

Abstract FIV-Projekt

Projektverantwortliche Prof. Dr. Susan Thieme, PD Dr. Marion Panizzon

Institute Institute of Geography, Institute of Public Law University of Bern

Titel

Crisis or Cooperation? Spatial, temporal and regulatory perspectives on Migration and Flight (HS 2018)

Abstract

The Syrian civil war has unraveled large migration and refugee movements across the Middle East and towards Europe. Cooperation across the Mediterranean and with transit countries in the Middle East came to construct crisis as a policy response for populations moving to escape disaster, deprivation, war and conflict. Policy responses experiment with short-term humanitarian relief and long-term livelihood programming. This seminar surveys the range of crisis interventions—search-and-rescue, resettlement quota trading, opening pathways to asylum and labor migration, refugee employment. It discusses why non-state actor involvement shortens the crisis and conversely, which forms of humanitarian assistance have protracted the duration. On the basis of case-studies, we develop how to combine policy components, so as to incentivize cooperation without jeopardizing migrants' rights.

The objectives of this interdisciplinary seminar are twofold:

- apply transdisciplinary research on crisis and cooperation as developed by law and human geography to four countries-in-crisis: Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia and Somalia.
- design and conduct interviews with state and non-state actors to evaluate how Swiss, EU and international cooperation has affected how the crisis unfolds.

Method: Students are exposed to problem-driven research. Part of the 'does it work' approach will be to design and conduct interviews with policy officials, NGOs, as well as migrants and refugees. Students will acquire basic project evaluation skills used in migration and development (m&d).

Readings and assessment: 5 ECTS. Students will travel to Geneva or around Bern to conduct interviews. Readings are posted on ILIAS. The assessment will be in the form of a group poster presentation on a country case-study, graded (1-6); in-class participation and work attitude.