

RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

RUB

GANG-INDUCED MIGRATION
CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES
FROM SOCIAL SCIENCE AND LAW

Conference of the Sylff Mikrokolleg
on Forced Migration

17 - 18 November 2022
Ruhr University Bochum
Veranstaltungszentrum Saal 3



THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER

09:00 - ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

09:30 - WELCOME

09:40 - CONFERENCE OPENING

Why it Requires Organized Efforts to Cope with Organized Violence - *Prof. Ludger Pries (Ruhr University Bochum, in-person)*

10:00 - KEY NOTE PRESENTATION

The Transformation of the Maras into Mafias

Juan José Martínez (Anthropologist and Journalist, El Salvador, in-person)

11:00 - PANEL I: GANGS AND THE MAKING OF VULNERABILITIES

CHAIR: RAFAEL BOHLEN

Experiences of Gang-Related Violence and its Influences on Northern Central American Migrants' Life Courses

Melanie Wieschalla (Ph.D. Candidate, Ruhr University Bochum, in-person)

Rights, Responsibility and Repressive Responses: The Role of States in Perpetuating Violence and Displacement Related to Gangs in El Salvador and Honduras

Dr. Vickie Knox (University of London, in-person)

Gang-induced Migration: What Can be Done in Light of Regional Human Rights Law and the Brazilian National Practice *Julia Cirne Lima Weston (Ph.D. Candidate, Catholic University of Portugal, online)*

Coffee Break, 15 min



Techniques of Chinese Trafficking Gangs which Increase Vulnerability to a Recurring Cycle of Trafficking and Re-trafficking for Rural Chinese Girls in the UK Asylum System

Helen Louise Murphy (Ph.D. Candidate, University College Cork, in-person)

Transnational Gang Migrations: The Case of the Latin Kings and Queens Nation

Dr. María Oliver Torres (Transgang Project, Universidad Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, in-person)

13:00 - LUNCH BREAK

14:00 - PANEL II: COUNTERING GANG VIOLENCE AND THINKING BEYOND

CHAIR: RAFAEL BOHLEN

Displacement and Criminal Groups: Thinking Beyond gangs in Mesoamerica

Prof. David James Cantor (Director of the Refugee Law Initiative, University of London, in-person)

The Catholic Church and the Gangs: Toward a Liberationist Critique of Gang Violence

Benjamin Schwab (Regional Expert Central America and Mexico, Misereor, in-person)

Coffee Break, 15 min

Pondering Migration: The Role of Violence and Citizen Assessment of Security

Carmen Guevara (Instituto Universitario de Opinión Pública, Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas, El Salvador, online)



Gang-Induced Migration from Central America – Insights from an USAID project

Prof. Mark Ungar (The City University of New York, USA, online)

19:00 - CONFERENCE DINNER, YAMAS MEZE RESTAURANT

FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER

09:00 - PANEL III: PROTECTING THE „PERPETRATORS“?

CHAIR: SPYRIDOULA KATSONI

Unprincipled Decisionmaking: How U.S. Law Evolved to Deny Protection to Victims of Gang Violence

Prof. Karen Musalo (University of California, Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco, online)

Role of Expert Witnesses in Support of Hondurans Seeking Asylum in the US

Prof. Lirio Gutiérrez Rivera (Universidad Nacional, Colombia, in-person)

To Remove or not to Remove? Towards a Balancing Exercise in Removal Proceedings of Former Gang Members in Costa Rica

Victor Sibaja (International Criminal Court, in-person)

Coffee Break, 15 min



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Non-Refoulement and Gang-Induced Migration Under the Inter-American Human Rights System

Rodolfo Ribeiro Coutinho Marques (The Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland, in-person)

When Should Gang Activity Justify an Asylum Claim? Thoughts on the Foundations of Refugee Law

Prof. Matt Lister (Bond University, Robina, Australia, in-person)

12:30 - CONCLUDING DISCUSSION

13:00 - LUNCH BREAK

14:00 - PANEL IV (ROUNDTABLE): THE CROSSROADS BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND PRACTICE - THE WAY FORWARD

CHAIR: RAFAEL BOHLEN, SPYRIDOULA KATSONI, JAN-PHILLIP GRAF

Benjamin Schwab (*Regional Expert Central America and Mexico, Misereor*);

Prof. Dennis Dijkzeul (*Ruhr University Bochum*);

Prof. Mark Ungar (*City University New York, online*);

Dr. Vickie Knox (*Senior Human Rights Researcher, University of London*);

Anna Brunner (*Regional Coordinator El Salvador and Honduras, Brot für die Welt*)

15:00 - FAREWELL



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GANG-INDUCED MIGRATION

CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES FROM SOCIAL SCIENCE AND LAW

The public, academic and political attention for gangs has recently gained momentum. In the cases of El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti, Nigeria, and Brazil, gangs are considered catalysts for instability, forced displacement and violence. However, empirical research remains scarce and the discourses around gangs often follow rather sensationalist narratives overlooking the complexity of the gang phenomenon.

In bringing together academics and practitioners from Social Science and International Law we invite for a critical, in-depth and interdisciplinary discussion that adds evidence-based insights to contemporary debates. The conference circles around security, protection and development, and in particular forced migration. It addresses conceptual issues, such as definitions, possible transformations of gangs towards organized crime, the role of states in perpetuating gang violence, the multifaceted relationship between gangs and migratory movements, and the protection gaps of international refugee and human rights law when it comes to asylum claims of gang victims and former gang-members.

The conference is free of charge.

**We kindly ask for registration at
ganginducedmigration@rub.de**

RUHR UNIVERSITY BOCHUM

SYLFF MIKROKOLLEG ON FORCED MIGRATION

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