



Transnational Figurations of Displacement

Dear friends of the TRAFIG project,

The COVID19 pandemic and the multiple mobility restrictions aimed at containing the virus have affected displaced people severely. Even more people are now stuck in protracted displacement, with even further limited options to live in safety, to secure their livelihoods, to reunite with their families and to follow their own ambitions. The frustration, desperation and anger that can build up and 'explode' in such a long-term in limbo situation showed dramatically in the recent incidents on Lesbos, Greece, where our partners from the [Aristotle University of Thessaloniki](#) are also conducting TRAFIG research with refugees and other migrants (see below). Recent policy developments in the European Union and its member states do not give too much hope that policymakers do indeed have a keen interest in lifting affected people out of precarity and insecurity, but are rather aggravating such protracted situations.

Despite the challenges that we as researchers and practitioners collaborating in this project have faced ourselves over the course of the last months, we are nonetheless getting better and better insights into what protracted displacement means for affected people, and how they cope with the manifold challenges they encounter – also by being mobile and by making use of their local, translocal and transnational network connections. Together with key stakeholders in the field, we hope to turn this knowledge into action and to contribute to the development of alternatives to the current policies and instruments.

This edition of our Newsletter presents an overview of TRAFIG developments from April to September 2020. Next to new outputs, including TRAFIG publications, new blog articles, and other publications from our TRAFIG partners, the newsletter gives update of our project activities, both in the field as well as in events and international conferences. Find out more about our team and TRAFIG's cooperation with other H2020 projects in the new webinar series "[Zooming in on Migration and Asylum](#)"!

We look forward to staying in touch with you – in person and/or virtually via mail, social media, webinars or other formats.

For any enquiries, comments or recommendations, please write to contact@trafig.eu.

Benjamin Etzold, Maarit Thiem and Gizem Güzelant on behalf of the TRAFIG team.

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[Output and Publications from TRAFIG](#)

TRAFIG Internal Reports

As preparatory documents for publications or follow-up reports on events, TRAFIG's Internal reports provide detailed background information on chosen aspects of the research



Picture by Innocent Assumani.

Patrick Milabyo Kyamusugulwa, Joachim Ruhamy Mugenzi, Stanislas Lubala Kubiha, Innocent Assumani, Carolien Jacobs: [Multi-stakeholder community consultations as a multi-purpose research tool: Experiences from the Democratic Republic of Congo.](#)

The TRAFIG Team in the DR Congo has developed and applied *Multi-Stakeholder Community Consultations (MSCC)* as a participatory research tool to be used in the context of TRAFIG and beyond.

While connecting different respondent groups, such as displaced persons, host communities, authorities and civil society representatives, MSCC can be used to foster interactive dialogue on intergroup relations, validate findings gathered through other methods, and jointly seek solutions for problems that are identified by the participants.

In their report, the TRAFIG Team in the DR Congo shares methodological guidance as well as insights into the experience of using the tool in the DR Congo.

Find additional information and the [report on our website](#).

Publications from TRAFIG Team Members

- **Belloni, M.**, L. Müller-Funk, A. Üstübcici, N. Welfens (eds.). (2020). [The refugees who dare to aspire](#). OpenDemocracy.
- **Belloni, M.** & A. Massa. (2020). [No way to find home: common stories of Eritreans in Italy and the Netherlands](#). OpenDemocracy.
- **Christ, S.**, Meininghaus E., **Mielke, K.**, Röing, T. (eds.) (2020). [Refugees and migrants between everyday conflict and peace processes. Conference documentation](#). BICC Knowledge Notes Series No. 1/2020.
- **Christ, S.** (2020). [Pido, Eric J. Migrant returns: Manila, development, and transnational connectivity](#). Book Review. Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute 26(2), 478-479.
- **Etzold, B.** (2020). [How does European policy approach mobility for non- citizens](#). OpenDemocracy.
- **Jacobs, C.**, Ferreira, N., Roman, E., Etzold, B. (2020). ["Policies should better support people trapped in long-term refugee situations"](#). The Conversation.
- **Mielke, K.**, Mutschler, M., Meininghaus, E. (2020). [For a Dynamic Approach to Stabilization](#). International Peacekeeping.
- **Roman, E.** (2020). ['Rethinking immigration detention during and after Covid-19: Insights from Italy](#). Border Criminologies Blog.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, TRAFIG partner FIERI has launched a new section on their website called *"Immigration and integration during the pandemic"* hosting blogposts by FIERI researchers and friends (in Italian). Stay updated and find many interesting insights into the impact of the pandemic!

