

Keywords in Refugee and Migration Studies: Words in Motion across the World

Talk and Discussion (Online)

Ranabir Samaddar (Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies, Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, India)

in discussion with Sevasti Trubeta (Professor for "Childhood and Migration" and Institute for Democratic Culture, University of Applied Sciences Magdeburg-Stendal)

Keywords in refugee and migration studies are words in motion. They show in many cases the colonial and postcolonial imprint on them. It is necessary to not only review their histories but also the multiple deployments of terms for co-option. The question is: How do some words initially appearing minor to our general understanding become key to understanding the marginalities? Else, belonging to mainstream language, these words would have remained banal, vacuous, telling nothing of the hidden from our gaze the world of domination, contests, and struggles. These words quiz our theories of political existence. They also help us understand attempts by governments across the world to normalise "migration" by flexible control and management strategies. Hence, three points: (a) Precisely because these words are minor, they require patient digging into their histories, erasures, and paradoxically their status as "live words"; (b) Keywords in refugee and migration studies are contested in every sense of the meaning; hence they call for plurality of approach, collection, and configuration; and (c) Finally, turning "minor" meanings into interrogative gestures towards larger significations requires collective effort. This double nature of the minor words speaks of the duality of keywords.

The event is co-organized by the Lab: „**Antiracism Work in Migration Context**“ (Professorship: Childhood and Migration at the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences) and the project „**Integrative Research on Democracy in Saxony-Anhalt**“ at the Institute for Democratic Culture at the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences.

23rd June 2023 | 4 pm – 5:30 pm (Central European Time) | ZOOM

Registration: The event will take place online on the platform Zoom. Please register by sending an email with your name to idx@h2.de The login data will then be sent to you via email.

