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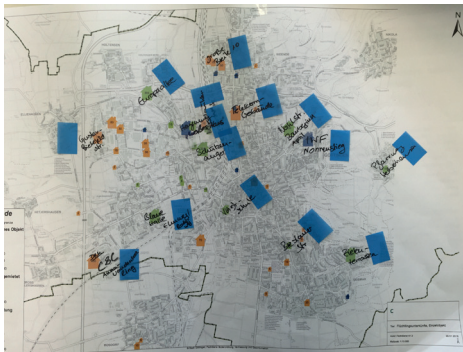
Between accommodation and integration: Comparing institutional arrangements for asylum-seekers

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2015, Germany experienced a massive influx of migrants entering the country. This means that currently German authorities are responsible for providing accommodation for three-quarters of a million people during the course of their respective asylum determination processes. The sheer logistics of accommodating this number of asylum-seekers represents an immense organizational (and of course financial) undertaking. Federal, state and local authorities have responded by setting up a range of sites, structures (asylum-seekers' housing centres or Flüchtlingsunterkünfte) and modes of asylum-seeker accommodation quickly, extensively and painstakingly. The nature of institutional arrangements during the phase of accommodation is decisive for structuring and conditioning ensuing processes of participation in society. This project will ask – in a comparative study between Hannover, Göttingen and Wolfsburg – for how different actors influence the configuration of institutional arrangements, how varying institutional arrangements affect asylum seekers trajectories and key modes of social positioning that result.

The main research questions are:

- What accounts for similarities and differences in asylum-seekers' housing centres?
- How do varying institutional arrangements address the needs and aspirations of asylum-seekers?
- What social positions ensue, and what prospects do these hold for asylum-seekers?



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH?

By investigating these two focuses – asylum-seekers' needs and aspirations along with institutional arrangements for addressing them – we aim to gain clearer and more far-reaching knowledge surrounding the contemporary migration flow into Germany, its complexity and effects.

WHO ARE WE?

The project team is based at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen. The project is funded by the Volkswagen-Foundation, Germany's largest private non-profit organization for the promotion of research and education.

WHY WE NEED YOU TO PARTICIPATE

Because we wish to build a comprehensive picture of the situation, we wish to learn from as many people, with as many perspectives, as possible. Therefore, we are interviewing asylum seekers as well as city officials, professionals and volunteers working in refugee accommodations. We hope that you will agree to participate and share your views, experiences, and insights with us.

YOUR RIGHTS

If you would like to withdraw from the research, you can do so at any time. You do not have to answer all of our questions – and even after an interview or conversation, you can request that your material be deleted. You will be able to see any material you have provided at any time.

Participation in, or withdrawal from, this research will in no way influence asylum application processes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE?

Personal data of participants will be anonymous. That is, names and personal details will not appear anywhere. Any identifiable information such as age and gender will be coded (i.e. identified with a code number known only to project team members). Any answers provided will only be used for scientific purposes, i.e. to write articles, reports or books.

Findings of the project will be available online at www.mmg.mpg.de. We will be happy to address any questions you might have: please contact us by way of the details below.