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4th Annual Meth@Mig Workshop

Between Data and Dialogue: Focusing on Participants in Migration Research

April 3-4 2025, Chemnitz, Germany

#MethAtMigWS

Between Data and Dialogue: Focusing on Participants in Migration Research

IMISCOE Standing Committee "Methodological Approaches and Tools in Migration Research" (Meth@Mig) & Junior Professorship Intercultural Practice with a focus on Digital Cultures, Faculty of Humanities, Chemnitz University of Technology.

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Booklet design & layout: Yolanda López García & Vera Niggebrügge
Cover Picture: Yolanda López García
Chemnitz, 31.03.2025

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Thursday, April 3

11:00 - 11:30 Registration

11:30 - 11:45 **Welcome & Introduction**

Yolanda López García (Chemnitz University of Technology)
Steffen Pötzschke (GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences)

11:45 - 12:45 Keynote:

Bridging Algorithmic Insight and Participant Agency in Migration Research
by Tuba Bircan (Free University of Brussels)

12:45 - 13:15 Keynote Q+A and discussion
Chair: Yolanda López García (Chemnitz University of Technology)

13:15 - 14:15 Lunch break

14:15 - 15:45 Session 1: **The Researcher's Lens - Reflexivity, Identity, and Representation**
Chair: Sebastian Rinken (Institute for Advanced Social Studies, Spanish Research Council)

Nothing about us without us: Insider Perspective in Refugee Research
Shaden Sabouni (University of Fulda)

Self-reflexivity, mistakes, and giving back in migration research
Virginia Signorini (University of Florence)

(To what extent) Can migration research (in a qualification project) be organised in a participatory way? Experiences from a research project
Lisa Gulich (Goethe University Frankfurt)

Are members of ethnic minorities more likely to participate in a survey when being approached by co-ethnic interviewers?
Anja Stichs (Research Center of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees)

De-centering knowledge production in migration research through participatory filmmaking. What is data, what becomes output?
Johanna Bastian (DeZIM/HU Berlin);
Anna Shostak (University of Wrocław);
Edward Omeni (DeZIM)

Between Data and Dialogue: A Biographical Approach to Understanding Transnational Migration
Mimoza Dushi (University of Pristina)

15:45 - 16:15 Coffee break

16:15 - 17:45 Session 2: **Navigating Power Dynamics in Migration Research**
Chair: Laila Omar (Doha Institute for Graduate Studies)

Navigating Power Imbalances and Othering: Ethical and Methodological Challenges in Research with First-Generation Migrants in Germany
Janine Brill (Chemnitz University of Technology)
Veronika Karnowski (Chemnitz University of Technology)

Positionality and Power Relations in Multiperspective Research with Migrant and Refugee Youth in State Care
Susanne Siebholz (Chemnitz University of Technology)
Luisa Burgmer (Chemnitz University of Technology)

Grounded Narrative Approach and the Role of Co-Analysis in Researching (with) Young Adults from Immigrant Backgrounds
Anna Gruszczynska-Thompson (Durham University / Leysin American School)

Fact from fiction?! On the methodological challenges and potentials of conducting qualitative social research with interpreters
Natalie Bella (Institute for Employment Research, Nuremberg / Fulda Graduate Centre for Social Sciences)
Stefan Röhrer (Institute for Employment Research / Doctoral School in Humanities and Social Sciences)

Navigating Integration Challenges of Ukrainian Refugees in Secondary Cities of Central and Eastern Europe: A Methodological Perspective
Jana Papcunová (Institute of Social Sciences, Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences, Slovak Academy of Sciences)

Insider perspectives on the lived experiences of African migrants at a British university: Ethics on the go
Victoria Odeniyi (University of the Arts London)

Too much to ask? Methodological and ethical trade-offs in conjoint experiment on anti-immigrant sentiment
Sebastian Rinken (Institute for Advanced Social Studies, Spanish Research Council)

18:30 Workshop Dinner at Turm-Brauhaus (Neumarkt 2, 09111 Chemnitz. Self-paid)

Friday, April 4

9:30 - 11:00 Session 3: **Participation, Collaboration, and Co-Creation in Migration Research**
Chair: Justyna Salamońska (Kozminski University)

Reflections on the participatory potentials of a mixed-methods design of photos and qualitative interviews in research with refugees
Astrid Utler (University of Bayreuth)

Collaborative and community-based research with refugees, not about refugees
Lori Wilkinson (University of Manitoba)

Inclusive engagement in migration research between ambitious goals on paper and conflicts on the ground
Friederike Enßle-Reinhardt (Chemnitz University of Technology)
Johannes Glöckner (Chemnitz University of Technology)

Enhancing Survey Inclusivity: Co-Designing Study Materials to Engage Turkish Migrants in General Population Survey
Hilal Sezgin-Just (German Centre of Gerontology)
Michael Weinhardt (German Ageing Survey (DEAS))
Mareike Bünning (German Ageing Survey (DEAS))

Irregular migrants as participants of the longitudinal surveys
Katarzyna Porwit (Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw)
Agata Górny (Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw)

Lost in translation? Migration, panel attrition and language versions in health surveys: Evidence from the German Socio-Economic Panel
Manuel Holz (Chemnitz University of Technology)
Jochen Mayerl (Chemnitz University of Technology)

11:00 - 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 - 13:15 Session 4: **Ethical Responsibilities in Migration Research**
Chair: Steffen Pötzschke (GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences)

In Search of Good Research Citizenship in Citizenship Research: Trust, Power, Borders and Institutional Review Boards
Robin A. Harper (York College/CUNY Graduate Center)

Focusing on participants and related ethical challenges in secondary social survey research on migration
Justyna Salamońska (Kozminski University)

	Undercover researchers? Exploring Methodological Boundaries in Participative Research Luisa Conti (Friedrich Schiller University of Jena)
	Navigating Ethical and Methodological Challenges in Surveying Displaced Populations in Conflict Zones: Insights from the Arab Opinion Index Laila Omar (Doha Institute for Graduate Studies)
13:15 - 13:30	Short break
13:30 - 15:00	**Wrapping Up: Key Issues and Take-home Messages** Agata Górny (University of Warsaw) & Yolanda López García (Chemnitz University of Technology)
15:30	Late Lunch at Alex restaurant Alex (Neumarkt 2, 09111 Chemnitz. Self-paid)

Keynote speech by Tuba Bircan

Bridging Algorithmic Insight and Participant Agency in Migration Research

This keynote addresses the methodological innovations that unfold when advanced computational methods are combined with participant agency in migration research. As large-scale data analysis expands through machine learning, natural language processing, and social network analysis, the risk of reducing individuals to mere data points grows. The presentation advocates an approach that preserves the breadth of quantitative methods while ensuring that migrants' perspectives remain central, thus combining algorithmic precision with the nuanced insights that emerge from lived experiences.

A core theme will be the demonstration of how iterative collaboration with diverse participants, including both migrant communities and broader stakeholders (such as policymakers, NGOs, and service providers), enhances data annotation, model calibration, and result interpretation. Rather than confining these insights to peripheral roles, the talk explores tools for transparency and interpretability, such as explainable AI frameworks, that empower participants and stakeholders to interrogate and validate emerging findings. These interactions not only improve accuracy and rigour but also reinforce ethical accountability, since neither the data collection process nor the resulting analyses can be fully understood in isolation from the people and communities they affect.

Balancing computational scale with the richness of human narratives requires vigilant attention to data governance. The keynote will explore how to uphold privacy, maintain informed consent, and protect individual rights, even when dealing with extensive datasets derived from digital-trace sources. Practical measures will be proposed for creating robust security protocols that integrate participant feedback, thereby bolstering trust throughout the research cycle. Emphasis will also be placed on integrating qualitative inputs and community-based knowledge to supplement and challenge purely algorithmic results, so that a study's generalisability does not undermine the uniqueness of personal stories.

This talk advocates for incorporating participant agency into each stage of research, from conceptualisation to dissemination and hence it will illustrate how migrant communities can serve as co-creators rather than passive providers of information. The final objective is to reveal how embedding ethical and participatory considerations in the design of computational studies elevates both scientific credibility and social impact. Through case illustrations and theoretical insights, this presentation aims to set forth a rigorous yet inclusive vision for computational migration research that resonates more deeply with those whose experiences underpin the very data we rely upon.

About the keynote speaker


© Tuba Bircan

Tuba Bircan works as a research professor of sociology at the Brussels Research Institute for Social and Population Studies (BRISPO), at the Free University of Brussels (VUB), besides her appointment as a senior social scientist at Kavli Research Centre for Ethics, Science and the Public at University of Cambridge and Wellcome Connecting Science. She is the director of BRISPO and the head of the AIMS Lab: AI, Migration and Society research unit. As an interdisciplinary computational social scientist, her research interests cover a wide range from migration, inequalities, social and public policies to new methodologies and the use of Big Data and AI for studying socio-political challenges. She is a follower of open science and science for society. She led the H2020-funded Enhanced Migration Measures from a Multidimensional Perspective (HumMingBird) project and is currently the co-promoter of Climate-Induced Migration in Africa and Beyond: Big Data and Predictive Analytics (CLIMB) project along with several national projects. She sits on the editorial board of Nature Humanities and Social Sciences Communications and Plos One, as well as the ethical board of the AI Excellence Centre of Flemish Employment Agency in Belgium. She has published mainly on the methodological aspects of migration studies, the use of Big Data and AI in social sciences, equal opportunities and inclusive policies.

Tuba's website: https://www.tubabircan.com/

Latest Publications:

Arcila-Calderón, Carlos, Aydoğdu, Bilgecag., Bircan, Tuba *et al.* Combining Twitter and mobile phone data to observe border-rush: the Turkish-European border opening. *J Comput Soc Sc* 8, 26 (2025): https://doi.org/10.1007/s42001-024-00354-8

Bircan, Tuba. "Augmentation or Replication? Assessing Big Data's Role in Migration Studies." Data & Policy 6 (2024): e51. https://doi.org/10.1017/dap.2024.57

Bircan, Tuba, and Duha Ceylan. "Machine Discriminating: Automated Speech Recognition Biases in Refugee Interviews." Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies, May (2024): 1–16. https://doi.org/10.1080/15562948.2024.2355613

Session 1
The Researcher's Lens – Reflexivity, Identity, and Representation

Chair: Sebastian Rinken

(Institute for Advanced Social Studies, Spanish Research Council)

Nothing about us without us: Insider Perspective in Refugee Research

Shaden Sabouni, *University of Fulda*

As a refugee and an insider researcher studying refugee communities, my research offers insights that may remain inaccessible to those approaching these communities as outsiders. Insider research in refugee studies provides a unique vantage point, where shared experiences and cultural understanding foster trust and openness in the data collection process. This privileged access enables me to engage with sensitive topics and uncover nuanced perspectives that are often difficult for outside researchers to reach (Birman, 2006; Gifford et al., 2007). However, this proximity to my participants does not come without challenges. The dual role I occupy—as both a member of the community and a researcher—introduces complexities in maintaining boundaries, managing participants' expectations, and balancing empathy with the academic objectivity necessary for rigorous scholarship.

This paper critically examines the methodological and ethical dimensions of insider research, particularly within the refugee context. By drawing on personal experience while adhering to established research standards, I navigate the tension between subjective involvement and objective analysis. The study employs strategies such as transparent reflexivity, ethical safeguards, and continuous dialogue with participants to ensure ethical rigor and credibility (Cypress 2017) . Furthermore, this work addresses the potential risks of emotional strain and blurred boundaries that arise from being deeply embedded in the research community. Through this exploration, the paper seeks to contribute to the discourse on culturally sensitive methodologies in migration research, highlighting both the potential and the limitations of insider perspectives. It advocates for an increased recognition of insider researchers' contributions and calls for the development of support mechanisms that address the unique challenges they face.

About the author

Shaden Sabouni is a PhD researcher at the University of Fulda, focusing on the impact of social changes on refugee family dynamics, influenced by her own experiences as a refugee since arriving in Germany in 2017. With a strong commitment to her field, she pursued higher education at 40, earning a master's degree in Intercultural Communication and European Studies to challenge stereotypes about refugees. She has worked with various organizations to support refugee integration and is currently a freelance cultural trainer for GIZ and a fellow at BICC. She is a member of the FFVT board and an advisor at the Refugee Advisory Board for Germany. Her motivation to join the GER-RAB stems from her diverse experiences as a refugee, mother, researcher, and activist, and she believes that integrating these perspectives into policymaking can enhance safety and harmony for both host and refugee communities.

Self-reflexivity, mistakes, and giving back in migration research

Virginia Signorini, *University of Florence*

This presentation critically examines the practice of conducting social work research within refugee reception settings, focusing on the inherent complexities of being both researcher and active participant within the institutional framework under investigation. It argues for a reflexive approach that prioritizes researcher positionality, ethical responsibility, and reciprocal contributions to the communities studied.

