

Public closing event of the project ***[En]gendering Migration, Development and Belonging: The Experiences of Recently-Arrived Afghans in Europe.***

Precarious Inclusion:

Exploring the Lives and Challenges of Afghan Refugees in Europe

Over the last decade, Afghan nationals have been arriving in Europe in large numbers. Reasons for migration include the ongoing war, increasing insecurity and lack of prospects in Afghanistan, and limited opportunities for protection and livelihood in neighbouring countries. Their migration histories are often complex and their journeys arduous. In Europe, recently arrived Afghans face increasing difficulties deriving from restricted access to protection, precarious legal statuses, the looming risk of being deported and overt hostilities.

This workshop explores the situation of Afghan refugees in different European countries in greater depth. It marks the end of the project “**[En]gendering Migration, Development and Belonging**” based at Neuchâtel University (Switzerland). For the last two years, our international team of researchers has been exploring the governance and experiences of Afghan migration to Europe from multiple perspectives. Primary research foci include:

- The trends and changes in European policies and public debates relating to Afghan refugees and towards Afghanistan
- How Afghan refugees navigate an increasingly restrictive European migration regime and continuous precariousness in everyday life
- The challenges Afghan refugees face in relation to local and transnational family ties
- How the experiences of Afghan refugees are shaped by the intersection of gender, age, ethnicity, class and religion

Our qualitative study among Afghan refugees in Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and the UK generated multi-faceted answers to these questions, which we would like to share and discuss with a wider audience.

Program:

10h00 – 12h30 Welcome

What we set out to do: Overview of initial aims, research objectives and research questions

What we found: Presentation of key findings

1) Anna Wyss and Carolin Fischer, University of Neuchâtel

The ambivalence of gendered representations of Afghan refugees in Germany and Switzerland

2) Narges Ghandchi and Mikkel Rytter, Aarhus University

Precarious inclusion of Afghan refugees in Denmark

3) Esra Kaytaz, Coventry University

Exploring self-making projects among Afghan refugees in Europe: Opportunities, restrictions and strategies

Discussion of research findings

Janine Dahinden, Université de Neuchâtel

Nicholas Van Hear, University of Oxford

Open discussion in plenary

Lunch

13h30 – 15h00 Roundtable discussion on political and practical implications

Confirmed speakers

Caroline Eichenberger, CAMARADA, Geneva

Liza Schuster, City University London, UK

Kava Spartak, YAAR Berlin, Germany

Sabir Zazai, Scottish Refugee Council, UK

Closing remarks