



Public Lecture

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Thursday, 17 October 2019

Between Insecurity and Reflexivity: Migrant Agency in Times of Social Change

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Prof. Anna Amelina, University of Cottbus

**Discussants: Mihaela Nedelcu and Yvonne Riaño,
University of Neuchâtel**

18:15 – 19:45 h

Location: University of Neuchâtel, Avenue du 1er-Mars 26, Room B32

Abstract

Differentiating between categories of social practice and categories of scientific analysis remains one of the key challenges of current migration research. In addressing this challenge, the talk introduces the concept of “doing migration,” which pays attention to daily routines of boundary-making (interactive, organizational, institutional) between “majorities” and (mobile) “minorities.” According to this concept, “agency” is understood as individual and collective reflections of (non-)institutional knowledge about dominant societal boundary-making between “migrants” and “non-migrants.” The talk illuminates this understanding of agency using an ongoing empirical study of self-support migrant initiatives that emerged in Germany in and after the “long summer of migration 2015.” Interviews conducted as part of this study show that (forced) migrants do not necessarily accept dominant societal attributions, and that some of their self-support initiatives even try to dissolve the boundaries between “we” and “Other” and challenge dominant ways of “doing migration.”

Curriculum Vitae

Anna Amelina is a Professor for Intercultural Studies at Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg and UNESCO Chair for Heritage Studies. Her research areas are transnational migration studies, cultural sociology, gender and intersectionality, cross-border social inequalities and European studies. She is currently the head of a research centre on “Migration, Conflict and Social Change” (MIKOWA) at the University of Cottbus-Senftenberg.

Selected Publications

- Amelina, A. and Lutz, H. (2019). *Gender and Migration: Transnational and Intersectional Prospects*, London: Routledge.
- Amelina, A. (2018). *Transnationalizing Inequalities in Europe: Sociocultural Boundaries, Assemblages and Regimes of Intersection*. London: Routledge.
- Amelina, A. (2016). *An Anthology of Migration and Social Transformation. European Perspectives*. (Eds. Amelina, A. with Horvath, K. und Meeus, B.) Springer International Publishing.
- Amelina, A., Horvath, K. and Peters, K. (2017). Re-thinking the Politics of Migration. On the Uses and Challenges of Regime Perspectives for Migration Research. *Migration Studies* 5 (3): 301–314.
- Amelina, A. and Vasilache, A. (2014). The Shadows of Enlargement: Theorising Mobility and Inequality in a Changing Europe. *Migration Letters* 11 (12): 109–124.
- Amelina, A., Faist, T. and Nergiz, D. (2012). De-Naturalizing the National in Research Methodologies: Key Concepts of Transnational Studies in Migration. *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 35 (10): 1707–1724.