

Berlin Program Alumni Panel
at the 40th Annual GSA Conference in San Diego
Friday, September 30, 2016 4:15 PM – 6:00 PM Garden Salon 1

**Refugees, Migrants, Citizens: Germany's Recurring
Complexities of Becoming a Country of Immigration**

Moderator: Levent Soysal (Kadir Has University, Anthropology/Communications,
Berlin Program 2001-2002)

Commentator: Deniz Göktürk (UC Berkeley, German)

Participants

Sultan Doughan (UC Berkeley, Anthropology, Berlin Program 2015-2016)

Tolerance in Times of Crisis? How Refugees Unsettle the National Past and Future in Germany

Young-Sun Hong (Stony Brook University, History, Berlin Program 1991-1992)

*Modell Deutschland, the Global Refugee Crisis, and Humanitarian
Outsourcing in the Neo-Liberal Era*

Phi Hong Su (UCLA, Sociology, Berlin Program 2015-2016)

*Transforming Refugees into Citizens:
Vietnamese-Origin Germans and the Legality Divide*

The recent 'refugee crisis' in Europe has triggered varied responses from politicians and social movements. While some, such as chancellor Angela Merkel, have advocated a pro-refugee politics, other political actors such as AfD and the CSU have contended that this is an irresponsible political move that cannot be borne by German society. Indeed, the entry of refugees into German society writ-large is accompanied and shaped by mass political phenomena such as PEGIDA, who are reacting against what they perceive as the government's pro-Islam, -migration, and -refugee politics. Beyond these political positions, everyday people and community organizations such as "Moabit Hilft" already grapple with the massive demographic transformation of Germany, and offer public and private solidarity.

This panel addresses the complexities of integration politics in contemporary Germany in order to elucidate the impact of migration on long-debated but unresolved questions of national belonging. Our aim is to center the activities and negotiations of local communities, organizations, and actors to these unprecedented changes. Through comparative historical, ethnographic, and interview methodologies, this panel will pay particular attention to how the 'refugee crisis' has reopened and exacerbated older questions on integration and assimilation through the lenses of race, gender, citizenship, and religious identity. We investigate: How does Holocaust education feature in integrating Syrian refugees into German society? And how does this reshuffle the position of established Muslim and Jewish communities? How do naturalized former "boat people" refugees from Vietnam relate to both co-ethnics without citizenship and those newly arriving refugees? What insight can be gained by intertwining the histories of Germany(s) with those of Asia and Africa? The contributors will demonstrate how these questions regroup and organize different actors, communities, as well as religious and migrant organizations, in order to emphasize how migration is an ongoing, irreversible reality that triggers old questions anew.

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