TRAFIG Blog Articles

- **Caitlin Katsiaficas, Martin Wagner:** [Asylum reception during the pandemic: How can systems become more resilient](#). August 2020.
- **Carolien Jacobs:** [Doing research on migration and asylum: Responsibilities and limits](#). September 2020.
- [TRAFIG Fieldwork in Greece](#). Interview with **Eva Papatzani, Alexandra Siotou, Filyra Vlastou and Panos Hatziprokopiou**. September 2020.

TRAFIG Project Activities

Stay informed about the project developments.

TRAFIG Activities: Events and Conferences

On **9 June 2020**, TRAFIG organized a [meeting of reception experts from Belgium](#).

[Germany, Greece and Italy.](#)

Highlighting the importance of reception as key first step in providing an effective solution to displacement, the participants in this expert meeting exchanged experiences, challenges and good practices, and examined the impacts of recent developments such as the COVID-19 pandemic on both reception systems and those in reception facilities.

Based on the insights gained from the expert meeting, **Caitlin Katsiaficas** and **Martin Wagner** (both [ICMPD](#)) explain how reception systems can become more resilient, especially in times of the pandemic. [Find their article here.](#)

Photos courtesy of Fedasil, Belgium.



Seminar at the Geography Department, University of Vienna (summer term 2020)

Benjamin Etzold from [BICC](#) and **Martin Wagner** from [ICMPD](#) jointly conducted a (virtual) seminar at the [University of Vienna's Geography Department](#) in this summer term. The course focused on "The challenge of protracted displacement" and gave the Masters students the opportunity to look into recent research on refugees' everyday lives in the context of long-term exile, the politics of protracted displacement and the 'durable solutions' that are possibly available to them.

From **17 to 19 September 2020**, TRAFIG will participate in the [3rd Conference of the German Network of Forced Migration Researchers: Contexts of Displacement, Refugee Protection and Forced Migrants' Lives.](#)

Session 1.5: Historical and current perspectives on governance of protracted displacement [Panel]

- Chair: **Catherina Wilson Janssens** ([Leiden University](#)/ NL)
- Addressing protracted displacement avant la lettre: The emergence of the international refugee protection regime as a response to protracted displacement in Europe (**Albert Kraler**, [Danube University Krems](#)/ AT)
- Protracted displacement in Africa: Regional protection regimes, local challenges (**Carolien Jacobs**, [Leiden University](#)/ NL)
- The EU and protracted displacement: providing solutions or creating obstacles? (**Nuno Ferreira**, [University of Sussex](#)/ UK)

Session 1.8: World Café: Research ethics in refugee and forced migration studies — international perspectives [Roundtable]

- with **Benjamin Etzold** ([BICC](#)/ DE) as co-host and with contributions from **Fekadu Adugna Tufa** ([Addis Ababa University](#)/ ET), **Maarit Thiem**, **Markus Rudolf** and **Simone Christ** (all [BICC](#)/ DE)

Session 5.4: Translocal Lives and connectivity under conditions of displacement
[Panel]

- Chair: **Simone Christ** ([BICC/ DE](#)), **Catherina Wilson Janssens** ([Leiden University/ NL](#))
- The role of translocal connectivity in the lives of Eritrean Refugees (**Fekadu Adugna Tufa**, [Addis Ababa University/ ET](#) and **Markus Rudolf**, [BICC/ DE](#))
- Translocal everyday lives of protracted displaced persons in Italy. Solidarities and power relations in condition of precariousness (**Milena Belloni**, **Pietro Cingolani**, **Giuseppe Grimaldi**, all [FIER/ IT](#))
- Translocal practices of refugees in Germany and the governance of displacement (**Simone Christ**, **Benjamin Etzold**, [BICC/ DE](#))

Find out more about the conference and the TRAFIG sessions including all contribution abstracts in the [conference program](#).

**TRAFIG AT THE 3RD CONFERENCE OF THE GERMAN NETWORK OF FORCED
MIGRATION RESEARCHERS - SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2020**

Session 1 : 1.5 -PANEL

Historical and current perspectives on governance of protracted displacement

September 17, 03:30 - 05:00 pm

Session 1, 1.8 - ROUNDTABLE

World Café: Research ethics in refugee and forced migration studies - international perspectives

September 17, 03:30 - 05:00 pm

Session 5, 5.4 - PANEL

Translocal Lives and connectivity under conditions of displacement

September 18, 03:30 - 05:00 pm

With the paper "*Protracted Displacement for Syrian Refugees in Jordan: Future Intentions*", TRAFIG's Jordan Team will participate in the "[Protracted Displacement Conference: Hopes, Perspectives and Solutions? Governance – Social Dimension – Academia](#)", which will take place as a four day virtual conference on **19 & 20 October** and **3 & 17 November 2020**.

