructuring**

This presentation aims at contributing to the Production of Migration research programme most notably to the sub-project about Infrastructures by focusing on the interplay of infrastructuring processes. I take a 'street-level' perspective to illustrate how private companies, bureaucracies, intermediaries, and people on the move take part to infrastructuring processes. I use my own research on the actors and the organizations that put migration and border control into action in privately-run visa application centres and detention centres, national consulates, and departments of Home Affairs Ministries, to put forward how dimensions and logics of migration infrastructuring processes interact at the street-level. Private companies implementing migration control on governments' behalf shape and diffuse public responses to migration across national borders. Intermediaries respond to policy practices and to the double objective of soliciting/stemming mobility. Implementing personnel's day-to-day practices are shaped by the anticipation of migrant's agency or imagined agency. The street-level view of these types of interactions sheds ethnographic light on the co-production of (im)mobility.

## SPACES

*Parvati Raghuram*

### **The Spaces of Migration**

Migration is an inherently geographical topic as it is one expression of spatial connections in an interconnected world. Different definitions of place and ways of conceptualising spatial relations are inherent to debates on migration. Russell King (2012) highlights the crucial role that geographers have played in theorising migration and usefully traces the different conceptual debates that migration research has, as a result, contributed to. However, spatial relations are still an under-theorised aspect of migration studies. Spatial theory, although the domain of geographers, is also an area in which a number of other disciplines such as economics, political science, sociology, cultural studies, postcolonial studies and literary theory have investments. Yet, while the broader contributions of economics, demography, anthropology, political science and cultural studies to migration are all clearly incorporated into contemporary approaches to migration and into teaching curricula the contributions of a geographical imagination and of spatial thinking are much more subdued. This paper aims to address that. Most traditional analyses of migration view places as distinctive and separate with migrants





comparing and making choices between places. However, comparison is a limited analytical gesture as postcolonial theory shows us. Migrants are also involved in other spatial relations: they connect places, and sometimes constitute them through their actions. They are also integral to the power and reach of global institutions. Moreover, place and time can also be understood as central to these spatial relations. The paper argues that analysing these myriad spatial relations in which migrants are implicated - comparison, connection, constitutive relations, reaching out – is necessary for understanding contemporary migration processes. It is also crucial if we are to get past the binaries (such as for-against, sending-receiving) that dominate much migration theory and policy. A more imaginative spatial analysis, it will be argued, shifts the focus away from the migrant as the primary subject of migration and instead brings into view other subjects. Labour markets, families, health, education and care all have their own spatialities in which migrants are entangled but which migrants also shape through their aspirations, presence and actions. The paper ends by suggesting some agendas for future research.

*Henk van Houtum*

### **Free the Map: Towards a New Cartography of Migration**

A geographical map is a visual story that is not merely a copy of reality; it also precedes and constructs it. One would expect then multiple visual narratives to depict the various aspects, actors, and perspectives that shape that socio-spatial reality. However, a standard atlas predominantly tells only one spatial story—the story of the nation-state. It presents a world where people are uniformly contained within national borders: »us here, them there.« *Ceci n'est pas le monde*—this is not the world. It is a nativistic surreality that exists only in the imagination of autocratic regimes—and, remarkably, on standard maps.

Fitting within this state-centric visual story is the notion that migration is seen as an anomaly, an abnormality invading these boxes, classically and illustratively represented by arrows on maps—the language of a hostile invasion. This nationalistic map-logic has dominated our thinking about borders and migration for centuries, mediated through schools, NGOs, politics, and media, ever since the colonial era.

In this lecture, I will first unravel how the state-centric production of migration maps informs the dominant understanding of borders and migration. Next, I will discuss alternative cartographic representations of borders and migration that aim to humanize and mobilize the map, which I categorize as counter-mapping, experience-mapping, and connectivity-mapping. Based on my recently published book *Free the Map: From Atlas to Hermes. A New Cartography of Borders and Migration (2024)*, I will conclude with a plea to free the map from this territorial trap—and, with it, the nativistic visual production of borders and migration.

