

## Announcing the third Canadian-German online event



### Title

## ***Sponsorship and Mentoring – Promising Pathways towards Migrant / Refugee Settlement or Privatization of Integration?***

**Organised by: Prof. Dr. Felicitas Hillmann (TU Berlin) & Anne Ziegler, M.A.**

### Abstract:

Sponsorship has been part of Canada's approach to migrant / refugee integration since 1979. Today, multiple programs cover a high range of purposes – pre-migration offers aim at supporting migrants before entering Canada in organizing everything from booking flights to finding a job while other programs aim specifically at supporting migrants who move to rural Canada. Sponsorship has been praised as corner stones of the Canadian success in migrant integration, a system with highly selective access. The approach is anchored in a settlement sector, which is mainly organised via civil society and private stakeholders. In Germany, in contrast, Sponsorship as well as Mentoring have been part of the integration landscape for years, yet there were not put as much centre stage in integration policies. In the context of the substantial arrival of refugees in the past 8 years, initiatives such as for example "NesT – Neustart im Team" have been developed and by now show ambivalent results. While supporters claim that sponsorship and mentoring initiatives can support integration and facilitate the settling of migrants / refugees in their new environments, critical voices present the programs as a form of privatization of settlement and integration and warn against leaving this important task to private actors and civil society (and thus shift responsibilities away from social policies). While both Germany and Canada have implemented comparable programs, the approaches differ in many aspects. They deserve comparison in order to allow for valuable insights and in-depth discussions on such initiatives and strategies.

This online event presents scientific analysis and seeks to provide substantial insights into the Canadian and German perspectives. **What are key similarities and/or differences between the two countries, and what can we learn from them?** Our speakers will discuss how integration is managed through Sponsorship and Mentoring programs and how these approaches differ from more traditional perspectives on integration.

**The online event takes place: 19.03.2024, 16.00 – 17.15 (Berlin) / 10.00 – 11.15 h (Ottawa)**

### Invited speakers:

Prof. Dr. Phil Triadafilopoulos, University of Toronto, Canada

Prof. Dr. Thomas Soehl, McGill University, Canada

Hannes Einsporn, Robert-Bosch-Stiftung, Germany

Dr. Jannes Jacobsen, German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM), Germany

Dr. Alexandra David, Institute for Work and Technology, Germany

Dr. Tihomir Sabchev, Tilburg University, Netherlands

Dr. Lukas Trötzer, The Refugee Hub, University of Ottawa, Canada

Dr. Florian Tissot, BAMF, Nürnberg

Moderator: Felicitas Hillmann, TU Berlin, Berlin

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*Paradigm shift\_new Outlooks*

### Join us here:

<https://tu-berlin.zoom.us/j/66467344650?pwd=V2dReW9rT0JFejVaMINua2N5bVZuQT09>

Meeting ID: 664 6734 4650

Passcode: 042265

## More about our project and the speakers:

The webinar is organised by the "Paradigm Shift\_New Outlooks" project based at TU Berlin and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs' (BMAS). The interdisciplinary project connects scientists from various countries and deals with questions in the areas of migration and the future of work. A central aspect of the project is the enhancement of German-Canadian collaboration of scholars on central topics of migration and integration related to labour markets and social policies.



### **Prof. Dr. Felicitas Hillmann**

Felicitas Hillmann is the head of the project "Paradigm Shift\_New Outlooks" at Technical University of Berlin, where she works on the role of migration for urban and regional development and directs the scholarly "nups-network". She is a member of the German Council for Migration. and has published widely on migration and integration.



### **Prof. Dr. Phil Triadafilopoulos**

Phil Triadafilopoulos is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto Scarborough and Acting Director of the Harney Program in Ethnic, Immigration and Pluralism Studies at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. He is the author of *Becoming Multicultural: Immigration and the Politics of Membership in Canada and Germany*.



### **Prof. Dr. Thomas Soehl**

Thomas Soehl is an Associate Professor of Sociology at McGill University and holds the Canada Research Chair in International Migration. His research examines the socio-political attachments of migrants, the ways host societies transform migrants, and how migration challenges modern nation-states.



### **Dr. Jannes Jacobsen**

Dr. Jannes Jacobsen is the deputy scientific managing director and head of the "Data-Methods-Monitoring" cluster at the German Center for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM). His research focuses on refugee migration, attitudes towards migration and cross-cultural survey methods.



### **Hannes Einsporn**

Hannes Einsporn is a Senior Project Manager for Migration and leads the Foundation's work on the future of refugee and migrant protection and on climate change and human mobility. His expertise includes international refugee policy, climate migration, and international human rights and refugee law.



### **Dr. Alexandra David**

Dr. Alexandra David is a senior researcher specialising in Migration, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship at the Westphalian University. She has spearheaded numerous projects and published on refugee and migrant integration, as well as migrant and refugee entrepreneurship. She has offered guidance to the German Integration Commissioner of the Federal Government.



### **Dr. Tihomir Sabchev**

Tihomir Sabchev is a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Criminal Law of Tilburg Law School and a Visting Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen. His research focuses on the governance of forced migration in Southern Europe, the role of local authorities in refugee reception, and refugee sponsorship programs.



### **Lukas Trötzer**

Lukas Trötzer is the European Director of Refugee Hub, a global knowledge hub focusing on protecting refugee's rights, with more than a decade of experience working with leading philanthropies and nonprofits, with a special focus on migrants and refugees. Prior, Lukas worked at the German Bundestag and at *Internationale Politik*, Germany's leading foreign affairs magazine.



### **Dr. Florian Tissot**

Florian Tissot is a Researcher at the Research Centre on Migration, Integration, and Asylum within the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), where he coauthored the evaluation of Germany's "Neustart im Team" (NesT) community sponsorship program.