The paper was jointly written by **Fawwaz Ayoub Momani** ([Yarmouk University](#)), **Sarah Tobin** ([CMI-Chr. Michelsen Institute](#)), **Are John Knudsen** ([CMI - Chr. Michelsen Institute](#)), **Benjamin Etzold** ([BICC](#)), **Tamara Al- Yakoub** ([Yarmouk University](#)) and **Rasheed Jarah** ([Yarmouk University](#)).

TRAFIG Fieldwork

Africa

In the **DR Congo**, all of the fieldwork has been successfully conducted. The team is currently working on analysing the collected data and preparing the results.

On **9 April 2020**, the DR Congo Team organized the Multi-Stakeholder Community consultation (MSCC). Due to sanitary measures in view of COVID-19, the team was only able to invite a maximum of 20 participants. Nevertheless, the meeting was attended by a mixed group of participants that generated an insightful discussion. *Find out more about the methodology used and some of the findings in the [DR Congo team's report](#).*

The **Ethiopia** Team has been engaged with organizing and implementing the TRAFIG survey. For this, the partners from the [Addis Ababa University](#) organised a training workshop for all researchers and subsequently started implementing the survey at the end of August.

However, in the past weeks, the team had to reduce and adjust their work due to the rise of COVID-19 infections in Ethiopia.

Asia

In **Jordan**, the majority of the qualitative research as well as the survey have been implemented successfully. However, the team had to rearrange the research process due to the impact of the pandemic, as some of TRAFIG's methods, such as group discussions with multiple respondents, were difficult to implement.

Currently, the team is engaged with analysing the collected data. Next to the other themes, they have gained many insightful results regarding [TRAFIG Theme 3: "Following the Networks - Connectivity and Mobility out of protracted displacement situations"](#). These will be shared in our next publications.

Over the course of the last months, the TRAFIG Team in **Pakistan** has conducted a substantial amount of the fieldwork, collecting more than 65 qualitative interviews. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the final steps of the qualitative research as well as the implementation of TRAFIG's survey - which was planned to begin in April - had to be postponed and will take place as soon as possible with the according safety measures.

TRAFIG Team member **Sobia Kiran** from [SHARP-Pakistan](#) shares some of her insights about Afghan refugees making a living in Pakistan:

"Refugees face numerous barriers to entering the workforce. Teenagers and young adults showed an enthusiasm about their role in society, especially with a desire to learn about and take part in the daily way of life, coupled with a determination to maintain their home culture. Older refugees tend to struggle more with language, employment and integration than their children (...) Women respondents were more vulnerable as they are limited to their homes only. They do not have enough livelihood resources to support their family. Female-headed households are quite numerous among the group of refugees. In some cases, their husbands have passed away, in other cases they have left to mining areas or to the home community in an attempt to make a proper living for the family. In their absence, women and their children have to make a living for themselves. Many of our female respondents showed remarkable resilience in front of their hardships by undertaking various small jobs to be able to provide food on the table."

Europe

Over the last months, fieldwork in **Italy** has gradually progressed, despite the Corona pandemic circumstances. During the lockdown months, when restrictions to mobility and meetings were most severe, fieldwork in Italy focused on conducting more than 40 qualitative interviews with experts and migrants online. Biographic interviews with migrants were implemented through an innovative methodology which includes multiple

conversation sessions and photovoice techniques through the help of pictures, videos, music, etc. produced by the interviewees themselves.

Since the easing of the lockdown restrictions, [FIERI](#) researchers have started to plan their return to the field and have resumed face-to-face interactions (combining them with online methodologies, depending on the circumstances). In-site fieldwork in the rural site of the Saluzzo area (Piedmont region) and its surrounding villages, which started in the summer, as well as research in Rome, starting from September on, will continue during the autumn and winter months.

The Italy team has also started organising and implementing the TRAFIG survey. A training workshop for the three interviewers was organized on **8 September** in Turin. The survey will be carried out in three different geographical areas: in the north-west and north-east of Italy, and in Rome with the target population of protractedly displaced people from Eritrea, West African countries and South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh).