Europe's crisis-oriented migration policies, prioritizing short-term responses over long-term solutions, have created precarious conditions for refugees and significantly challenged social workers' advocacy efforts. Social work, encompassing individual well-being and broader social change, necessitates rigorous research to inform policy development at both national and international levels. The methodology must therefore account for the complex interplay between academic expectations, policy constraints, and the realities of the field, while also navigating the multiple mandates inherent in social work practice (that are clients, state/agency, profession).

The ethical imperative of "do no harm" in refugee research is challenged by the frequently harmful realities of existing reception systems. This contribute addresses this contradiction by exploring the researcher's embodied positionality within these complex contexts, focusing on how to navigate these inherent tensions and ensure meaningful contributions - “giving back" - to the communities studied.

My fifteen years of fieldwork (2010–present) in Italian migrant and refugee reception projects, undertaken simultaneously as a researcher and social worker, provided firsthand insight into the deeply entrenched, crisis-oriented, and fragmented nature of the European asylum system and its contribution to reproducing harm. This research, employing multiple qualitative methods that included in-depth interviews with refugees and social workers, alongside auto-ethnographic reflection and retrospective analysis, highlighted several key ethical considerations that emerged at different stages of the research process:

(1) Pre-fieldwork: The potential for bias and conflict of interest arising from pre-existing professional relationships with some interviewees necessitated careful consideration of power dynamics and researcher positionality from the outset.

(2) During fieldwork: The complexities of simultaneously inhabiting multiple roles—researcher, expert, and social worker—within the field presented ongoing ethical dilemmas. Meanwhile, this fluidity of roles inherent in this context fostered continuous self-reflection.

(3) Post-fieldwork: Retrospective self-ethnography (Piasere, 2002), analyzing both the field and the researcher's own transformation, was crucial for identifying and addressing mistakes, biases, and unintended consequences.

(4) Reciprocity: The process of acknowledging mistakes and limitations led to creative approaches for reciprocal knowledge exchange, resulting in meaningful contributions to the communities studied. This approach served as a form of "giving back."

During this workshop I will present a case study structured around these four key phases, illustrating the ethical considerations and their implications for rigorous and responsible research in complex settings.

About the author

Virginia Signorini, PhD, is a multidisciplinary researcher specializing in refugee and migration studies. Her work integrates sociology, education, and policy analysis to address reception, integration, and intercultural understanding. Her most recent research interests include citizenship studies, education, border studies, and research reflexivity, with a particular focus on reflexivity, embodiment, and decoloniality in social work within vulnerable contexts. This multifaceted background informs her work, which is characterized by a commitment to rigorous methodology, ethical considerations, and a deep engagement with lived experiences. Virginia Signorini holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Trieste and delved into the experiences of refugees, social workers, and social rights within the Italian reception system. Virginia Signorini recently completed a research fellowship at the University of Bologna, where she focused on inclusion strategies for adult migrants and refugees. Subsequently, she collaborated as a researcher at Friedrich Schiller University Jena, exploring the transformative potential of digital technologies for inclusive education. Currently, Virginia Signorini is a lecturer in sociology at the University of Florence and a consultant and trainer for European and Italian institutions on asylum law and policy, leveraging her extensive experience in migration studies and intercultural communication.

Related reading:

Signorini, Virginia. *Il diritto d'asilo sta morendo? Storia dell'accoglienza in Italia.* Franco Angeli, 2021.

(To what extent) Can migration research (in a qualification project) be organised in a participatory way? Experiences from a research project

Lisa Gulich, *Goethe University Frankfurt*

In qualitative research across disciplines such as social work, educational science, and sociology, critical perspectives are increasingly being adopted to examine power inequalities in both research content and processes (cf. Nimführ & Blank 2023). Migration research is shifting towards participatory approaches that seek to research with rather than merely about people who have migrated or fled (cf. Aden et al. 2019; McAdam-Otto & Kaufmann 2023). This trend is also growing in biographical research (cf. Tuider & Lutz 2018).

But how can a reconstructive biographical approach—focused on individual experiences—be combined with a participatory approach aiming at both understanding and change? What methodological and ethical challenges arise, especially in qualification projects for migrants and refugees, where participant engagement and data ownership are crucial (cf. Bergold & Thomas 2012)?

This presentation draws on a PhD project exploring the biographical and forced migration experiences of teachers from Syria and Turkey now living in Saxony. The study uses autobiographical-narrative interviews (Schütze 1983), analyzed via narrative analysis (Schütze 1983) and participatory evaluation. Migrant pedagogues were involved throughout the research process, particularly in data analysis. Funded by the Böckler Foundation and developed in cooperation with the Saxon Education and Science Workers' Union (GEW), the project also collaborated with the Integration durch Qualifizierung program.

The study adopts a power-critical intersectional perspective (cf. Akbaba et al. 2022), using an agency-vulnerability nexus framework (cf. Schmitt 2019). It explores how intersecting

differences like origin and language appear in life story reconstructions (cf. Gulich & Putjata 2023), and how refugee teachers narrate themselves as (in)capable actors within systemic power and inequality structures (cf. Gulich 2024).

Empirically, the study shows that since 2015, refugee teachers in Saxony rarely hold positions matching their qualifications. If in appropriate roles, they often work in private schools with lower salaries (80% of state schools). In public schools, they are relegated to assistant roles, such as 'language and integration mediators,' or work as freelancers for heritage language instruction. Saxony lacks programs like Lehrkräfte+ in North Rhine-Westphalia (cf. George 2021), R/EQUAL in Austria (cf. Proyer et al. 2022), or Sweden's fast-track courses for teachers (cf. Economou 2021), despite a teacher shortage (cf. Banz et al. 2020). Support options are limited to programs like Integration durch Qualifizierung and networks like the Network for Refugee and Migrant Teachers (cf. Gulich & Sperfeld 2022).

This presentation discusses methodological adaptations for participatory data analysis, ethical dilemmas regarding power dynamics, and balancing researcher and participant roles in qualification projects. It also covers practical concerns, such as dataset ownership and authorship. Insights from the project will highlight both successes and challenges, providing an opportunity for critical discussion and mutual learning in the workshop.

About the author

Lisa Gulich is a PhD-fellow of the Hans-Böckler-Foundation at the Institut of Educational Studies at the Goethe-University Frankfurt in Germany. Her current project focuses on the (professional) biographies of refugee teachers, examining how forced migration affects their professional repositioning, self-perception, agency, and vulnerabilities within powerful and unequal structures. She adopts a power-critical intersectional perspective, combining narrative analysis with a participatory approach.

Are members of ethnic minorities more likely to participate in a survey when being approached by co-ethnic interviewers?

Anja Stichs, *Research Center of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees*

For various reasons, subgroups of the population with a substantial share of recent immigrants are not easy to survey. One possible reason for refusals to participate can be found in general reservations about or an unfamiliarity with social science surveys. Experiences of discrimination and a lack of German language skills can also be impediments for members of such groups. These factors may result in a selection bias in the final sample. In my article, I will investigate whether the use of Syrian interviewers reduces existing barriers for individuals with a migration background from Arabic-speaking countries.

In my contribution, I analyse whether the use of Syrian interviewers can increase the participation rate of people with a migration background from Syria as compared to interviewers without a migration background. Furthermore, I examine the extent to which this can also be observed for people with a migration background from other Arabic-speaking countries than Syria. The comparison of these two groups enables us to disentangle to what extent positive effects on the participation are due to coming from the same country or due to speaking the same language. Contrary to expectations, initial analyses show that Arabic-speaking interviewers are less successful than German-speaking interviewers. This applies in particular to women and target persons who are likely to come from non-Arabic-speaking

countries, such as Iran, Turkey or Kosovo. The question of whether other interviewer characteristics may play a role will be investigated in more in-depth analyses.

I will also investigate if there are differences in the social composition of the people reached depending on the origin of the interviewer. These results can offer insight as to whether native speakers are more successful in interviewing hard to reach migrants and how to represent them more accurately in surveys. This could help to minimise selectivity.

I will use data from the study Muslim Life in Germany 2020 for the analyses. As part of the study, more than 4,500 face-to-face interviews were conducted with immigrants and their descendants from 23 Muslim-majority countries, including 1,689 respondents from Syria and other Arabic-Speaking countries. About two thirds of the Arabic-speaking respondents were interviewed by Syrian interviewers, the others by interviewers without a migration background. Bivariate and multivariate analyses are performed.

About the author

Anja Stichs studied at the FU Berlin and completed her doctorate there. She has been a research assistant at the BAMF-FZ since 2007. Stichs is responsible for the conception and implementation of the study series "Muslim Life in Germany (MLD)". They are investigating the living conditions of people from predominantly Muslim countries in Germany and the significance of religion for the social participation of immigrants and their descendants born in Germany. One of the challenges of the project lies in generating reliable data. In addition to substantive issues, one of her main areas of work is methodological research. For the MLD 2020 study, a random sample was drawn from various residents' registration offices and sorted the addresses onomastically. The face-to-face survey was conducted in several languages with German and Arabic-speaking interviewers. In total, 4,500 interviews with people from 23 predominantly Muslim countries were conducted. The further development of Stich's methodological knowledge through exchange with other researchers is important to her, not least in preparation for the next study.

Related reading:

Pfündel, Katrin, Stichs, Anja and Kerstin Tanis. *Muslimisches Leben in Deutschland 2020 – Studie im Auftrag der Deutschen Islam Konferenz (Forschungsbericht 38)*. Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF), 2021. Retrieved from:

https://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Forschung/Forschungsberichte/fb38-muslimisches-leben.html?nn=447028

De-centering knowledge production in migration research through participatory filmmaking. What is data, what becomes output?

Johanna Bastian, *DeZIM/HU Berlin*
Anna Shostak, *University of Wrocław*
Edward Omeni, *DeZIM*

In our contribution, we engage with methodological and epistemological questions that came up during a participatory filmmaking workshop series facilitated for young migranticised people. The workshops took place in Berlin (Germany) and Wrocław (Poland) as part of the ongoing project "Life Strategies of Young Labouring Migrants in Ageing Societies" (LYMAS). Together with a filmmaker, the workshop series was designed and realized to teach small

groups of participants basic filmmaking skills and enable them to shoot their own short documentary films. In preparation for the workshops, we, the research team, agreed not to treat the final films as data to avoid the re-essentialization of our participants' self-representation and artistic expression. In the following, we provide background about the filmmaking process to set the stage for our ongoing reflections and discussions concerning this approach.

The workshops covered an overview of filming techniques, conversations about participant's interests and technical introduction to editing. Weekly sessions took place both online and in-person and were led by the filmmaker. We as researchers conceived our role in the workshops as facilitators responsible for providing filming gear, space and contextualizing the workshop within the research project. Moreover, we discussed data protection and ownership as well as ethical questions in filmmaking and ensured ongoing informed consent (Everri et al. 2021). Additionally, we listened to the participants' experiences and opinions; however, we refrained from recording discussions. The aim was to provide room for participants to develop their ideas without implying that their contributions would be converted to and interpreted as data. Aiming to extend the degree of participant engagement, throughout the workshops, we discussed the research approach, filmmaking process and possible outcomes with participants, as well as addressed limits of participation (von Unger 2012). At the end of the workshops, participants were asked to decide how their films could be disseminated in scientific and public settings. With the participants' consent, the films will be screened publicly, published on the project's website, and/or shown for stakeholder engagement.

Having completed the workshops, we reflect on the emerging methodological and ethical implications as we frame, disseminate, and work with the material created within participatory settings and arts-based research methods. The questions remain: What do we conceive as data in participatory and artistic research projects? How do we frame the output for different audiences?

While we agree that data collected in participatory settings broadens the understanding of different life worlds, we want to address the challenges that come with balancing between participant's freedom of artistic expression and approaching the result as research data. This requires us to reflect on the relation of the researchers' role as facilitators and the participants as filmmakers and knowledge co-producers. In our presentation, we consider how our decisions regarding research design and use of film as a participatory tool shape what becomes data and how we consider and frame the output (Fairey 2017). Additionally, we think about how to ethically navigate between enabling participants and distributing and contextualizing their work for (non-)academic audiences.

About the authors

Johanna Bastian is working on the project "Life Strategies of Young Labouring Migrants in Ageing Societies" at the German Center for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM) and pursuing her PhD at Humboldt University, Berlin. She holds a B.A. in Political Science and received her M.Sc. in Geography from the University of Bonn. Her research interests include feminist and critical geographies, translocal relations as well as theories of emotion and affect. Methodologically, her focus is on methods centered around storytelling and approaches allowing for varied modes of expression such as walk- and eat-alongs, mapping exercises and visual methods.

In her PhD research Johanna is interested in the impact that friendships have throughout the mobility and arrival experience of young people in Berlin. Drawing on her background in cultural

and feminist geography, she wants to gain a better understanding of the mutually constructive role that friendships as relations of care have with the experience of attachment and (non-) access migrants can establish with places. In this context, she is applying the notion of embedding, translocational belonging and place-making to consider friendship as important relations of intimacy besides family relations in young mobile persons' life trajectories.

