



Source: European Commission, TENtec Information System (2024)

1.-3. July 2026, Giessen, Germany

Lines that Cross: Migration and the Making of a European Space

Conference Programme

Organizing Committee: Sina Fabian, Humboldt University of Berlin; Florian Greiner, University of Giessen; Jan Vermeiren, University of East Anglia
XVII Annual Conference of the Research Network on the History of Idea of Europe

Migration has been one of the key forces shaping Europe's history. Bringing together scholars from across Europe and beyond, the international conference Lines that Cross: Migration and the Making of a European Space explores how migration, displacement, exile, and mobility have contributed to the making of Europe from the nineteenth century to the present. By examining the relationship between movement, borders, belonging, and memory, the conference highlights the central role of migration in the historical formation of Europe.

Venue: Memorial and Educational Site,
Reception Camp Giessen
Meisenbornweg 27, 35398 Giessen
Phone: +49641 68691420
Directions Venue

Hotel: AKZENT Hotel Koehler
Westanlage 33-35, 35390 Giessen
Phone: +49641 979990
Directions Hotel



Wednesday, 1 July
Arrival from 1:30pm

2:00–2:30pm

Sina Fabian, Florian Greiner, Jan Vermeiren
Welcome and Introduction

2:30–4:00pm Panel 1

Regulating Mobility: Borders, Trade, and the European Imaginary in the Nineteenth Century
Conor Muller (Oxford)

French Merchant Shipping and the Policing of the Outer European Border, 1802–1814

Cathie Carmichael (Norwich)

Refugees and the 1875 Rebellion in the Lower Neretva Region

Gavin Murray-Miller (Cardiff)

Trans-Atlantic Ideologies and the European Imaginary in the Nineteenth Century

Chair: Stefan Ehrenpreis (Innsbruck)

4:00–4:30pm Coffee break

4:30–6:00pm Panel 2

Exile, Camps, and Political Thought in Twentieth-Century Europe

Donata Rega / Giuseppe Foscari (Salerno)

Refugee Life: Jews, Slavs, and Exiles in Internment Camps of Southern Italy, 1940–1947

Sarah Grandke (Regensburg/Heidelberg)

From Transit Station to Space for Action: Displaced Persons as Memory Activists

Domagoj Tomas (Osijek)

We Refugees: Croatia and Europe in

Reflections from the Fermo Refugee Camp, 1946–1947

Chair: Hannah Ahlheim (Giessen)

7:00pm Conference Dinner (Ristorante Adria)

Thursday, 2 July

9:00–10:30am Panel 3

Jewish Experiences of Flight, Gender, and European Memory

Irene Rabinovich (Holon)

Crossing Europe: Jewish Women's Flight, Feminism, and the Cultural Making of Migratory Europe

Teresa Marx (Potsdam)

Biographical Self-Interpretations of

Austrian-Jewish Female Emigrants after 1938

Melanie Carina Schmoll (Calgary)

The Memory of Flight: Holocaust Education and the Struggle over European Values

Chair: Ulrike Weckel (Giessen)

10:30–11:00am Coffee break

11:00am–12:30pm Panel 4

Unmixing Europe: Population Exchange, Nation-Building, and the Remaking of Borders and Belonging in Southeastern Europe

Erkjad Kajo (Aix-en-Provence)

Unsettled Europeans: Albanian Migrants, Border Crossings, and the Reimagining of Europe from the Margins

Alexandros Balatsoukas (Kyoto)

The Great Unmixing: The Treaty of Lausanne and the Reforging of Southeastern Europe

Nuri Korkmaz (Bursa)

Bulgarian-Greek Exchange of Populations and Ethnic Rearrangement

Chair: Cathie Carmichael (Norwich)

12:30–1:30pm Lunch break

1:30–2:30pm Exhibition visit

Guided tour by Mark Schiefer and Bastian Högg

2:30–4:00pm Panel 5

Postwar Europe before the Law: Violence, Redress, and the Making of Legal Belonging
Vitalij Fastovskij (Münster)

Arenas of Redress: Transnational Reparations Claims for Former "Ostarbeiter"
Anna Kuznicow-Wyszyńska (Warsaw)
Forced Deportations as International Crimes: Legal Histories and Contemporary Implications

Eugeniusz Kuznicow-Wyszyński (Warsaw)

From Displacement to Quasi-Citizenship: The Karta Polaka and Polish Diaspora Communities

Chair: Sina Fabian (Berlin/Giessen)

4:00–5:30pm Panel 6

Borders and Boundaries: Mobility, Memory, and the Negotiation of Europe

Alessandro Ambrosino (Geneva)

Mobility Regimes beyond the Iron Curtain: The Lasciapassare and Counter-Hegemonic Memories

Matti Välimäki (Helsinki)

Contestations of Silence: Discourses of Cold War Defections to Finland

Iris Wigger (Loughborough)

Exploring Mixed-heritage families' histories and digital agency in Europe

Chair: Jan Vermeiren (Norwich)

5:30–5:45pm Break

5:45–7:00pm

Keynote Lecture

Peter Gatrell (Manchester)

European History Through the Lens of Migration: Further Reflections on the Unsettling of Europe

7:00pm

Catered Evening Meal

Friday, 3 July

9:00–10:30am Panel 7

Guest Workers Revisited: Migrant Agency, Public Discourse, and Alternative Visions of Europe

Francesco Vizzarri (Giessen)

Beyond Guest Worker Politics: Italian Migrant Organizations and Their Idea of Europe

Zeynep Selen Artan (Istanbul)

Heroes and Wantons: Gendered Media Discourses on Turkish Labour Migration

Nicole Immig (Giessen),

Interconnected Stories of Migration: The case of Greek labor migration to Germany and European History

Chair: Florian Greiner (Giessen)

10:30–11:45am Panel 8

From Asylum to Schengen: EEC/EU

Migration Policy and the Limits of Solidarity
Eike Klages (Florence)

Shifting and Shirking the Refugee "Burden": The Making of the EEC/EU Asylum System

Giuliano B. Fleri (New York)

What Europe Should Not Be: Schengen, Visa Policy, and Contemporary Europe

Chair: Bastian Högg (Giessen)

11:45–12:00am Short break

12:00–12:45pm

Final Roundtable and Closing Discussion

Europe as a Space Made by Migration

Moderation: Sina Fabian, Florian Greiner, Jan Vermeiren