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**Migration as a Good – its Relative Value in the Basket of Commodities as a Marker of Involuntariness**

This contribution claims that not only is it impossible to determine a qualitative difference between refugees (under the current legal definition or any other proposed definition) and other involuntary migrants, it is also impossible to distinguish between political, economic and ecological causes for migration. It is impossible, therefore, to draw a clear line between involuntary and voluntary migration. While the law might be condemned to rely on trigger points beyond which people are included in a category of special protection, the normative debate about where to place this trigger point would improve if it were acknowledged that it necessarily remains a fictitious clear line, artificially drawn through a murky spectrum. Once this is acknowledged, trust in clear-cut rules assessing whom to protect can be undermined and efforts redirected towards fair procedures that assess the voluntariness of individual migration decisions and the need for protection in individual cases. The paper then argues that a central criterion in this procedure should be the relative value that good “control over ones’ own migration” has in the basket of commodities of potential refugees. The higher the relative value of this good, the stronger their claim of involuntariness.