

Research project

Organized violence, new migration patterns, and development: A comparative study in Europe and the Americas

Understanding international migration and especially forced migration is of increasing importance in science and for societies at both national and global scales. The nexus between migration and development has been studied extensively since the 1990s. But it is only in the last two decades that organized violence is addressed as a key factor interacting with the lack of development and forced migration. In some cases, organized violence can be clearly identified as the fueling factor for mixed migration processes in general (e.g., civil wars in Central America and the Middle East or organized criminal violence). The guiding question is: *How are different types of organized violence interrelated with specific factors of migration and development in migrant actors' trajectories and biographies (before, during and after the migration process)?*

Given the complexity of the topic and its significance for Central and North America as well as Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, the research project aims to follow a transregional comparison in order to:

- Analyze organized violence from an actor perspective in its interrelations with (forced) migration and (lack of) development, especially with reference to changing migration patterns and migration governance.
- Establish a transnational research network of prestigious academic institutions working on the topic in a comparative perspective by organizing a series of international workshops.
- Produce original and primary data on the interrelation of organized violence with migration and development by implementing quantitative surveys, ethnographic fieldwork, narrative and semi-structured qualitative interviews, and document analysis.
- Distribute primary empirical data on the project's website by data archives and transcripts.

The project will gather data at micro (individuals and groups), meso (organizations) and macro (national states and supranational policies) levels applying techniques of standardized longitudinal survey, ethnographic visits to immigrant shelters and organizations, narrative biographical interviews with migrants, semi-structured expert interviews with representatives of organizations and politicians and document gathering and analysis of governance regimes. Data gathering will be organized together with partner institutions in origin, transit and destination countries focusing especially on the transit countries Turkey and Mexico.

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