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Transnational Figurations of Displacement

Dear friends of the TRAFIG project,

Our project is heading for the home straight – 4 more months to go! Due to the ongoing effects of the COVID19-pandemic on our work, we have requested another extension of 3 months. TRAFIG will now end in June 2022. [The final conference of TRAFIG – “Nothing is more permanent than the temporary?” Understanding protracted displacement and people’s own responses](#) will be the highlight of this final project phase. It will take place in Brussels on **May 3, 2022. Please save the date!**

Currently, we are feverishly preparing the projects’ final products – our synthesis report, a handbook for policy makers, and a toolkit for practitioners. In so doing, it is great to see how our collaborative work has evolved over the past three years, and how all the bits and pieces are eventually coming together. But it is also devastating to learn about another displacement crises emerging so dramatically and rapidly. Since the war in Ukraine started, [more than 1.2 million people have been forcibly displaced](#). We can only imagine the suffering and fear of those living in a war zone, of those who have fled, of all those whose families have been torn apart, and of those who have personal ties to any of these groups. We – all colleagues involved in TRAFIG – wish to express our sincere condolence and solidarity! While it is too early to comment in detail on the war and the IDPs and refugees’ movements it caused, we clearly see a lot of parallels to our work in TRAFIG. The immediate support that displaced persons now receive is heart-warming, we also very much welcome the [EU’s decision to implement the temporary protection directive](#) to immediately grant refugees’ access to rights, livelihoods and a long-term perspective. But we also want to reiterate that peace is the only true to solution and the key that displacement situations do not become protracted.

By browsing through this newsletter, you will see that our joint efforts have produced more fruits such as the published studies on displacement in [Tanzania, Southern Europe, and Germany](#). Moreover, in November a special feature on ‘mobility and agency in protracted displacement’ that includes 5 original contributions by TRAFIG team members was released in the [Forced Migration Review](#) (available in Arabic, French and English). We were also excited to share two beautiful [documentaries](#) that give deep insights into the everyday lives of displaced persons living in Greece and Italy. Both have been screened at a film festival in Italy in November and will be shown at multiple occasions over the coming months. When visiting our website, you will also note that we have successively extended the data section. Based on findings of our TRAFIG survey, the [data dashboard](#) contains innovative visualization of displaced persons’ mobility, network connectivity and marginalization and thereby shows the degree of the protractedness of their situation. Two maps illustrate our respondents’ displacement trajectories and the spatial extent of their networks. You will be surprised to see how global the social constellations of

displaced people are. In a [short video](#), we show how you can use the TRAFIG data dashboard and get a first glimpse of our results. More to come soon.

This edition of our Newsletter presents an overview of TRAFIG developments from **September 2021 to February 2022**. Next to new outputs - including TRAFIG publications, new blog articles, and other publications from our TRAFIG partners - the newsletter provides an update of our project activities, both in the field as well as in events and international conferences, and shares the most recent announcements from our project and partners. Find out more about the TRAFIG team in our [introduction of team member Simone Christ](#) and learn more about the Horizon 2020 sister project ["Whole-COMM" in a new blog piece](#).

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. Stay updated with our [website](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

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

Save the date for **TRAFIG's final conference** on **May 3, 2022!**

[“Nothing is more permanent than the temporary?”](#)
[Understanding protracted displacement and people's own responses](#)

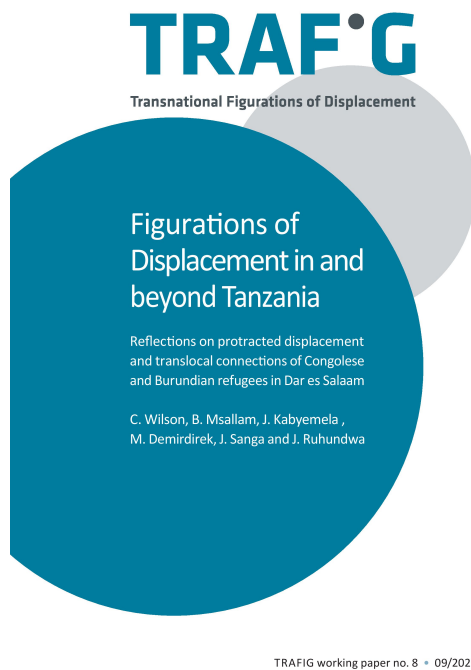
More details will be shared on the [TRAFIG website](#) and [Twitter](#).

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[Output and Publications from TRAFIG](#)

TRAFIG Publications: Working Papers, Practice Notes, and Policy Briefs



TRAFIG working paper no. 8:

Figurations of Displacement in and beyond Tanzania: Reflections on protracted displacement and translocal connections of Congolese and Burundian refugees in Dar es Salaam

This working paper investigates the livelihoods, trajectories, networks and self-generated opportunities of vulnerable migrants of Congolese, Burundian and Rwandan origin living in Dar es Salaam. Its main purpose is to arrive at a deeper understanding of protracted displacement through a 'figurational approach', which stresses the networks and the interdependencies of urban refugees in Dar es Salaam, across Tanzania, and across national borders.