Anna Shostak is a PhD candidate at the Institute of Sociology, University of Wrocław (Poland). In the Doctoral dissertation, she explores how young migranticised Ukrainians navigate their life strategies and transitions into adulthood within the context of transnational mobility. Using life-course and mobility perspectives, Anna qualitatively investigates how intersecting mobility trajectories, social relations, and economic opportunities shape their lived experiences beyond linear or standardized life paths.

Anna is currently involved as a research assistant in the project titled "Life Strategies of Young Labouring Migrants in Ageing Societies" where she conducts and analyses biographical narrative and episodic interviews and co-organises participatory filmmaking workshops with young migranticised people currently living in Wrocław and Lower Silesia. Previously, she worked as a field researcher in several qualitative projects exploring lived experiences of female refugees and migrants shaped by war.

Edward Omeni is a social scientist with a background in both qualitative and quantitative research in healthcare and organisational research settings. He holds a Master's degrees in Psychological Sociology (Birkbeck, University of London) and doctoral degree in Social pedagogy (Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz).

In previous roles he has held research and teaching positions at the Institute of Psychiatry- Kings College, University of London, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and the University of Maryland University College. More recently he was employed as a Senior Lecturer at the MCI Internationale Hochschule in Innsbruck where he has taught and developed courses on Strategies against structural discrimination, oppression and consciousness raising. His published research includes studies on international education, migration, racism, violence and service user involvement in healthcare organisational settings.

Between Data and Dialogue: A Biographical Approach to Understanding Transnational Migration

Mimoza Dushi, *University of Pristina*

This workshop presentation explores the methodological contributions of biographical research in migration studies, emphasizing the dynamic relationship between data collection and participant engagement. Drawing on two research projects focused on industrial citizenship among Kosovo Albanian migrants: one examining labor migration experiences in the EU (2014–2016) and the other exploring migration trajectories in the U.S. (2023–2024), this study highlights how dialogue shapes migration narratives and the challenges of conducting research across transnational contexts.

The research employs a biographical approach, using life history interviews to reconstruct migrants' experiences, decisions, and strategies over time. Unlike standardized methods, this approach fosters a dialogical process where participants actively shape their own migration stories rather than being passive subjects of data collection. To enhance the depth of analysis,

the study integrates complementary qualitative methods, including semi-structured interviews, visual methods, participant observations, and reflexive journaling.

Conducting transnational fieldwork presents several methodological and ethical challenges. Building trust and navigating power relations require sensitivity and long-term engagement, while ethical dilemmas related to consent, confidentiality, and representation must be carefully managed to ensure participant agency and well-being. Additionally, resistance from participants in sharing sensitive migration experiences, as well as technical challenges in remote and multi-sited research, complicate the research process.

Beyond these challenges, the presentation reflects on the role of self-reflexivity in migration research, examining how insider-outsider dynamics influence knowledge production and researcher-participant interactions. By centering the intersection between data and dialogue, this workshop contributes to discussions on ethical, participatory, and dialogical approaches in migration research, offering insights into how biographical research can enrich our understanding of transnational migration experiences.

About the author

Mimoza Dushi holds a PhD in Geography with a specialization in Demography from the University of Pristina, Kosovo. She has extensive experience in migration research, having served as Principal Investigator for the ICM-RRPP project (2014–2016), where she coordinated studies on migration between Kosovo, Germany, and Switzerland. As a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at George Washington University (2023–2024), she expanded her research to explore migration patterns between Kosovo and the United States.

Mimoza Dushi is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Pristina. She previously served as Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs at the University of Gjakova, Kosovo (2015–2019). Her professional development includes research affiliations with institutions such as the U.S. Census Bureau, George Washington University, the University of Groningen, the University of Salzburg, the University of Innsbruck, and the Catholic University of Leuven, where she conducted temporary studies and research.

Her research focuses on migration, labor mobility, brain drain, migration policy, and integration, with a particular emphasis on the Western Balkans. She has extensive fieldwork experience in qualitative research, particularly in studying external migrants and their integration into host societies.

Related reading:

Dushi, Mimoza. “Home” for now or “Home” for life. Migration memories of Kosovo Albanian “Gastarbeiter's” in western European countries. *GeoJournal*, vol. 89, no. 214, 2024, https://doi.org/10.1007/s10708-024-11216-1

Session 2
Navigating Power Dynamics in Migration Research

Chair: Laila Omar (Doha Institute for Graduate Studies)

Navigating Power Imbalances and Othering: Ethical and Methodological Challenges in Research with First-Generation Migrants in Germany

Janine Brill, *Chemnitz University of Technology*
Veronika Karnowski, *Chemnitz University of Technology*

While it is crucial to involve migrants as active contributors or co-creators of knowledge in the research process, they often remain information providers. This highlights the importance of critically examining how migrants are treated as participants, particularly when studying populations such as first-generation migrants, whose lived experiences of migration or flight.

Ensuring the sensitive handling of personal data becomes especially critical when working with migrant populations. Migration research frequently risks homogenizing migrants into a monolithic group, thereby contributing to marginalization and stereotyping—referred to as "Othering". Moreover, power imbalances are likely to arise, particularly when researchers without migration backgrounds engage with participants with sensitive experiences. These challenges are amplified in qualitative research, which relies on trust and safeguarding participants from unintended harm.

At the Meth@Mig workshop, we aim to discuss these issues, sharing insights from a mixed-methods study that combined diary studies with qualitative interviews to investigate the health information needs and behaviors of Ukrainian refugees and immigrant students in Germany. While both are categorized as first-generation migrants, their migration trajectories and socio-cultural contexts differ significantly. By examining migrant subgroups separately, the study underscores the critical role of participants in providing rich data that inform the development of tailored information strategies and highlights the inadequacy of one-size-fits-all approaches. Although participants were not directly involved in the process, their contributions were pivotal in understanding their unique needs and challenges. Ethical considerations were central, particularly given the vulnerability of participants with experiences of migration and flight. We prioritized informed consent, cultural sensitivity, and psychological safety to minimize harm and foster an environment where participants felt empowered to share their perspectives. This approach moves beyond homogenized narratives about migrants and exemplifies how participant-centered methods can generate actionable insights for policy and practice. At the Meth@Mig workshop, we look forward to sharing our experiences and discussing critical issues such as “Othering” and the ethical handling of sensitive data of migrant participants.

About the authors

Janine Brill has been a research associate and PhD student at the Chair of Media Communication at the Chemnitz University of Technology since October 2023. Previously, she worked as a research associate at the Chair of Communication Science with a Focus on Social Communication at the University of Erfurt and at the Chair of Fundamentals of Media Communication and Media Effects at Friedrich Schiller University Jena. Janine Brill studied Communication Science and Intercultural Business Communication (B.A.) as well as Public

Communication (M.A.) at Friedrich Schiller University Jena. Since 2024, she has been the YECREA Representative of the Health Communication Section of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA). Additionally, she is actively involved in the Health Communication Division of the German Communication Association (DGPuK) and the Mobile Communication Division of the International Communication Association (ICA).

Veronika Karnowski has been a Professor of Media Communication at Chemnitz University of Technology since May 2023. Previously, she worked as a research associate and later as an Academic Senior Councillor at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU). She also held substitute and guest professorships at Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg, Leipzig University, the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media, and the University of Erfurt. Veronika Karnowski studied Communication Science, Political Science, and Business Administration at LMU. In 2008, she earned her PhD (Dr. phil.) from the University of Zurich. In 2018, she completed her habilitation at LMU and obtained a teaching qualification in Communication Science. Since 2013, she has been co-editor of the journal Mobile Media & Communication, and since 2022, she has been Associate Editor of the Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication. From 2015 to 2017, Veronika Karnowski was Chair of the Mobile Communication Division of the International Communication Association (ICA). Since 2024, she has been Vice-Chair of the Communication and Technology Division of the ICA.

Positionality and Power Relations in Multiperspective Research with Migrant and Refugee Youth in State Care

Susanne Siebholz, *Chemnitz University of Technology*
Luisa Burgmer, *Chemnitz University of Technology*

Addressing and investigating educational equity in the migration society requires a collaborative approach and the inclusion of various perspectives. In our research project, we focus the educational attitudes and practices of migrant and refugee youth who receive state support through child and youth welfare services – as a highly disadvantaged group within the German school system. At the same time, we include perspectives from other stakeholders, including teachers, school leadership, as well as professionals and volunteers from youth welfare and social work. Regarding this multiperspective approach, we face a central challenge: How can we, in our research, analyse and challenge existing power dynamics at the societal, institutional, and interactional level without reproducing them involuntarily in our research practices? In our proposed contribution to the workshop, we address this challenge from a methodological and methodical perspective and aim to foster an approach that is not only reflective but also inclusive.

In the research project “Integration through Education for Migrant and Refugee Youth in State Care [ImmEr]”, launched in October 2024 at TU Chemnitz, we investigate the interplay of formal, informal, and non-formal educational and social support systems at a local level. The project aims to generate insights for local educational and support systems to implement more inclusive and diversity sensitive educational practices. Our project recognizes participants not only as research subjects but as active contributors and experts of their own experiences. Acknowledging that we as researchers are deeply involved in power structures and shape every phase of the research process, several key questions arise:

1) How can a multiperspective approach address existing hierarchies and power relations, that are based on factors such as (professional) role, origin/ethnicity, gender, and generation, both

within the research process and the field? This includes the power relations between researchers and participants, as well as among the involved actors.

2) Under which conditions can we establish epistemic equality, ensuring that all research participants are equally recognized in the production and validation of knowledge?

3) How can we as researchers avoid adopting particular perspectives in the field—whether that of educators or youth—and maintain a mainly observational approach?

In sum, in our contribution, we aim at discussing the potential and pitfalls of multiperspective research that engages participants as co-creators of knowledge to ensure that their voices and experiences are central to every stage of the research process.

About the authors

Susanne Siebholz is a postdoctoral researcher in the field of childhood and youth studies, with a recent focus on flight and migration. Her research interests include education and social inequalities, child and youth care, and biography. Methodologically, she specialises in reconstructive methods in empirical social research. In her current position as research associate at the Chemnitz University of Technology, she is leading a project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) on the biographies of migrant youth living in state care. Susanne holds a PhD from the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. She has taught BA and MA courses at the Universities of Halle, Jena, Giessen and Chemnitz (Germany) and led a working group on reconstructive methodology at the Centre for School and Educational Research at the University of Halle.

Luisa Burgmer is a PhD student and research assistant at the Chemnitz University of Technology in the project ImmEr. She holds a master's degree in education science from the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen. During her studies, she worked as a research assistant in political science on the topics of migration and education policy. In the project ImmEr and for her doctoral research she focuses on education biographies of immigrant youths who receive child and youth care services.

Grounded Narrative Approach and the Role of Co-Analysis in Researching (with) Young Adults from Immigrant Backgrounds

Anna Gruszczynska-Thompson, *Durham University / Leysin American School*

Understanding the lived experiences of immigrant-background emerging adults requires innovative methodologies that not only capture tacit and unarticulated narratives but also actively engage participants in the research process. This is especially true in research with emerging adults, who often go through transitional stages of identity formation while experiencing heightened mobility across geographical and social spaces. This paper introduces a grounded narrative approach that combines grounded theory and narrative inquiry, applied in a qualitative study with 15 participants from diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds—all aged 18-29 and born in the UK to immigrant parents. The research involved reflective journaling, semi-structured interviews, and a co-analysis process to explore participants' sense of belonging, agency, and cultural heritage positioning. The paper focuses particularly on the role of co-analysis, a collaborative method in which participants were invited to engage in the interpretation of their interview narratives alongside the researcher. This process democratised knowledge production, fostering participants' ownership of their stories and encouraging

reflective and analytical engagement. The benefits of this approach include richer insights derived from participants' contextual knowledge, enhanced validity and credibility through their direct involvement in confirming and refining interpretations, and a more reflexive practice that challenges the researcher to critically examine her own assumptions and biases. However, the co-analysis process also presented challenges, such as managing power dynamics between the researcher and participants, ensuring equitable collaboration, and navigating differing levels of analytical comfort among participants. Ethical and practical considerations, including the time-intensive nature of co-analysis and the potential emotional labour on participants, are critically examined in the paper. By exploring these considerations and reflecting on their implications, this contribution highlights co-analysis as a powerful yet context-dependent tool for fostering collaborative, ethically robust, and scientifically rigorous research.

About the author

Anna Gruszczynska-Thompson is a cross-disciplinary researcher interested in pushing theoretical and methodological boundaries in research on migration, identity, race, language, and the dynamics of sameness and difference. Her research in the sociology of culture and migration focuses on young adults from immigrant backgrounds and the processes of navigating cultural heritage and self-identifications. Over the past few years, Anna held teaching and research positions at Durham University and the University of Glasgow. Currently, she engages with academia as an independent researcher while working at an international school in Switzerland as DEIJ Coordinator and Director of Admissions.

