

7th Graz Workshop on the Future of Security

BLURRING BOUNDARIES :

HUMAN SECURITY AND MIGRATION

26.-27. November 2015 | University of Graz, Austria

Call for papers

A. Background

Forced migration has reached historically unprecedented heights: more than 60 million people are globally on the move. Although reasons and the degrees of forced migration differ considerably, the human security of those fleeing is always at stake. It is human insecurity that makes people leave. Over the last two decades or so, globally spanning legal regimes regulating and restricting international migration produced a large number of unauthorized migrants. This resulted in further decline of human security of migrants in the process of migrating. On the one hand, such prohibitive regimes have also resulted in their own political and economic logics: an economy of torture camps has flourished in the Sinai and business models of human smuggling resulted in the death of thousands in the Mediterranean Sea. Furthermore, the conceptual and linguistic blurring of state security and human security reinforces these processes. The EU Naval Operation in the Mediterranean Sea, to name but one example, has as its purpose to prevent human tragedy and to destroy smuggler vessels. Human security of host societies may also be at risk. The decision of the Lebanese government to stop admission of Syrian refugees due to internal stability reframes the question whose human security is at stake: the Lebanese people, its institutions, the Syrian refugees? All of them, and if so, how might one calibrate these concerns?

Threats to human security and the phenomenon of migration are interconnected, multi-layered and occur along different lines and into various directions. Clear divisions are often difficult. Legal and political regimes and available corresponding discourses often conceal their biases and undergirding choices.

With that in mind, the following questions arise.

How do new threats to human security, i.e. “the right of people to live...free from poverty and despair” (UN Resolution A/RES/66/290), challenge conceptualizations of forced migration? Are new threats to human security reflected in political and legal approaches to migration? How does the production of regimes of unauthorized migrants impact on the human security, rights and well-being of the individual, the host or home communities? And who can or ought to be held responsible, legally, politically, socially, morally?

We encourage critical contributions in law, international relations, political philosophy, political science, or sociology, either with a practical or theoretical focus on human security and migration. The contributions should be related to, but not limited, to one of the following themes:

- Critical (re)conceptualization of human security and forced migration
- Border controls and human security
- Climate change induced migration and human security
- Human trafficking and human security
- Role of regional security and human security
- Labour, development, migration and human security
- Gender, migration and human security
- Ethical and political dimensions of global justice

B. Format and Participation

The presentations will be structured in panels based on their substantive similitudes. Each presentation on the panels will be commented by a discussant. The aim of the workshop is to contribute by its format to cross-disciplinary insights, bifurcation and synergies. Academics and practitioners working in law, social sciences, philosophy, international relations, economics and human geography are kindly invited to participate in the workshop.

C. Submission of Abstracts and Papers

Submissions of maximum 300 words describing your presentation should be sent together with a short bio no later than **31. August 2015** to future.security@uni-graz.at. Decisions of acceptance will be notified by 15. September 2015. A camera-ready version of the paper is due on 30. October 2015. Selected excellent contributions will be published in an edited volume.

D. Location and Dates

The Workshop will take place 26.-27. November 2015 at the Institute of International Law and International Relations at the University of Graz. The exact time schedule and venue will be provided in due time. Due to limited financial resources, no travel and accommodation expenses can be. A possibility to arrange accommodation might be provided for young scholars.