

Invitation

Goal displacement : Migration policy-making in and about Afghanistan

Dr Liza Schuster, City, University of London



Thursday 28th June 2018

12h15 - 14h00

HETS, rue Prévost-Martin 28 - room A006

Afghanistan is currently in the very early stages of preparing a comprehensive national migration policy. In spite of the significance of migration in Afghan cultural, economic, political and social life - this impulse comes, not from the Afghan government or civil society, but from Europe, specifically from European Union Member States such as Germany, who received many of the 250,000 Afghans who applied for asylum in Europe in 2015. Throughout much of 2016, the European Commission and the Afghan Government were negotiating an agreement that would force the Afghan government to reduce irregular migration and facilitate force returns. At the same time, the International Centre for Policy Development has been driving forward the development of a Comprehensive Migration Policy.

Perhaps inevitably the goals of Afghan migration policy are being set by European governments, who are in turn responding to domestic pressures and operating within particular 'policy frames'. This paper explores the role played by the European Union and its Member States in shaping the migration policy of the Afghan government since the fall of the Taliban regime, but concentrating in particular on the past four years (2014-2018). This period covers the creation of the National Unity Government (NUG), the withdrawal of international forces, a deterioration in the security and economic status of Afghanistan, a sharp rise in the number of people leaving the country and the so-called European Refugee Crisis, in which Afghans were the second largest group after Syrians, as well as the Brussels Conference and the implementation of the Joint Way Forward – an agreement that tied the delivery of further aid to cooperation in matters of migration.

Speaker: Dr Liza Schuster, City, University of London

Liza Schuster has recently returned from 18 months in Kabul, where she led a team of Afghan researchers examining migration decision- and policy making in a migration culture. Schuster has spent most of the past six years in Afghanistan researching the impact of forced return. More broadly her work over the past twenty years has focused on forced migration, asylum, refuge and the racism faced by forced migrants and driving policy. She is the author of the Use and Abuse of Political Asylum: A Comparison of Asylum Policy and Practice in Britain and German and numerous articles. She is the co-founder of the Afghanistan Migration Advice and Support Network. Schuster has been based at City, University of London where she teaches on migration and racism, since 2005.

Discussant/Chair: Professor Alessandro Monsutti, *Graduate Institute Geneva, Global Migration Centre* and Professor Milena Chimienti (milena.chimienti@hesge.ch), *HETS/HESSO Genève*