Related reading:

Gruszczynska-Thompson, Anna. "Language, Responsibility, and Agency: How UK's Immigrant-Background Young Adults Navigate Linguistic Heritage." *The Geographical Journal*, 2024, https://doi.org/10.1111/geoj.12586

Fact from fiction?! On the methodological challenges and potentials of conducting qualitative social research with interpreters

Natalie Bella, *Institute for Employment Research; Fulda Graduate Centre for Social Sciences*
Stefan Röhrer, *Institute for Employment Research*

Studying the social reality and lived experience of any research participant requires a methodological approach that allows for their voice and story to be heard. This motivation or intention leads scientists to conduct (narrative) interviews with the goal of understanding the subjective experience. When researching within thematic topics such as (forced) migration, oftentimes the lack of a common tongue – lingua franca – fundamentally describes the research scenario: the scientific endeavour to understand faces the dilemma of having to rely on an interpreter. With this, the researcher is able to connect with research participants otherwise unreachable. But this gain in stories told holds its own challenges for the qualitative researcher: Because with the interpreter, a person in its totality enters the interactional stage that is the research scenario for a subject with an own(ed) story, political standing, discursive positionality and, mundanely enough, a body and material presence. In this person's hands lies the responsibility of 'bridging the gap' and thus enabling a research agenda otherwise impossible.

Exploring how interpreted data are co-created, collected, interpreted and analyzed is a necessary prerequisite to focusing on the participants of such studies. In our contribution, we

will explore the complexities of conducting interpreted interviews with (forced) migrants. This approach allows us to place the participants of migration research at the center, leading to a shift in perspective: from research object to subject, from data to dialogue. We argue that this shift is necessary as we focus on how scientific knowledge or sociological facts are created on the basis of often inaccessible translations. The aim is to discuss the methodological challenges associated with the creation of scientific knowledge in the face of non-understanding. For this analysis, we draw on interpreted interviews conducted with refugees from Syria as part of the project “Networks of Arrival” (Institute for Employment Research).

About the authors

Natalie Bella studied sociology at the LFU Innsbruck, Austria (B.A., degree 2017) and at the FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg (M.A., degree 2020). In 2018, she started working as a student assistant at the Institute for Sociology (FAU) and at the Institute for Employment Research (IEB). There, Natalie found her passion for qualitative research, culminating in her thesis that focussed on a methodological exploration of the interpreted narrative interview (Title: "Interactions in the interpreted interview. On the interactive construction of the triad in communicative negotiation"). In 2020, Natalie began working on her PhD at Fulda Graduate Centre for Social Sciences, for which she received a scholarship until 2024. With her PhD project, she developed an understanding of how multilingualism within different (institutional) contexts is managed. Since starting her PhD scholarship, Natalie worked for the project 'Networks of Arrival' as a guest researcher. This project focussed on refugees from Syria and researches ‘their arrival’ in Germany via (mainly interpreted) narrative interviews. This longitudinal design allowed for analysis on (political) discourse on integration (see Stefan Röhrer's PhD project). Currently, both co-authors are working on a qualitative project named that dives into the practices of sanctions within jobcenter-client-interactions. Natalie has been a lecturer at HS Fulda since 2020 and a researcher at the IEB since 2024.

Stefan Röhrer studied Sociology and Philosophy (B.A., degree 2015) and Sociology (M.A., degree 2018) at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU). His master's thesis, entitled “Reconstructing the processual constitution of social mobilizability within biography”, was awarded the IPRAS Prize of the Institute of Sociology at FAU for the best master's thesis in 2018. He has been a lecturer at the Institute of Sociology at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg since 2018 and a researcher at the Institute for Employment Research since 2019. Since 2020, he has been a doctoral student at the Doctoral School in Humanities and Social Sciences (DSHSS) and a fellow at the Institute for Social Research and Interventions at the University of Luxembourg.

His research focuses on discourse and subjectivation research, (reflexive) migration research and social policy research. The unifying interest of his research is the reciprocal relationship between powerful discourses and their effects as well as their (re-)production at the level of individuals. Stefan Röhrer approaches these topics from the perspective of qualitative social research. He draws in particular on biographical research and Sociology of Knowledge Approach to Discourse (SKAD).

Navigating Integration Challenges of Ukrainian Refugees in Secondary Cities of Central and Eastern Europe: A Methodological Perspective

Jana Papcunová, *Institute of Social Sciences, Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences, Slovak Academy of Sciences*

This study employs an exploratory, mixed-methods design to examine the integration challenges faced by Ukrainian refugees in secondary cities across Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) in the context of the war in Ukraine. The research focuses on cities such as Košice (Slovakia), Miskolc (Hungary), Poznań and Kraków (Poland), Brno (Czechia), and Uzhhorod (Ukraine). These locations, historically migrant-sending societies, are increasingly shifting from being temporary or transitory to becoming more permanent, prompting the need for a reevaluation of local integration policies and support structures.

The study integrates both quantitative and qualitative methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of refugee integration. Structured questionnaires capture indicators of social cohesion, discrimination, access to public services, and future migration intentions. In-depth interviews and focus groups with refugees, municipal authorities, and NGO representatives provide nuanced insights into lived experiences, local policies, and community dynamics. The methodological triangulation enhances the reliability and validity of the findings by cross-verifying data from different sources.

A participatory research framework is central to the study, ensuring meaningful engagement with local NGOs—many led by migrants themselves—and public officials. This collaborative approach informs the research design, data collection, and interpretation, bridging the gap between academic inquiry and practical policy implications.

Conducting research with vulnerable populations, such as refugees, involves navigating complex ethical considerations. Ensuring participant welfare, obtaining informed consent, and safeguarding confidentiality are crucial, particularly in regions where institutional oversight, such as Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), may be underdeveloped or nonexistent. Trauma-sensitive interviewing techniques are integrated to minimize potential distress and ensure participant agency.

This study underscores the importance of discussions on ethical considerations and practical challenges when working with vulnerable populations such as refugees, as well as involving them as active collaborators in the research process. Ensuring their contributions are valued, respected, and acted upon is key.

Our research not only contributes to the scientific understanding of refugee integration but also addresses ethical and practical challenges inherent in working with vulnerable populations, particularly in settings with limited institutional resources.

The study was supported by the International Visegrad Fund (#22330013), titled Challenges Faced by Ukrainian Refugees in Secondary Cities in Central and Eastern Europe: Promoting Inclusion and Social Cohesion through Inclusive Public Spaces and by the Slovak Academy of Sciences Postdoctoral Grant Program "PostdokGrant" No. APD0061: Navigating Complexity: Enhancing Integration Pathways for Ukrainian Refugees in the CEE Region.

About the author

Jana Papcunová, PhD, is an early career researcher at the Institute of Social Sciences, CSPS Slovak Academy of Sciences. After more than a decade in the field of mental health, she transitioned to academia, where her research now focuses on migration, integration, social cohesion, and hate speech. Her current work examines the challenges Ukrainian refugees face in integrating into secondary cities across Central and Eastern Europe, including Košice, Miskolc, Poznań, Kraków, Brno, and Uzhhorod. She is particularly interested in the social and institutional dynamics shaping refugee experiences, as well as issues of discrimination and community tensions.

Beyond her research, Jana serves as a confidential counselor for gender equality at the Slovak Academy of Sciences, advocating for better policies and practices. As an ambassador for the European Association of Social Psychology (EASP), she promotes social psychological research in underrepresented regions.

Her contributions have been recognized with first place for the best dissertation thesis and the Stefan Schwarz Stipendium, awarded by the Slovak Academy of Sciences. She is also committed to diversity and inclusion, open science, and responsible research practices, with a strong focus on ethical research involving vulnerable populations.

Insider perspectives on the lived experiences of African migrants at a British university: Ethics on the go

Victoria Odeniyi, *University of the Arts London*

The institutional context for this talk is an ethnographic study of language and literacies as social practice in a higher education institution. Adopting a qualitative mixed methods approach to data generation and analysis, the longitudinal study included observation and interviews with participants from the African diaspora with lived experiences of poverty and civil unrest before studying at a British university (Odeniyi & Lazar, 2020).

The methodological approach has a deliberate insider dimension in support of the study aims to deepen understanding of and perspectives on the identities, cultures and life experiences of participants before entering the university and the ways in which they intersect with the Western academy. Methods developed and applied to sustain focus on insider perspectives comprise traditional linguistic data transcription and thematic analysis; the creation of third person narratives, researcher-participant dialogue and participant validation.

For the short presentation I will focus on the creation of narrative summaries and participant validation in order to engender discussion and deep listening around researcher-participant dialogue. This will be achieved through sharing everyday microethical dilemmas on the go (De Costa, 2024), which emerged as the researcher learned about and from the lived experiences of participants; reflections on researcher roles and obligations within powerful institutions concerning research observations of racialised othering of African migrant students.

Careful dialogue centering on practical and epistemological matters can support the development and application of methods with the potential to challenge Western dominance over knowledge production by creating spaces, as Membe (2021) argues, that centre firmly on the Other.

About the author

Victoria Odeniyi is a research fellow at the Decolonising Arts Institute, University of the Arts London. Research interests include ethnography, linguistic diversity, educational inequalities, and how these phenomena intersect with race and identity. She has held teaching posts in the areas of language education, academic literacies and intercultural communication and enjoys engaging with colleagues in multilingual and decolonial research agendas supportive of understanding contemporary educational inequalities and historically silenced knowledge. Victoria has investigated factors contributing to unequal educational outcomes in diverse universities in the UK and was research lead for the UAL Decolonising Arts Education Fellowship Scheme (2022-2024); and currently sits on the UAL educational research ethics sub-committee. Her own research has investigated migrant university students' lived experiences centring the role of participant as knower, an approach later applied to an institutional research project Reimagining Conversations with Multilingual Students, leading to deepening awareness of factors contributing to unequal educational outcomes in the arts. Victoria was a researcher on a Mellon Foundation funded project Reading Peer Review which investigated the occluded academic practice of peer review and the consequences for institutional knowledge production.

Related reading:

Odeniyi, Victoria, and Gillian Lazar. "Valuing the multilingual repertoires of students from African migrant communities at a London university." Language, Culture and Curriculum 33, no. 2 (2020): 157-171. https://doi.org/10.1080/07908318.2019.1677702

Too much to ask? Methodological and ethical trade-offs in conjoint experiment on anti-immigrant sentiment

Sebastian Rinken, *Instituto de Estudios Sociales Avanzados (IESA-CSIC)*

Anti-immigrant sentiment is a notoriously sensitive research topic: perceived normative pressures may induce respondents to conceal their true feelings and thoughts. To elude social desirability bias, survey methodologists have devised unobtrusive question formats such as the item-count-technique, or list experiment. However, the experimental situation's opacity ("just tell me the number…"), while pertinent for reassuring moderately insincere norm defiers, has proved challenging for respondents keen to distance themselves unmistakably from highly sensitive items (https://doi.org10.12758/mda.2024.05).

Conjoint experiments might be suitable for avoiding, or at least reducing, both classic desirability bias and the norm-affirming "overacting" that hampers list experiments. Respondents are asked to compare and/or Likert-rate the likability of various individuals' profiles, each comprising one or two potentially sensitive traits (e.g., country of origin; religious orientation) together with several other attributes. Differently from item-count situations, scores express an overall evaluation of the profile, rather than a sum of likeable attributes. Based on aggregate data, trait-specific effects can be computed.

For these benefits to materialize, the experiment needs to be calibrated carefully. A large number of additional attributes seems pertinent for diluting perceived sensitivity; however, complex profiles might cause cognitive overburdening. Manifold levels per profile dimension add credibility, yet dispersive data reduce the likelihood of statistically significant findings. Ideally, profile dimensions originate in explanatory hypotheses, yet non-conceptual ingredients

might be necessary to distract from sensitive features. These trade-offs will be illustrated with examples from the MAPP project, an ongoing comparative study on anti-immigrant sentiment.

In terms of research ethics, unobtrusive survey techniques such as item-count or conjoint entail the insurmountable trade-off of making informed consent plainly impossible: if respondents were told in advance about the experiment's purpose, the attempt of eluding social desirability bias would be doomed from the outset. The noble end of gauging the prevalence of prejudiced attitudes requires the not-so-noble means of using participants as mere datapoints.

About the author

Sebastian Rinken is a tenured researcher and deputy director at the Spanish Research Council's Institute for Advanced Social Studies (IESA-CSIC), where he has led numerous research projects on natives' attitudes toward immigration, immigrants' social integration, and related methodological challenges; he is a founding member of IMISCOE's Standing Committee "Methodological Approaches and Tools in Migration Research". Sebastian graduated in Political Sciences at the Free University of Berlin and holds a PhD in Political and Social Sciences from the European University Institute; he received various prestigious post-doc scholarships (Marie-Curie Fellow at LSE; Ramón y Cajal Fellow). His research has been published by highly regarded outlets such as the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Quality and Quantity, and Survey Research Methods, among many others; he has also sought broader impact of research results, singularly as director of Andalusia's Migration Observatory. Presently, he directs MAPP, a project that will develop innovative measurement tools for exploring specificities and determinants of anti-immigrant sentiment in four European countries (Germany, Hungary, Italy and Spain).

