

VID Colloquium

Vienna Institute of Demography
Welthandelsplatz 2 / Level 2
Nathan Keyfitz Library
1020 Vienna

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Thursday, 15. December 2016
2:00-3:00 pm

"Safe or secure? Migration frameworks, current challenges and best practices"

This study analyzes the impact of forced migration on asylum seekers and refugees in general, and women refugees in particular, as manifested through migration policies, and the services provided to migrants either in refugee camps or in the communities they are relocated or resettled to. Current statistics show that the recent wave of migration into Europe is credited to 3 top countries: Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan (UNHCR, August 2016). Most of the migrants entered the European territory through Turkey and Greece (coming across the sea, at a heightened risk of loss of life); and were either granted refugee status and resettled mostly in Germany, Sweden, and Austria (within the European space); or, based on the new Turkey-EU Agreement (March 2016), the most recent agreement between the EU and Afghanistan (October 2016), and national laws restricting entrance into some European countries, they are awaiting a decision on their current status. My goal is to explore how the securitization framework (Stritzel, 2007; Waever, 2014) that informs migration policies throughout Europe (, affects migrants' sense of safety; and what factors contribute to the development of an alternative framework, based on human rights (Benhabib, 2004; Nussbaum, 2006; Rupp, 2016). Building on findings from two data points, this study aims to ultimately identify policy implementation challenges and safe spaces in the migration discourse, potentially contributing to an emerging alternative migration framework..

About the presenter

Dr. Marciana Popescu has been working in the field of international social development for over 20 years, with international organizations and educational institutions in multiple countries. Dr. Popescu has started her career in Romania, teaching at the University of Bucharest. She also worked as a UNICEF consultant (1998-2000), and participated in research projects and program development with the World Bank (1999-2000), and the Soros Foundation/For an Open Society (1998-2000). During 2001-2006, Dr. Popescu was the Director of a Masters program in Community and International Development at Andrews University (AU). During her tenure at Andrews University she worked with multiple international sites, and taught intensive courses in International Development, in Ukraine, Italy, Japan, Kenya and South Africa. Since 2006, she was appointed as an associate professor at Fordham University, Graduate School of Social Service. Over the past 10 years at Fordham she developed and taught courses in International Social Development (with study tours/experiential learning components in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Peru), Community Participation in Emergency Response (developed and taught for the Masters in International Humanitarian Affairs – targeting humanitarian workers around the world), and the International Nonprofits course (for the Masters in Nonprofit Leadership) providing learners with opportunities to increase their knowledge on global issues, social development and the role of international nonprofits, and develop their critical thinking by applying this knowledge to analyzing existing strategies for sustainable development, and developing new innovative solutions. Dr. Popescu's research interests include women's rights, empowerment strategies for women, international interdisciplinary social work education, program evaluation, forced migration, and the role of international organizations in addressing global issues and working with governments and communities to develop rights-based policies and programs. Dr. Popescu is currently a Senior Fulbright Scholar at MCI, in Austria, conducting research on migration policies, and the impact on women refugees.