Despite heavy restrictions since the beginning of the pandemic, the TRAFIG Team in [Greece](#) was able to make a substantial progress regarding the fieldwork in Athens and Thessaloniki as well as on the North Aegean islands Lesvos and Chios.

In an [interview on our TRAFIG Blog](#), the Greece team members share their insights into their experiences at the different sites and comment on recent developments like the recent fire in Moria, or the increased exits from ESTIA in Athens and Thessaloniki. [Find out more in the interview!](#)



Left: Demonstration in Athens against the exits from ESTIA accommodation. 20 June 2020. Photo by Eva Papatzani.



Right: Makeshift shop in Moria camp, Lesvos. 4 August 2020. Photo by Filyra Vlastou.

With a delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fieldwork in [Germany](#) has started in August 2020. After multiple online training workshops, the Germany team has begun conducting the first interviews with migrants well as experts. As the research in Germany attempts to "follow the networks" of persons affected by protracted displacement, the fieldwork will be implemented in various sites around Germany.

Meet the TRAFIG Team

Get to know the people who are part of the international TRAFIG team and find out about their personal motivations and perspectives.

The TRAFIG team counts 69 members affiliated with the [Consortium of 12 partner organisations](#) from 11 countries. The Consortium is supported by local researchers that make the fieldwork possible.

Meet **Eva Papatzani** from the TRAFIG team at the [Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece](#).



" (...) giving voice to refugees' life stories and investigating their practices, networks and mobilities (...) brings to the forefront broader issues of refugees' agency and struggles over not only the right to the city, but also the right to a place in the world. "

Eva Papatzani is a member of the Greek TRAFIG research team at the [School of Spatial Planning and Development of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki](#). In the TRAFIG project, Eva manages a substantial part of the fieldwork in Greece and supports the project with her experience in Urban and Regional Planning as well as Architecture. Find out more about Eva's work, her experience and her motivation [in her introduction on the TRAFIG Blog](#).

Horizon 2020 Sister Projects

Get to know related Horizon 2020 projects and their innovative approaches.

Zooming in on Migration and Asylum - New H2020 Webinar Series

The H2020 projects [TRAFIG](#), [AdMiGov](#), [MAGYC](#), and [MIGNEX](#) have jointly initiated the webinar series "[Zooming in on Migration and Asylum](#)". Together, the projects aim to expand their collective knowledge base on some of today's most pressing dynamics, including protracted displacement, the notion of crisis in the field of migration and asylum, internal displacement, refugee-driven solutions, and alternatives to current migration

governance. The series aims to facilitate evidence-based discussions and action at multiple levels.

With a Kick-Off in June 2020, the webinars will take place every month over Zoom. Each 90 min-session draws upon the findings of the different H2020 projects and includes a Q&A sessions for questions and insights from the audience.

Find out more about the webinars so far:

#1: [Doing research on migration and asylum. Responsibilities and limits](#) on 30 June 2020

#2: [How the Pandemic changed Migration Governance as we knew it](#) on 25 August 2020

And the upcoming webinar:

#3: [Access to Europe: Governing the entry of third-country nationals in the European Union](#)

On **29 September 2020**, from **13:00 to 14:30 CET**, the third session of "[Zooming in on Migration and Asylum](#)" will take place, organized by the [AdMiGov](#) project. With a view to contributing to the discussion on the EU's "New Pact on Migration and Asylum", it will examine how access for third-country nationals is framed through the law and political economy of entry governance, and discuss how access effectively takes place, looking at operational case studies conducted at the air (Belgium), land (Poland) and sea (Greece) external borders of the European Union. [Find out more.](#)

The series invites other H2020 projects in the field of migration and displacement research to contribute to the webinars. Please [contact us here](#), if you wish to provide insights from your project.



Announcements

Get to know related Horizon 2020 projects and their innovative approaches.

The [final conference](#) of the H2020 sister project [SOGICA](#), led by TRAFIG Team member **Nuno Ferreira** ([University of Sussex](#)), took place on **7-9 July**, and it included three keynote speeches, 23 panels, two workshops, one performance, more than 80 speakers and more than 600 participants. The conference was also the opportunity to launch the '[Queering Asylum in Europe: A Survey Report](#)', which discusses the data gathered through

two surveys that explored the social and legal experiences of people across Europe claiming international protection on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI). The [final recommendations](#) of the project have also been launched, in versions tailored to Germany, Italy, UK and the European Union. **The project's monograph will be published by Springer later this year.**

[Subscribe here to receive our newsletter automatically.](#) It will be published every four months until December 2021.



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[The TRAFIG Consortium](#)



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