Related reading:

Rinken, Sebastian, Pasadas-del-Amo, Sara, and Manual Trujillo. "A Scent of Strategy: Response Error in a List Experiment on Anti-Immigrant Sentiment". *MDA – methods, data, analyses* 18, no. 2 (2024): 249-262. https://doi.org/10.12758/mda.2024.05

Session 3: Participation, Collaboration, and Co-Creation in Migration Research

Chair: Justyna Salamońska (Kozminski University)

Reflections on the participatory potentials of a mixed-methods design of photos and qualitative interviews in research with refugees

Atrid Utler, *University of Bayreuth*

The presentation is based on a research project in which I explored the images of Germany held by people with and without refugee experiences, including possible changes of these images (Utler, 2024).

The following research questions guided my study: What images of Germany do the participants have? Do these images differ? If they differ, what lines of difference can be observed and how are they displayed? Do these images change in the course of a year and if yes, how?

According to the order of these questions, I first reconstructed the images (respectively, certain aspects of them) and their variations. In a second step I examined the differences which become evident, considering any possible line of difference (cultural, personal, situational) instead of one-sidedly focusing on differences between locals and newcomers. The last question addressed the changeability of images: Theoretical concepts suggest that images can change in the course of time. Still little is known about how they change and what makes them change.

The study employed an interpretive methodological approach, utilizing photographs and qualitative interviews to collect the data. For that purpose, I handed out single-use cameras, asking the participants to take photos of how they see Germany. The photo phase was followed by qualitative interviews, in which the photographs were used to stimulate narrations. The data acquisition took place in 2016 and was repeated in 2017, in order to obtain information on possible changes over time. During the whole research process and especially in the data acquisition phase, I considered and integrated participatory elements, whereas the photo method, in particular, proved to be helpful in actively engaging the participants.

In total, I obtained 68 data sets (47 in 2016, 21 in 2017), which were analyzed with several methods: First, the thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006) was used to structure the material and to obtain thematic clusters. Out of these clusters I selected the following four topics: care, freedom, diversity and integration. These topics were interpreted in-depth using relational hermeneutics (Straub, 2010) and the visual segment analysis (Breckner, 2021).

In the talk, I will briefly outline the scope of the study, focussing on its methodological setup and pointing out in what terms the methods I used can be considered to be participatory. Then I reflect on the impact these methods have on the overall quality of the data and research results, also discussing the benefits, challenges and limitations of this approach. In this context I will also differentiate my approach from the photovoice method (e.g. Wihofszky et al., 2020), pointing out their similarities and key differences. Additionally, I will address ethical issues such

as the question of anonymity: Even if photographed persons or personal references are anonymized, the pictures often reveal contextual information, such as the locations where they were taken, which cannot be obscured. This requires scientific reflections and decision-making on how to handle such challenges.

About the author

Astrid Utler holds a diploma (former German degree) in psychology (University of Regensburg), a Ph.D. in psychology (obtained at the Ruhr University Bochum), and is currently PD in psychology (University of Bayreuth). Her research focus is qualitative methods (e.g., group discussions, photovoice, qualitative interviews), cultural psychology and intercultural communication, migration, diversity, and sustainable mobility.

Related reading:

Utler, Astrid. *„Wie siehst Du Deutschland?“ Die Vielfalt der Deutschlandbilder von Menschen mit und ohne Fluchterfahrung*. Transcript, 2024. https://doi.org/10.14361/9783839474020

Collaborative and community-based research with refugees, not about refugees

Lori Wilkinson, *University of Manitoba*

While it is increasingly acceptable and required to conduct social science research using a community-centred approach in North American university contexts, this method continues to be marginalized, at least in many academic contexts. The most “valued” academic activities, from a university perspective, reward esoteric, theoretical and inaccessible jargon in peer-reviewed academic publications that remain hidden behind journal paywalls, accessible only to those who are connected to universities or limited to the very few publicly funded settlement agencies who can afford to pay. The more inaccessible the writing is, the more academically worthy and the more “academic value” placed upon the topic, especially at hiring, tenure and promotion committees. Ethically and practically, this attitude often means that the voices and experiences of refugees and the front-line service professionals who work with them are dislocated, marginalized, dehumanized, or ignored within nearly every decision-making process of the research project, if they are involved at all. This type of research dislocates the refugee, is unethical and inauthentic, does not meaningfully contribute to practical and political change and is disrespectful.

In my short presentation, I identify the benefits, including the political, policy, social and academic, to including refugees directly within the decision-making process at all aspects of the research plan from the development of the research question, methodological and theoretical decisions, recruitment and data analysis, interpretation, dissemination and writing. I also examine the challenges involved with including more, rather than less, “cooks in the research kitchen”. The most challenging part, especially for researchers who are new to the topic, is to make meaningful connections with the refugee community. For junior researchers, some of these challenges can include committee members who are not accustomed to including public voices within academic research. Most importantly, I will discuss some strategies we can use and incorporate into our research agendas as early as our graduate research and how to employ meaningful strategies to maintain and grow these relationships throughout your academic career. Advanced planning, even at the grant application stage, is essential to make these practices a meaningful part of your academic project development. More importantly,

the inclusion of refugee voices and people who work with them, always results in more meaningful academic and policy contributions.

With the argument already articulated in this document, my intention is to focus the short presentation on identifying real strategies for the inclusion of refugee voices. How do we identify the community? Who is a part of the community? How do we make meaningful connections? How do we gain trust with the community? How do we convince funders of the importance of the full participation of non-academics? Most importantly, how do we move from findings into meaningful action on bettering the lives of refugees, backed with empirical data?

About the author

Lori Wilkinson is a Professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg Canada. Her research centres on the economic and social outcomes of immigrants and refugees, with a special focus on women and youth. Her current projects include a national study of the pandemic arrival experiences of Afghan refugees, the experiences of sexual-and gender-based violence among newcomer women in Canada, international students and their perceptions of university and life in Canada, and the pandemic outcomes of Indigenous peoples and newcomers in Canada, USA and Mexico.

She currently holds a Canada Research Chair in Migration Futures. In 2023, she was awarded Distinguished Professor at the University of Manitoba. In 2024, she was elected as a Fellow to the Royal Society of Canada. In 2021, she was awarded the Metropolis Researcher of Excellence Award. For over a decade, she has served as the director of Immigration Research West, a multidisciplinary group of over 100 members who work together to educate Canadians about the contributions of newcomers. She volunteers with several international, national and local community organizations who are working toward the successful resettlement of newcomers. She is the author of dozens of peer reviewed articles, government and community reports and books on research methods in the social sciences.

Inclusive engagement in migration research between ambitious goals on paper and conflicts on the ground

Friederike Enßle-Reinhardt, *Chemnitz University of Technology*
Johannes Glöckner, *Chemnitz University of Technology*

In the light of the reflexive turn in migration studies, scholars have increasingly engaged with the question how to best involve research participants. This spans from co-designing research, employing participative methods to developing inclusive formats to share research outcomes. Involving local communities and “give something back to the field" have become key standards in many research projects and funding schemes. As much as this shift reflects the attempt to take a more responsible research position, it also poses challenges in the practical doing of research. Drawing from two research projects, our contribution seeks to start a conversation about these challenges from two perspectives: (1) field reflections on power dynamics among research participants in focus group discussions and (2) researchers’ reflections on the impact of migration research projects. For the first perspective, we present experiences from the EU-funded research project Whole-COMM (2021-2024) and six focus group discussions on the topic “Living together in my town” that we conducted with in total 36 residents with and without migration experiences. Our field reflections will discuss how the aim to “include

everyone" and foster participation of different community members also implies sharing responsibility and giving up control for researchers. Participants risk to uncover conflict lines and being confronted with questions of belonging and identity while researchers find themselves in multiple roles and act as moderators, mediators as well as somewhat 'neutral scientist'.

We complement this perspective with insights from interviews on stakeholder engagement and research impact revealing discrepancies between the expectations placed on migration research projects and the actual outcomes for participants. The interviews with researchers and practitioners involved in completed EU-funded migration research projects were conducted between June and October 2024 as part of the 'INNOVATE' research project. During the interviews, the participants were asked to reflect on their experiences in the cooperation between the partners involved in the research process and to evaluate the impact of the scientific results on the policy field addressed by the project and local integration policy. The interviews were analysed looking at the challenges and opportunities of cooperative research projects, the role of the project design and the assessments of the impact. Particular attention was paid to identifying inconsistencies between the claim of engagement and what was actually achieved. Initial findings indicate that at many points in the research cycle, there is a risk of breaching the principles of inclusive engagement. Our contribution asks how researchers can position themselves in local power dynamics, negotiate their different roles in community-oriented migration research and what this implies for the future design of research projects.

About the authors

Friederike Enßle-Reinhardt is a post-doctoral researcher at the Chair of Human Geography with a focus on European Migration Studies at Chemnitz University of Technology. She completed her PhD on age(ing), diversity and intersectionality at Humboldt-University in Berlin. Since 2021, she works at TU Chemnitz focusing on (forced) migrants' processes of arrival in smaller localities and the negotiation of migration in the local population from a perspective that is sensitive to social and spatial inequalities. Friederike is particularly interested in communicating research findings to research participants, local policy makers and the interested public. She is currently involved in the research projects REFRAME (Reframing arrivals of forced migrants between 2015 and 2022) and NaMiK (Local Narratives on migration and their impact on migrants' access to the labor market.)

Johannes Glöckner is a researcher specializing in the intersection of urban and migration research. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Geography and a Master's degree in Spatial Planning and Research. His research focuses on urban policies, neighbourhood development, belonging, and participation, particularly in the context of migration. He currently works in the EU funded project "Innovate: Innovations to promote policy-practice Dialog on Migration" investigating research to policy dialogue and local responses to large-scale displacements.

Related reading:

Boswell, Christina and Katherine Smith. "Rethinking policy 'impact': four models of research-policy relations." *Palgrave Communications* 3, no.44 (2017): https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-017-0042-z

Enhancing Survey Inclusivity: Co-Designing Study Materials to Engage Turkish Migrants in General Population Survey

Hilal Sezgin-Just, *German Centre of Gerontology*
Michael Weinhardt, *German Ageing Survey*
Mareike Bünning, *German Ageing Survey*

The inclusion of migrant populations in social science surveys is essential for understanding integration processes and ensuring representative data. However, persistently high nonresponse rates among Turkish migrants—one of Germany's largest and historically underrepresented minority groups—pose significant methodological challenges. Our research develops and analyzes tailored recruitment strategies to enhance participation among Turkish migrants in population surveys and panel studies in direct communication with members of the target population. The underlying assumption is that personalized outreach and trust-building mechanisms can improve data quality. Methodologically, the study follows a mixed-methods design, integrating expert interviews and focus groups to identify culturally responsive engagement strategies and generate quantitative field materials later on. Using this approach, we directly engage with members of the target population in developing fieldwork materials, such as advance letters and leaflets.

Expert interviews are conducted with key stakeholders—including leaders of migrant organizations, religious representatives, journalists, politicians, and researchers—to examine structural and communicative barriers to survey participation. These insights from direct exchanges with community members and key representatives of the target audience will be used to improve the design of targeted recruitment interventions. Complementing this, focus groups with Turkish migrants and their descendants function as participatory research spaces, allowing for the co-construction of knowledge regarding survey hesitancy, access barriers, and motivators for participation. By adopting a reflexive research design, we aim to decentre conventional survey methodologies, acknowledge power dynamics, and integrate participant perspectives into recruitment strategies. Furthermore, personalized outreach and trust-building efforts may reduce response bias and social desirability effects, thereby improving measurement accuracy.

Initial findings from interviewer experiences highlight the crucial role of insider status in data collection. Researchers with shared linguistic and cultural backgrounds gain easier access to participants and receive more open and honest responses, thereby improving data validity. However, these dynamics also introduce ethical complexities, such as power asymmetries and potential expectations from participants. Findings from these qualitative methods directly inform the development of empirically grounded fieldwork materials, including personalized invitation letters and culturally tailored incentive structures.

This presentation discusses preliminary results, focusing on structural and perceptual barriers to survey participation while identifying methodological innovations that enhance inclusivity. By contributing to the refinement of recruitment techniques, this study advances survey methodology and provides transferable insights for engaging other hard-to-reach populations in social research through direct engagement with potential research participants. Additionally, the research highlights the broader implications of participatory methodologies, advocating for more inclusive and community-sensitive approaches in the design and execution of social surveys.

About the authors

Hilal Sezgin-Just studied Sociology and Statistics at Technische Universität Berlin and Religion and Culture at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. She is currently working at the German Centre of Gerontology (DZA). Her research focuses on survey methodology, migration studies, and diversity in data collection. She is particularly interested in strategies to improve the representation of minority groups in social science research, with a focus on recruitment techniques and response behavior. By combining quantitative and qualitative methods, she explores how social background, trust, and accessibility shape participation in surveys and panel studies.

Michael Weinhardt is a sociologist with a broad expertise in research methods and survey methodology, currently working on the German Ageing Survey (DEAS). Previously, he was the survey manager for the German sample of the European Social Survey (ESS) for two waves, interested in the many aspects of general population studies, including sampling, fieldwork, and the assurance of the cross-cultural comparability of the questionnaire. He employed a range of qualitative pretesting methods such as focus groups, cognitive interviewing, and behaviour coding during his work on the ESS and the SOEP linked-employer-employee study.

