

Call for Papers

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Special Issue: Return Migration and Reintegration: Discourses, Policies and Practices

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Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: December 15, 2022

Deadline for Submission of Selected Full Papers: May 25, 2023

Publication of the Issue: December 2023

Information on Special Issue:

Recent years have seen an increased attention paid to return migration and reintegration in policy. Since the peak of the so-called 'refugee crises' in 2015, the strengthening of return enforcement has been an important part of migration policy regimes across Europe, particularly those related to controlling migration. Thus, various stakeholders have expanded their engagement in return infrastructure in order to enhance a 'safe' and 'dignified' return and reintegration, which is also in line with the Global Compact for Migration and on Refugees respectively. Moreover, return migration also presents a prominent topic of the global development agenda. More precisely, return and reintegration have become a priority area of migration-development policies, in which mostly high skilled return migrants are perceived as potential drivers of development transition in their countries of origin.

At the same time, there has been a significant growth in the academic literature on return migration in recent years. Some aspects of return and reintegration are well researched. There exists, for instance, a robust body of literature on the topic of return decisions across different regions of the world. Additionally, a broad consensus among scholars can be found on the various challenges regarding return migration and reintegration for the (potential) return migrants, practitioners and policy-makers alike. However, some facets of return and reintegration remain understudied up till now, for instance gendered aspects of return, temporal aspects of reintegration, transferability gaps in transnational support schemes. We aim to address these research gaps and further aspects of the complexity of the return and reintegration process from a multi-perspective viewpoint.

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The call for papers invites contributions that bring together discourses, policies and practices of both return migration and reintegration. We welcome theoretical, empirical, and/or methodological contributions in English, German and French on issues including, but not limited to, the following:

- Reflections on current approaches to return migration in the global, humanitarian and migration policy discourse;
- Studies on the support landscape provided by state and non-state actors: e.g. contributions dealing with the complex governance of transnational return migration schemes (e. g. modes of interinstitutional co-operation between international, national and local actors within the framework of Assisted Voluntary Return (AV)/Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR), or within the framework of migration-development interventions);
- Articles on the experiences and perspectives of practitioners working in the return support landscape, either in migrants' countries of residence or in the countries of return.
- Contributions discussing the subjective experiences of assisted and non-assisted migrants at all stages of their return and reintegration process (e.g. general challenges and opportunities; ways of how the return support, respectively the lack of support, shape the individual return and reintegration process);
- Longitudinal studies on the multidimensional reintegration process (e.g. economic, social, psychosocial dimension of reintegration);
- Articles dealing with gender aspects inherent to return and reintegration;
- The perspective of family and community members on return migrants.

Timeline:

Authors interested in submitting a paper for this issue are asked to send their abstracts (maximum of 300 words, with a tentative title) **by December 15, 2022** to the editors: luzia.jurt@fhnw.ch ; Eveline.Odermatt@unifr.ch. We will inform you shortly about the acceptance of the abstract. Selected contributions will be subject to the usual peer review procedures of socialpolicy.ch, involving the home editors and two reviewers.

The Journal:

socialpolicy.ch is an open access, peer-reviewed journal founded 2016 at the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Global Development, University of Fribourg (CH). The journal contains contributions in German, English, French and Italian from various fields of sociology, social policy and the welfare state. A special focus of the journal are the interlinkages between theory and practice.

Please don't hesitate to contact us for any further information and questions.