

Announcing the third Canadian-German online event



Title

Sponsorship and Mentoring – Promising Pathways towards Migrant / Refugee Settlement or Privatization of Integration?

Organised by: Prof Dr Felicitas Hillmann (TU Berlin) & Anne Ziegler, M.A.

Abstract:

Sponsorship has been part of Canada's approach to migrant / refugee integration since 1979. Today, multiple programs cover a high range of purposes – pre-migration offers aim at supporting migrants before entering Canada in organizing everything from booking flights to finding a job while other programs aim specifically at supporting migrants who move to rural Canada. Sponsorship has been praised as corner stones of the Canadian success in migrant integration, a system with highly selective access. The approach is anchored in a settlement sector, which is mainly organised via civil society and private stakeholders. In Germany, in contrast, Sponsorship as well as Mentoring have been part of the integration landscape for years, yet there were not put as much centre stage in integration policies. In the context of the substantial arrival of refugees in the past 8 years, initiatives such as for example "NesT – Neustart im Team" have been developed and by now show ambivalent results. While supporters claim that sponsorship and mentoring initiatives can support integration and facilitate the settling of migrants / refugees in their new environments, critical voices present the programs as a form of privatization of settlement and integration and warn against leaving this important task to private actors and civil society (and thus shift responsibilities away from social policies). While both Germany and Canada have implemented comparable programs, the approaches differ in many aspects. They deserve comparison in order to allow for valuable insights and in-depth discussions on such initiatives and strategies.

This online event presents scientific analysis and seeks to provide substantial insights into the Canadian and German perspectives. **What are key similarities and/or differences between the two countries, and what can we learn from them?** Our speakers will discuss how integration is managed through Sponsorship and Mentoring programs and how these approaches differ from more traditional perspectives on integration.

The online event takes place: 19.03.2024, 16.00 – 17.15 (Berlin) / 10.00 – 11.15 h (Ottawa)

Invited speakers:

Prof Dr Phil Triadafilopoulos, University of Toronto, Canada

Prof Dr Thomas Soehl, McGill University, Canada

Lukas Troetzer, Pathways International, Canada

Dr Tihomir Sabchev, Tilburg University, Netherlands

Lisa Marie Veyhl, Robert-Bosch-Stiftung, Germany

Dr Florian Tissot, BAMF, Germany

Dr Jannes Jacobsen, German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM), Germany

Dr Alexandra David, Institute for Work and Technology, Germany

Moderator: Prof Dr Felicitas Hillmann, TU Berlin, Berlin

supported by:



Paradigm shift_new Outlooks

Join us here:

<https://tu-berlin.zoom.us/j/66467344650?pwd=V2dReW9rT0JFejVaMINua2N5bVZuQT09>

Meeting ID: 664 6734 4650

Passcode: 042265

More about our project and the speakers:

The webinar is organised by the “Paradigm Shift_ New Outlooks” project, based at TU Berlin and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS). The interdisciplinary project connects scientists from various countries and deals with questions in the areas of migration and the future of work. A central aspect of the project is the enhancement of the German-Canadian collaboration of scholars on central topics of migration and integration related to labour markets and social policies.



Prof Dr Felicitas Hillmann

Felicitas Hillmann is the head of the project "Paradigm Shift_ New Outlooks" at Technical University of Berlin, where she works on the role of migration for urban and regional development and directs the scholarly “nups-network”. She is a member of the German Council for Migration. and has published widely on migration and integration.



Prof Dr Phil Triadafilopoulos

Phil Triadafilopoulos is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto Scarborough and the Acting Director of the Harney Program in Ethnic, Immigration, and Pluralism Studies at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. He is the author of *Becoming Multicultural: Immigration and the Politics of Membership in Canada and Germany*.



Prof Dr Thomas Soehl

Thomas Soehl is an Associate Professor of Sociology at McGill University and holds the Canada Research Chair in International Migration. His research examines migrants' socio-political attachments, the ways host societies transform migrants, and how migration challenges modern nation-states.



Lukas Troetzer

Lukas Troetzer is the Director of Europe at Pathways International, a global organization focused on reforming the global system of safe and legal routes for displaced people. Pathways International is a co-founder and leading partner in the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative. Lukas has more than a decade of experience working with leading philanthropies and nonprofits.



Dr Tihomir Sabchev

Tihomir Sabchev is a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Criminal Law of Tilburg Law School and a Visiting Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen. His research focuses on the governance of forced migration in Southern Europe, the role of local authorities in refugee reception, and refugee sponsorship programs.



Lisa Marie Veyhl

Lisa Veyhl works for the Robert Bosch Foundation with a focus on integration and inclusion of refugees and migrants in Germany and Europe. She is responsible for projects related to municipal integration, especially in rural areas. Prior to her entry at Robert Bosch Foundation, Lisa Veyhl worked for the Koerber Foundation in Hamburg.



Dr Florian Tissot

Florian Tissot is a Researcher at the Research Centre on Migration, Integration, and Asylum within the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), where he co-authored the evaluation of Germany’s “Neustart im Team” (NesT) community sponsorship program.



Dr Jannes Jacobsen

Dr. Jannes Jacobsen is the deputy scientific managing director and head of the "Data-Methods-Monitoring" cluster at the German Center for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM). His research focuses on refugee migration, attitudes towards migration and cross-cultural survey methods.



Dr Alexandra David

Dr. Alexandra David is a senior researcher specializing in Migration, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship at Westphalian University. She has spearheaded numerous projects and published on refugee and migrant integration, as well as migrant and refugee entrepreneurship. She has offered guidance to the German Integration Commissioner of the Federal Government.