Mareike Bünning is a sociologist at the German Centre of Gerontology working on the German Ageing Survey (DEAS). Her research focuses on family relations and social integration, with an emphasis on social inequalities by gender, age, and ethnicity. She has been involved in several projects collecting survey data from different populations.

Irregular migrants as participants of the longitudinal surveys

Katarzyna Porwit, *Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw*
Agata Górny, *Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw*

Longitudinal surveys pose a challenge of securing a satisfactory response rate in the subsequent waves. In the case of mobile migrant populations, this challenge is even greater, while implementation of a longitudinal survey of irregular migrants may seem hardly realistic. Overall, the discussion on how to increase participation and engagement of migrants in longitudinal surveys deserves attention.

Our contribution is to share and evaluate experiences relating to participation rates in the second wave of the longitudinal survey of regular and irregular migrants (persons without or with limited right of residence in the destination country) in Poland within the "Protecting Irregular Migrants in Europe: Institutions, Interests and Policies (PRIME) research project.

PRIME project is a Horizon Europe-funded initiative coordinated by the EU (Italy), in cooperation with partners across eight European countries, including the University of Warsaw in Poland. PRIME aims to investigate the significant variations in the conditions of irregular migrants across Europe. The project seeks to understand how variations in socio-economic institutions, labor market regulations, welfare policies, and sectoral practices impact the experiences and vulnerabilities of irregular migrants.

To achieve its objectives, PRIME employs a comprehensive research methodology that includes large-scale surveys, structured policy analyses, and qualitative interviews. These efforts focus on gathering insights from irregular migrants, employers, policymakers, interest groups, and the general public across the participating countries.

PRIME WP 5 aims to highlight a better understanding of irregular migrants' conditions in their first country of arrival in Europe, with a focus on their labour market access, strategies and experiences, but also access to basic rights and services. Additionally, new analysis on how and why irregular migrants engage with intra-EU mobility over time will produced. To achieve this the three wave survey conducted in all 'mobility focus countries': Italy, Spain, Greece, Poland and Croatia was designed (first wave: N=1500).

The first wave of the survey in Poland took place in February-July 2024 (N=300) and involved CAPI interviews, while its second wave was in October-December 2024 (N=92) and used CATI interviews. Surveyed migrants originated from India, Philippines, Turkey and Ukraine. Respondents did not receive incentives for participation in the survey (except for some very small gifts).

In our contribution, we will evaluate the role of the interview practical arrangements in increasing participation in the second wave of the longitudinal survey. We will address: language of an interview (native versus English), knowledge of an interviewer from the previous wave of the survey, and other practical arrangements based on the feedback from interviewers (e.g. texting respondents before an interview). According to our initial observations from the fieldwork, in the case of usually distrustful and careful newcomer migrants with limited right to stay, practical arrangements of an interview play a crucial role in securing their participation and increasing engagement in subsequent waves of the longitudinal survey. In particular, we would like to highlight the importance of the language of an interview, which is sometimes overlooked by the research companies and even neglected in the current age of automatic translation.

About the authors

Katarzyna Porwit presently is an employee of the Centre of Migration Research at University of Warsaw (CMR) and Member of the Management Board of the Centre for Migration Research Foundation. Her research interests mainly focused on the quantitative approach to Ukrainian immigration in Poland. She had experience with different quantitative research designs with regard to sampling, and modes of data collection. She has contributed to several research projects focused on examining the best methodology for studying socio-economic aspects of migration to Poland. First surveys were based on the Respondent Driven Sampling methodology in various cities across Poland. Recently she is a team member of two Horizon Europe projects, including "Protecting Irregular Migrants in Europe: Institutions, Interests and Policies (PRIME)" (https://migrationpolicycentre.eu/protecting-irregular-migrants/) and "Between Ukraine and Poland" research program: (https://ukraina2022.idub.uw.edu.pl/) - first panel study of Ukrainian migrants in Poland. Her second area of research interest, partly linked to the PRIME theme, is the well-being and the health of school-aged children, she is also an official HBSC network member since 2019 (https://hbsc.org/). She graduated from the Warsaw University (MA) and after that attended Postgraduate Studies in International Migration Processes and Methods (UW) and Postgraduate Studies in Statistical Data Analysis (AGH UST).

Agata Górny is an associate professor at the University of Warsaw at the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Deputy Director of the Centre of Migration Research. She is also the deputy president of the Committee for Migration Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences. An economist and sociologist by education, her research interests include the methodology of migration research – especially survey methodology - contemporary migration processes, primarily immigration to Poland and Central and Eastern Europe, and socio-economic

integration of migrants in the host society. Her research interests include mechanisms of illegal migration, remigration and immigration to Poland, economic adaptation of immigrants.

Lost in translation? Migration, panel attrition and language versions in health surveys: Evidence from the German Socio-Economic Panel

Manuel Holz, *Chemnitz University of Technology*
Jochen Mayerl, *Chemnitz University of Technology*

This study investigates patterns of panel dropout among native Germans, European migrants, and non-European migrants and examines its interaction with self-rated health measures. Using data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), we track respondents from the first wave of 2002 and compute the total number of waves each individual participated in. Subsequently we investigate the influence of migration background and health-related covariates on panel retention. Additionally, we explore whether the availability of translation aids affects continued survey participation among migrant groups. Our findings have significant implications for survey methodology, shedding light on differential attrition patterns and the role of linguistic accessibility. By identifying groups with particularly high dropout rates and assessing potential mitigating factors, this study contributes to improving the representativeness of health surveys and informing strategies for better migrant inclusion in longitudinal research.

About the authors

Manuel Holz is a post-doctoral researcher in Sociology at TU Chemnitz. His focus lies on quantitative migration studies, especially in the field of health and attitudes, as well as structural equation modelling, web scraping, and a little bit of text data.

Jochen Mayerl is Professor of Sociology with a Focus on Empirical Social Research at Chemnitz University of Technology. His fields of research are survey methodology, structural equation modelling, attitudes, environmental sociology, and xenophobia.

Session 4: Ethical Dilemmas, Responsibilities, and Boundaries in Migration Studies

Chair: Steffen Pötzschke (GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences)

In Search of Good Research Citizenship in Citizenship Research: Trust, Power, Borders and Institutional Review Boards

Robin A. Harper, *York College/CUNY Graduate Center*

In all modes of ethical research, the dignity of research participants is fundamental. Researchers are dependent on the candor of participants, and this requires trust. Historical researcher misconduct has provoked widespread distrust in the scientific process. To rectify this predicament, governments impose Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), also known as Ethics Committees or Ethics Boards, to craft regulations and impose oversight in the name of protecting research subjects from harm and generating trust for all in the research process. The reality of field research is not so tidy. Qualitative fieldwork poses an array of risks and complex power dynamics between researchers and research participants. How can we be good research citizens when studying citizenship and immigration? How do the prevailing ethics mandates curtail the full expression of research participants? In an era of digital mining, how can ethnographic researchers protect their sources? Who is actually responsible for conducting ethical research, and how is it practically achievable in international research? In a critical analysis of US IRB practices, I describe how IRBs have limited capacity to protect human subjects and do not consider the spectrum of risks for research participants and potentially vulnerable researchers as well. The US regulatory approach to human subjects' protection is well-meaning but insipid and culturally tone-deaf, especially for multilingual, multicultural research with (im)migrants outside of the US. Paradoxically, IRB directives can engender distrust and undermine relations between researchers and participants in such international venues. Foreign governments' ethical review mandates may conflict with US-based IRB directives, rendering researchers in precarious circumstances about the prevailing guidance. Journals may also impose transparency expectations contrary to IRB directives and promises of confidentiality made to participants. I draw on my field experiences in published work in Germany, Israel, Pakistan/Afghanistan, and the United States to illustrate that despite all the best intentions, imposing national rules on cross-border research projects may render participants and researchers alike less safe and limit scientific expression.

About the author

Robin A. Harper is Professor of Political Science at York College (City University of New York) and in the MA program in International Migration Studies at The CUNY Graduate Center. My research focuses on comparative immigration and citizenship policies. I am especially intrigued by questions concerning the meaning of citizenship, belonging, borders, and temporary labor migration, as well as how public policy can promote, hinder, or prevent immigrant inclusion and exclusion. I am an interpretive political scientist by training. Regionally, I focus on Germany, Israel, and the United States. Before becoming an academic, I worked in the NYC and Berlin governments on issues of immigrant integration, on the Afghan-Pakistani border on refugee

issues, and as a journalist assigned to radicalization-deradicalization issues in the Middle East and Southwest Asia.

Related reading:

Harper, Robin A., and Hani Zubida. "Being seen: Visibility, families and dynamic remittance practices." *Migration and Development* 7, no. 1 (2018): 5-25.

Focusing on participants and related ethical challenges in secondary social survey research on migration

Justyna Salamońska, *Kozminski University*

While migration researchers collecting their own survey data can find guides and resources on the ethics of primary data collection, secondary researchers lack appropriate support on the ethical challenges of secondary data analysis (SDA). This paper offers some insights into the responsibilities to participants when working with existing social survey data and the associated ethical challenges in the field of migration.

One of the most important principles of ethics in research is informed consent, which is obtained prior to the data collection process. When participants give informed consent, it must be voluntary and based on the information what the research project is about. The question arises as to whether the use of secondary data raises concerns, e.g. if the original informed consent envisaged future use of the data. Researchers using secondary data should review the original consent forms and be aware of its contents so that they can ensure that the SDA is consistent with what the participants originally agreed to. If the SDA does not match the statements in the original consent form, the SDA researchers should try to obtain a new consent form. The latter might be impossible, as this would require access to personal data, including contact details that match the survey records, in order to reach the participants and obtain the new consent for the SDA. There are further ethical issues as SDA also poses challenges in terms of confidentiality and the risk of re-identification of participants that may occur when presenting the results of the data analysis.

About the author

Justyna Salamońska is Associate Professor at Kozminski University, Department of Management in Networked and Digital Societies. Justyna holds a PhD in Sociology from Trinity College Dublin. She previously carried out research and taught at Trinity College Dublin, European University Institute, University of Chieti-Pescara and University of Warsaw. Her research and teaching interests are in the area of contemporary migrations and cross-border mobilities in Europe, migrant integration, attitudes towards migrants and refugees. She works using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. She has acted as a PI on research projects in the area of migration, mobilities and posting of workers, financed by the National Science Centre in Poland and the European Commission (under Horizon2020 and EaSI programmes). Justyna is one of the coordinators on the IMISCOE Standing Committee Methodological Approaches and Tools in Migration Research (Meth@Mig) and the IMISCOE Editorial Committee member.

Undercover researchers? Exploring Methodological Boundaries in Participative Research

Luisa Conti, *University of Jena*

Migration research is unique due to its sensitive subject matter, focusing on individuals in vulnerable phases of their lives, where the ideals of human dignity and rights often clash with lived realities. Legal frameworks, such as human rights conventions and anti-discrimination laws, frequently fail to be realized, and this gap is increasingly legitimized by political forces.

In this context, participatory research is essential, as those who experience these realities firsthand are best suited to identify areas of inquiry and ensure ethical design and meaningful outcomes. These experiences are often inaccessible and cannot be fully understood by researchers due to their usually privileged positions.

Participatory research depends on a trusting relationship, often emerging from a friendship context. Such intimacy fosters safety and openness, which is crucial for addressing sensitive topics. However, a challenge arises when trying to reconcile this intimacy with the public sphere, as research data must be verifiable, and findings must be transparently shared.

How can these challenges be addressed while maintaining scientific integrity? Where are the boundaries of established methodologies, and where can innovation be introduced to ensure high-quality research?

This question is explored through a case study: Hatim, a migrant, often comes home distressed after facing racist treatment. He is undergoing an “Ausbildung,” a vocational training program required despite having a degree that is not recognized in Germany. He shares stories of racism at work and school and describes his courage in speaking with the diversity officer at his workplace. She (the diversity officer) suggests that she could ask the perpetrators to confirm his story, but he knows they won’t, and he risks retaliation. She advises against any recording of the incidents.

Hatim and I consider documenting the situation anyway. He seeks change, while for me, research provides an opportunity to understand and reflect on strategies. However, this raises significant concerns.

The first issue: am I conducting research or undercover journalism? Recording his experiences raises ethical concerns.

The second issue: Would I be a researcher or a friend, and would he still feel important to me or feel used for research?

The third issue: Should I record his testimony of distress? This might change our relationship in that delicate moment and certainly alter the situation. Should I record secretly and ask for permission to keep the data afterward?

The fourth issue: Can I really guarantee to Hatim and his migrant colleagues that there is no risk in sharing their stories? Is it ethical to record their experiences and publish a paper on them?

The fifth issue: Hatim’s primary motivation is to change his situation, not to enrich research. Is it worth it for him to invest effort in this process, knowing that the change will not be direct or short-term? Should I disillusion him?

