

Call for contributions

Book project: « The notion of abuse in the field of asylum – an interdisciplinary critical enquiry into a predominant discourse »

For over three decades, the field of asylum has been polarising public opinion in Switzerland. It constitutes a domain of state action which is characterised by a genuine « legislative frenzy ». The Swiss Asylum Act has been revised a number of times. These revisions have tended to make access to the asylum procedure more restrictive and reception conditions harder.

Among the many discourses legitimising such a normative inflation, the « fight against abuse» has become a predominant discourse and has created a large consensus in the public sphere. Thus, « the need to fight asylum abuses » has become a mantra which precedes every political declaration with regard to asylum and refugees.

Despite its omnipresence in the political debate and in the media, the discourse on the notion of abuse in the field of asylum has, astonishingly, never been subject of deeper scientific scrutiny. We – the Asylum Group of the Swiss Network of young Migration Scholars – would like to fill this gap by producing an edited volume based on a pluridisciplinary and multisituated approach. A comparative perspective with an international outlook shall enable a global analysis of the question.

We are looking for contributions from both practitioners and academics on the following topics:

- Swiss, European, and international case law;
- The media coverage of abuse in asylum;
- « Abuse » and social benefits;
- « Abuse » and coercive measures;
- Political activities in the host country;
- Post-flight circumstances and reasons for persecution;
- Abuse in the asylum procedure;
- The discourse on abuse as perceived by asylum seekers;
- The notion of abuse in legal expertise and counselling;
- « Abuse » and the management of migration flows;
- Historical perspectives on the discourse on abuse;
- Philosophical perspectives on the discourse on abuse;
- And elsewhere? Extra-European comparative perspectives on the discourse on abuse in the field of asylum.

We are open to other article proposals from any discipline. The edited volume will be structured as to offer the development of a coherent argumentative and narrative. Authors might consequently be invited to adapt their contributions accordingly. **Interested people are invited to write a summary of their idea for a contribution in a few sentences and send it to damian.rosset@unine.ch before 30th April 2016.**

The project's structure will be finalised in May 2016. The 10-15 page contributions will be submitted in September 2016. Preferred languages are German and French. A feedback and coordination workshop with all the contributors will be organised in autumn 2016 in Switzerland. The foreseen deadline for submitting the final contributions is by the end of 2016. The publication of the volume is planned for summer 2017.

For additional information on the project – structure, planning, etc – please contact:

English – damian.rosset@unine.ch

German – nesa.zimmermann@unige.ch

French – raphael2.rey@unine.ch

The Asylum Group of the *Swiss Network of young Migration Scholars*

Teresia Gordzielik	Lawyer, University of Fribourg (Centre for Migration Law and nccr – on the move);
Anne Kneer	Lawyer, University of Sankt-Gallen (Law Faculty) and Federal Administrative Court;
Anne-Cécile Leyvraz	Lawyer, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (International Law Department) and ELISA-ASILE;
Raphaël Rey	Anthropologist, Universities of Neuchâtel (Centre for Migration Law) and Bern (Institute for Social Anthropology);
Damian Rosset	Political Scientist, University of Neuchâtel (Centre for Migration Law);
Robin Stünzi	Geographer, University of Neuchâtel (Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies);
Barbara von Rütte	Lawyer, University of Bern (Centre for Migration Law and nccr – on the move);
Nesa Zimmermann	Lawyer, University of Geneva (Public Law Department).