These issues underscore the ethical, methodological, and practical dilemmas central to participatory research. They prompt reflection on how to balance scientific rigor with ethical considerations, particularly in politically and socially sensitive contexts. The challenge lies in maintaining integrity while ensuring that research serves the best interests of those involved.

About the author

Luisa Conti is a Researcher and Lecturer at the University of Jena in Germany. She obtained her degree in Public Relations from the University of Udine in Italy and completed a binational PhD program in Intercultural Communication at the University of Jena and Education at the University of Padua in Italy. During her postdoctoral research, she conducted studies as a visiting scholar in various Latin American countries and co-led an international scholarly platform on Migration, resulting in three co-edited publications. Luisa Conti has also been involved in editing numerous volumes alongside her peers from Researching Digital Interculturality Co-operatively (ReDICo). Currently, Luisa Conti leads and co-leads various projects in the broader area of digital interculturality and transformative education. Her academic pursuits revolve around understanding the factors and dynamics that undermine social cohesion and exploring the digital potential to address them. She serves as an associate editor of the journal "Intercultural Education" and is a co-editor of the academic series "Studies in Digital Interculturality" published by transcript.

Related reading:

Conti, Luisa. "Systematic Vulnerabilization of Migrant Students: How the Dialogic Approach Can Clear the Way for a Change." In *Supporting Migrant Students Through the Pandemic and Beyond*, edited by Alessio D'Angelo, Sílvia Carrasco, and Roberta Ricucci. Bellaterra: Universitat Autónoma de Barcelona, CER-Migracions, 2023. https://ddd.uab.cat/record/274945

Navigating Ethical and Methodological Challenges in Surveying Displaced Populations in Conflict Zones: Insights from the Arab Opinion Index

Laila Omar, *Doha Institute for Graduate Studies*

The ongoing conflicts in Sudan, Gaza, and Lebanon have caused widespread internal displacement, presenting significant challenges for conducting public opinion surveys such as the Arab Opinion Index. This biennial survey is firmly rooted in the region and aims to capture the attitudes of Arab societies on economic, societal, political, and religious issues through tens of thousands of face-to-face interviews conducted in 12-15 Arab countries. However, the ongoing experiences of war and instability, as well as continuous forced displacement, complicate survey design, implementation, and ethical considerations, making the process far more complex than in stable settings. What can we learn about the role of participants and researchers from this survey design experience in a region that is in a constant state of conflict?

In this workshop, I will address the ethical and methodological difficulties of surveying displaced populations in conflict zones. First, the rapidly changing nature of conflicts and the constant (internal) displacement of families fleeing war requires a flexible, adaptive approach that allows real-time adjustments to ensure questions remain timely and sensitive to the context. For example, questions about political trust may quickly become irrelevant as new crises emerge, such as displacement, economic collapse, or violence. Additionally, new opportunities arise, such as conducting surveys in post-regime fall Syria and during the return of refugees. Ethically, researchers must consider power dynamics and be aware of the vulnerability of participants:

how do we ask sensitive questions without exacerbating emotional or psychological distress? How can language and concepts be tailored to respect participants' experiences and emotions in such contexts? Striking a balance between neutrality and empathy is essential, as questions must respect participants' emotional states while ensuring methodological rigor.

These challenges raise important questions: How can survey instruments remain flexible enough to capture the dynamic nature of public opinion in such unstable settings? And how can sensitive topics be explored ethically, while maintaining scientific rigor? By addressing these questions, I aim to contribute to discussions on maintaining both methodological rigor and ethical integrity in research involving vulnerable populations in conflict zones.

About the author

Laila Omar is Adjunct Professor in the Sociology and Anthropology program at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies and Researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies in Doha, Qatar. She holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Toronto and previously worked as a postdoctoral researcher and Fung Global Fellow at the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS), Princeton University. Her research interests lie in the areas of forced displacement, immigrant and refugee integration, gender, family, and youth. More specifically, she is interested in issues related to the integration process of refugees from/to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Her research has been funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and appeared in journals such as Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies and Journal of Refugee Studies.

Local Organising Committee at TU Chemnitz



Yolanda López García (@emaginaries.bsky.social) is currently a Junior Professor for Intercultural Practice with a Focus on Digital Cultures at Chemnitz University of Technology. Her academic background is interdisciplinary; she holds a PhD from the University of Jena, a Master's degree in International Migration and Intercultural Relations from the University of Osnabrück, and a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from ITESO in Mexico. Her research interests include digital migration studies, critical intercultural communication and competence, postdigitality, social imaginaries (social *E*-maginary), and critical perspectives on nationalism, coloniality, racism, and discrimination. She employs qualitative methods in her work, including the life story approach and digital anthropology. Her current empirical research explores postdigital intercultural practices, with a particular focus on the *E*-maginaries of coloniality, social networking sites, and the postdigital practices of Latin American and Spanish women in Germany. Yolanda has been actively involved in the IMISCOE Standing Committee *Methodological Approaches and Tools in Migration Research* (Meth@Mig).



Carmen Pereyra holds an MA in Anthropology from the University of Leipzig and a BA in Modern Literature, Literary Theory, and Analysis from the University of Buenos Aires. She is currently a Research Associate at the Junior Professorship for Intercultural Practice with a Focus on Digital Culture at Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany, and a PhD student within the research program *Imaginamics: Practices and Dynamics of Social Imagining* at the University of Jena. She has also worked on the ReDICo (*Researching Digital Interculturality Co-operatively*) project. Her research interests include decolonial studies, discourse analysis, postdigitality, imaginaries and representations, racism, right-wing extremism, lifestyle migration, and digital anthropology. Her recent publications address the colonial representations and imaginaries shaping a community of and for German speakers in Paraguay; reflections on racism and football identity in Argentina on the social network X; and, together with Yolanda López García, the transnational experiences of Latin American and Spanish migrant women in Germany in postdigital times.



Vera Niggebrügge is a Master Student in Intercultural Communication and Competence at the Chemnitz University of Technology. She currently works as a Student Assistant at the *Junior Professorship Intercultural Practice with a Focus on Digital Cultures*. She is interested in topics around (im-)mobility, such as diaspora research, hybrid identities, and (critical) intercultural communication, as well as postcolonial theories, qualitative social research, and sinology.

Thanks to the student assistants for their on-site support: Hiba Hendi, Lisa Klostermann & Anne Schwenke

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Steffen Pötzschke (@stpoetzschke.bsky.social) is a tenured senior researcher and deputy team leader of the GESIS Panel at the GESIS – Leibniz-Institute for the Social Sciences in Mannheim (Germany). Furthermore, he is a corresponding member of the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (University of Osnabrück, Germany). Steffen holds a master's degree in International Migration and Intercultural Relations and a doctorate (Dr. phil.) from the University of Osnabrück. Steffen participated in several migration research projects and has profound practical knowledge in designing and implementing cross-cultural surveys. In his recent research, he investigates the possibility of using social networking sites as tools to sample hard-to-reach populations. Since early 2024, Steffen has been co-chair of the IMISCOE Standing Committee *Methodological Approaches and Tools in Migration Research* (Meth@Mig).



Laila Omar (@LailaMOmar) is Adjunct Professor in the Sociology and Anthropology program at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies and Researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies in Doha, Qatar. She holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Toronto, and previously worked as a postdoctoral researcher and Fung Global Fellow at the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS), Princeton University. Her research interests lie within the fields of forced displacement, immigrant and refugee integration, gender, family, and qualitative methods. More specifically, she is interested in issues related to the integration process of refugees from/to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Her research has been funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and appeared in journals such as the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* and the *Journal of Refugee Studies*.



Sebastian Rinken (PhD, European University Institute, 1996) is deputy director of the Spanish Research Council's Institute for Advanced Social Studies (IESA-CSIC) in Córdoba. He has published widely on immigrant populations' social integration and natives' attitudes toward immigration and immigrants, addressing issues such as the relation between ideological polarization and anti-immigrant sentiment, as well as the methodological challenge of eluding social desirability bias, among many others. His methodological repertoire includes qualitative approaches, probability-based surveys, non-probability sampling for on-site and online surveys, and survey experiments.



Justyna Salamońska (@JSalamonska) is Associate Professor at Kozminski University, Department of Management in Networked and Digital Societies. Justyna holds a PhD in Sociology from Trinity College Dublin. She previously carried out research and taught at Trinity College Dublin, European University Institute, University of Chieti-Pescara and University of Warsaw. Her research and teaching interests are in the area of contemporary migrations and cross-border mobilities in Europe, migrant integration, attitudes towards migrants and refugees. She works using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. She has acted as a PI on research projects in the area of migration, mobilities and posting of workers, financed by the National Science Centre in Poland and the European Commission (under Horizon2020 and EaSI programmes). Justyna has chaired IMISCOE's Standing Committee *Methodological Approaches and Tools in Migration Research (Meth@Mig)* from 2020 to early 2024.



Evren Yalaz (@EvrenYalaz) is a senior researcher at Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration, University of Pompeu Fabra (GRITIM-UPF) and a senior research analyst at Trilateral Research. She holds a Ph.D. from the Department of Political Science at Rutgers University. Her research interests include qualitative research in migration studies, research ethics, migrant transnationalism, political integration, and social movements, and ethics of new and emerging. She currently contributes to the EU-funded research projects VERITY and MAMMOth.

Methodological Approaches and Tools in Migration Research (Meth@Mig)

The IMICOE Standing Committee Methodological Approaches and Tools in Migration Research (Meth@Mig) provides a forum for discussing methodological approaches and tools in migration research and assessing the best options available for tackling manifold methodological challenges. The Standing Committee takes on a pluralist perspective as it addresses (1) issues relevant across a wide range of research methods in migration studies, such as obtaining informed consent in cross-cultural settings, gaining access to hard-to-reach populations, operationalising relevant concepts, and leveraging the potential of new communication technologies, as well as (2) issues relevant for specific research approaches (be they quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods or experimental) as applied to the study of international migration in all its facets and dimensions.

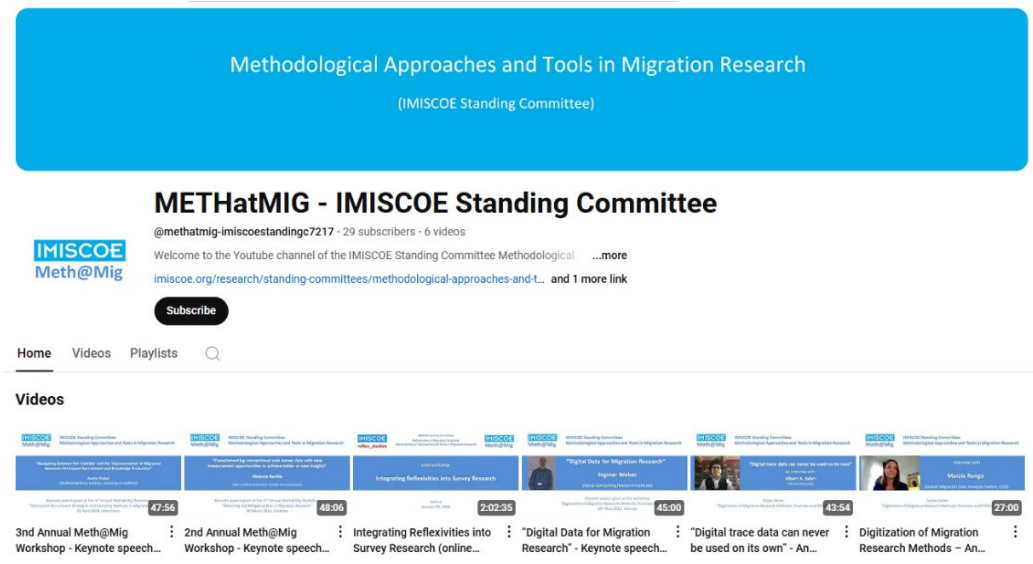
Due to its transversal methodological profile, Meth@Mig is uniquely suited to cooperate with various other IMISCOE Standing Committees that are mainly defined by substantive research agendas. Such cooperation may, for instance, consist of jointly organised events or publications. The Standing Committee places special emphasis on sharing innovative procedures and on interconnecting researchers from different methodological schools as well as migration scholars and experts in research methodology.

The Standing Committee aims to become a reference-point for methodological reflections in the migration research community within and beyond IMISCOE.

Join Meth@Mig today

Membership in Meth@Mig is free and not contingent on IMISCOE membership. To sign-up, visit our website and click on the "Join this Standing Committee" button.

Visit Meth@Mig on YouTube



Announcements

Please join us for this **workshop at the next 22nd IMISCOE Annual Conference** to be held from July 1 to 4, 2025 in Aubervilliers–Paris.

Strategies and Practical Tools for Publishing Methods Papers

Organized by Roslyn Cameron (Torrens University, Australia) and the IMISCOE Standing Committee Methodological Approaches and Tools in Migration Research (Meth@Mig)

Publishing methodology papers presents a set of unique challenges for researchers. This workshop will draw upon reporting approaches and practical tools to explore strategies for publishing migration methodology papers, especially those that utilize more complex designs, mixed methods, multi-methods and innovative methodologies. The political nature of reporting and publishing methodology papers in academic and discipline-based literature will be acknowledged and will cover issues such as: disciplinary methodology traditions; levels of acceptance of certain methodologies within disciplines; reporting mixed methods research (MMR) in migration research and challenges of reporting more complex designs (e.g. longitudinal research, MMR and multi-method designs) in their entirety given word length limitations. Strategies include researching journals and editorial boards, attending Editorial panels at conferences, nominating methodology Special Issues for discipline specific journals, sourcing MMR prevalence studies, leveraging off claims of methodological innovation and creativity, engaging with multidisciplinary research teams; and targeting methodology journals. The following practical tools and checklists will be presented as a means of embedding quality criteria within methodology papers: GRAMMS (O'Cathain et al., 2008) and MMARS; COREQ (Tong et al., 2007); JARS-qual and JARS-quant (Levitt et al., 2018). Other tools and frameworks that assists in reporting methodology papers will also be presented such as the MMR Notation System (Cameron, 2023), hourglass models for presenting methodology papers (Fetters & Freshwater, 2015) and the methodology checklist from the JMMR (Fetters & Molina-Azorin, 2019).
The workshop will also encourage new ways of thinking about the presentation of research results, especially where the methods used, and information gained does not neatly fit a conventional format.
As organizers, we want to highlight that this workshop is intended for all conference attendees and is open to participants at any career stage irrespective of their methodological orientation.

**** Please note that the exact scheduling of the workshop is pending and will be communicated through the official conference portal.****

Chemnitz Technical University and the Junior Professorship Intercultural Practice with a Focus on Digital Cultures

Chemnitz University of Technology is a cosmopolitan institution with strong regional, national, and international networks. It is home to approximately 2,300 academic and administrative staff members and more than 9,600 students from around 90 countries, making it the third-largest university in Saxony. With one of the highest proportions of international students among state universities in Germany, it holds a leading position nationwide.

Chemnitz, the European Capital of Culture 2025, has experienced many years of positive economic development, including consistent growth in gross domestic product and a high proportion of highly qualified employees. The university plays a key role in this success: As the intellectual heart of the city, Chemnitz University of Technology has become an internationally recognized research hub for future-oriented value creation and sustainable development.

Watch this film to learn more about TU Chemnitz

The Junior Professorship Intercultural Practice with a Focus on Digital Cultures under the direction of Yolanda López García is in the Institute for German and Communication Studies (IfGIK) at the Faculty of Humanities at the Technical University Chemnitz. Research and teaching topics of the junior professorship address the reconfiguration of everyday life in a postdigital field of action, especially on migration. The postdigital field of action is understood as the continuity of everyday life in “offline” and “online” fields of action, which are not to be understood dichotomously.

The junior professorship is structured in three thematic areas: (1) Postdigital (Inter)Culturality and Social *E*-maginaries, (2) Postdigital Intercultural Practices in the context of Migration and Internet-Mediated Interactions, and (3) *E*-maginaries of Coloniality in Social Networks.

Within the Research Lab on Postdigital (Inter)Culturality, data for the study of (inter)cultural practices, postdigital cultures, digital migration studies and coloniality in social media are observed, collected, analysed and archived, while qualitative methods for the study of the postdigital context are further developed. The junior professorship coordinates internationalisation and Erasmus+ affairs.

To learn more about the Junior Professorship Intercultural Practice with a Focus on Digital Cultures, please visit our Website, our Instagram channel @intercultural_praxis and our Bluesky channel @digitalculture-tuc.bsky.social. There you will find information about new scientific publications, special teaching experiences and other activities of the junior professor.

Call for Papers

REMHU - Revista Interdisciplinar da Mobilidade Humana - vol. 33, dossier 3, 2025

"Migration Research: Logics, Practices, and Methodologies between Tradition and Transformation"

Guest Editors: Maria Catarina Chitolina Zanini, Yolanda López García, Asmara González Rojas

Deadline for submission of articles: 31.07.2025.

Description: This proposal aims to reflect on migration studies' contemporary dynamics and histories in their academic and activist practices in knowledge production in these universes. It seeks to aggregate studies that contribute to our thinking on issues relevant to research practices, their modalities, publication, feedback, collaborative processes, and activism.

One of the issues that prompted us to organize this dossier, since migration studies are interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary, was the relevance of discussing the limits and openings of our methodological, theoretical, and feedback choices in knowledge production, both for interlocutors and for society as a whole. After all, to what extent can we or cannot, in a dialogue between different areas of knowledge, propose broad criteria of scientific objectivity or questions about scientificity or activism? Or even question the various forms of writing and formatting of studies. The aim is also to include studies that reflect on the ethical issues involved in producing knowledge about migrations and that present proposals for "ethical care" that encompass the different Human Sciences. Another important perspective of this dossier is to disseminate research that works with the collaborative proposal and presents negotiated forms of feedback to the groups studied and studies produced and published collectively.

Submission topics:

- Collaborative, participative research and activism in migration
- Ethics in research on migration
- Methodologies of research on migrations (qualitative and quantitative studies)
- Agencies in the production of knowledge about migrations
- Meta-analytical perspective on migration research.

Reception of articles in languages: English, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese

Please consult the information for article submission on the Remhu journal website

Call for Chapter Contributions Publisher: Springer

Decentering Racism in Intercultural Communication and Pedagogy: Perspectives from the Periphery

Guest Editors: Benachour Saidi, Yolanda López García, Abdellah El Boubekri

This edited volume invites critical contributions that challenge racism, coloniality, and epistemological hierarchies in intercultural communication and pedagogy. Emphasizing perspectives from the global periphery, it explores how systemic inequalities are reproduced through language education, institutional practices, digital media, and dominant intercultural narratives.

Chapter proposals are welcome on topics such as epistemological racism, coloniality in education, algorithmic bias in digital interculturality, anti-racist pedagogies, and transnational solidarity.

The full call can be accessed here

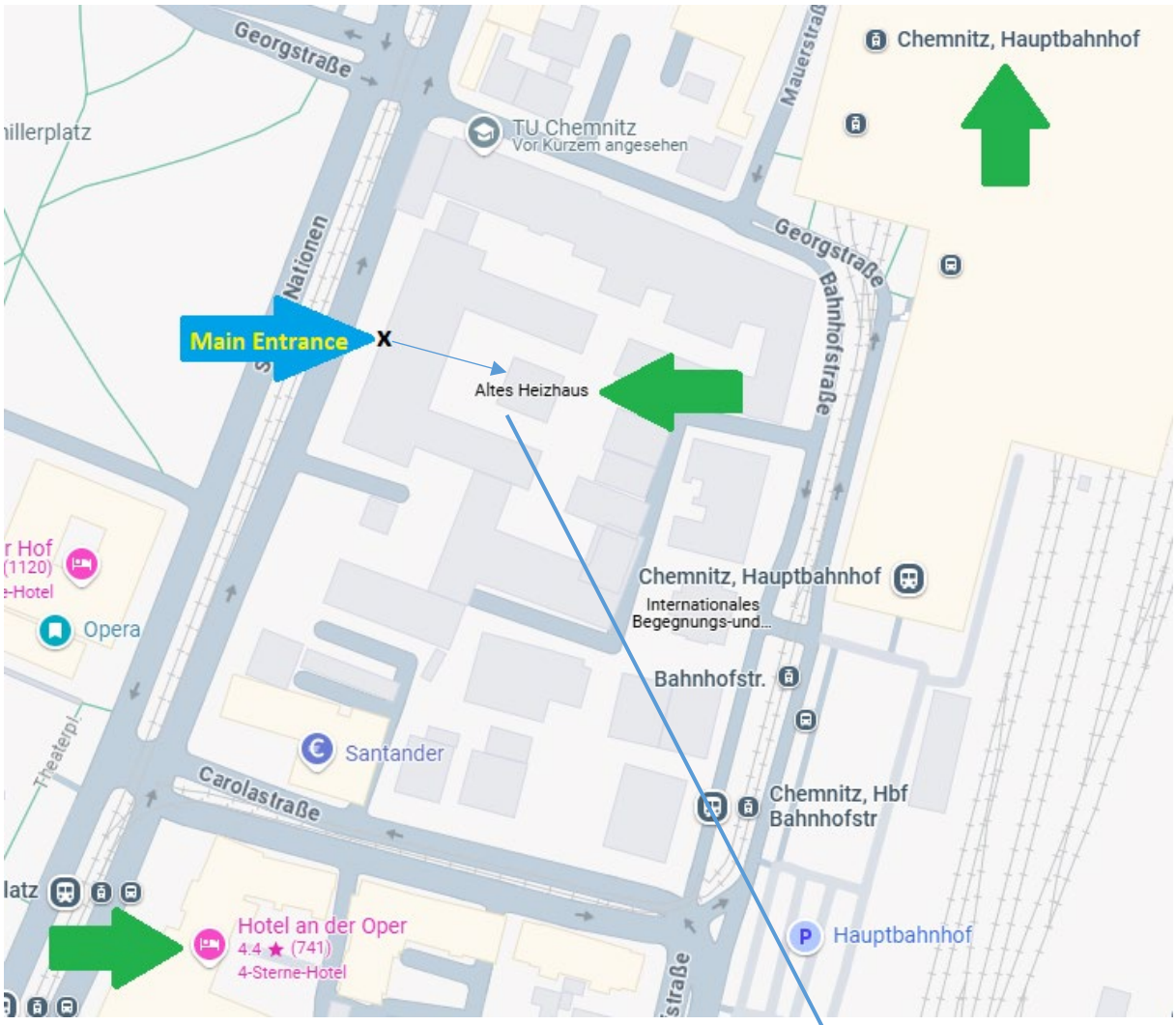
Deadline for submission of abstracts (250–300 words): April 10, 2025
Submission email: springerproposals@gmail.com

Practicalities

Venue

The 4th Annual Meth@Mig Workshop will take place at Altes Heizhaus at the Technical University in Chemnitz. It is located within the central university building at Straße der Nationen. The venue is a 2-minute walk from the central train station and a 4-minute walk from the Hotel an der Oper. Come in through the main entrance (blue arrow), head straight through the hall, and exit out the back. The Altes Heizhaus is just behind the building — we'll have signs to help you find it!

Address: Straße der Nationen 62, 09111 Chemnitz



(google.maps)



Altes Heizhaus © Yolanda López García

Wifi

Eduroam is available at TU Chemnitz and might be used if you have the necessary credentials. If not, you may use the TU Chemnitz Guest Wifi:

Wlan: tu-chemnitz.de Password: methatmig2025.

Workshop Dinner on Thursday (self-paid)

The workshop dinner on Thursday, April 3, will take place at the Turm-Brauhaus (Neumarkt 2, 09111 Chemnitz) and start at approximately 6:30 pm. The easiest way to reach the restaurant is by walking which will take approx. 15 min from the venue and approx. 10 min from the Hotel an der Oper. You can also use the tram: Get on at Theaterplatz and off at Zentralhaltestelle. From there it is a 2-minute walk to the restaurant.

Workshop Lunch on Friday (self-paid)

After the conclusion of the workshop on Friday, April 4, we will have a late lunch at the restaurant Alex (Neumarkt 2, 09111 Chemnitz). The lunch will start at approximately 3:30 pm. The easiest way to reach the restaurant is by walking which will take approx. 15 min from the venue and approx. 10 min from the Hotel an der Oper. You can also use the tram: Get on at Theaterplatz and off at Zentralhaltestelle. From there it is a 2-minute walk to the restaurant.

About Chemnitz

How to get there?

Chemnitz is located in eastern Germany, in the state of Saxony. It is the third-largest city in the state, following Leipzig and Dresden. The city can be easily accessed from four airports: Prague, Berlin, Leipzig, and Dresden. Train connections from these airports to the city center of Chemnitz are available. The nearest and most convenient airports are Dresden, Leipzig, and Prague. See also the German Railway Website.

Recommendations what to do in Chemnitz:

Museums

- The Art Collections (Kunstsammlungen) Chemnitz: are located in the König-Albert-Museum at Theaterplatz -> Website
- Museum Gunzenhauser: shows one of the biggest private collections and the world's most comprehensive bundle of papers by Otto Dix -> Website
- Chemnitz Industrial Museum: tells the story from the beginnings of Saxon industrial history to today's development -> Website

Must See

- Red Tower: the oldest surviving building in the city having an iconic shape - of the well-known washing-up liquid (Fit)
- Karl Marx monument: a 40-tonne colossus in the shape of Karl Marx' head, also called the "NISCHL".

Our recommendations regarding Chemnitz - the European Capital of Culture 2025

- March -November. Open-Air Railway Museum. Biggest railway museum in Europe.
- April 4-6. European Arts & Crafts Days. Workshop and studio open day. Visitors can watch the artists do the magic.
- April 5 - December 31. Garage Trail. A discovery tour through the garages of Chemnitz. Participation analogue and digital.

You can find the full programme here.

We look forward to seeing you in Chemnitz!



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