Find out more about figurations of displacement in Dar es Salaam, as well as cross-cutting issues, such as gender differences or the role of social media, in [TRAFIG working paper no. 8](#).

TRAFIG practice note no. 8

Local connections for local solutions: Lessons learned in Tanzania

Based on the findings presented in [TRAFIG working paper no. 8](#), the corresponding [TRAFIG practice note no. 8](#) focusses on the importance of local connections in the case of the approximately ten thousand vulnerable migrants who find themselves in refugee-like situations in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Find out more about how these local connections manifest, and which constraints those affected experience due to the lack of an official status in [TRAFIG practice note no. 8](#).

The practice note is also available in [Swahili](#)!



practice note no. 8 • 11/2021

Local connections for local solutions: Lessons learned in Tanzania

Tanzania has 264,475 registered refugees, almost 85 per cent of whom live in camps (UNHCR, 2021), while the rest live outside of refugee camps, often in urban areas. In Dar es Salaam, the country's largest city, which has a population of around 6.7 million people, the official number of refugees living in the city does not reach 500 individuals, while estimates suggest a figure of around ten thousand vulnerable migrants in refugee-like situations.

The Tanzanian National Refugees Act (1998) makes it an offence to live outside of refugee camps without a government permit. Yet, mobility from the camp to Dar es Salaam is not uncommon, nor is it only in one direction. Only a few refugees who want to leave a camp and build a life in Dar es Salaam manage to get permits to do so. The majority are forced to go 'underground' and join other vulnerable migrants in refugee-like situations who live covertly in the city. Without local connections, these urban refugees—refugees lawfully in Dar es Salaam and migrants in refugee-like situations, who might be in the city lawfully or otherwise—have to hide their identity in the city and risk living their lives in a perpetual state of marginalisation, displacement and not belonging.

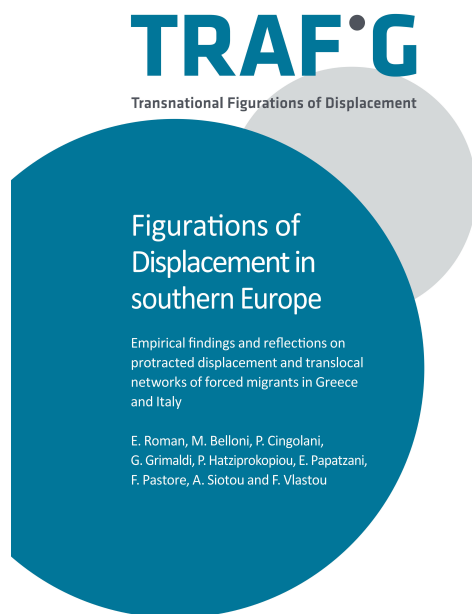
Good Samaritans as local connectors

Inspired by religious and humanistic values, some Tanzanians support displaced people in need. These 'Good Samaritans' (or *mtu ambaye ni mwema* in Kiswahili) have often assisted refugees with housing, food or money for transport. Some of this help is also motivated by the possibility to cooperate in the future. For example, DIGNITY Kwanza learned that Tanzanians who have interacted with refugees trust in their expertise and wish to partner with refugees in business. By doing so, Tanzanians tap into refugees' translocal networks and resources. In the trade of orange (African pine), for instance, cloth is bought in Congo, and the shipping is organised through Congolese connections. Good Samaritans have played a key role in facilitating refugees' access

to public services and in the participation of urban refugees in society. In addition to these more personal relationships, a combination of local Tanzanian organisations, initiatives created by the migrants themselves and faith-based organisations help to keep refugees afloat. Between 2018 and 2019, DIGNITY Kwanza implemented a 'business pairs' project under its community empowerment programme. The project involved business skills training for refugees and host community members alike. After being trained, participants were asked to form pairs of two: One refugee and one Tanzanian. The pairs had to come up with a joint business plan. Out of 25 pairs and business plans, eight of the best were awarded two million Tanzanian shillings each (about 800 euros) as a kick-start package to invest in their small business. The awarded businesses included a small roadside restaurant, a seamstress' shop, a beauty salon, a second-hand clothing business and a grain merchant. While only Tanzanians can legally register the business, the refugee can put his/her know-how into practice. The business pairs project underlines how collaboration between Tanzanians and refugees results in a win-win situation for both sides, enabling refugee entrepreneurs and Tanzanian citizens to establish livelihoods in Dar es Salaam.

Legal status and connection

Legal status or lack of it plays directly into refugee mobility and connectivity. The ability to connect and move freely, across public services (education, health) and assistance from organisations depends greatly on whether the urban refugee is documented or not: those who are documented are considered to be in a better situation than the rest. The undocumented urban refugees have to get help from the locals to register their businesses, to access public services and are often not eligible beneficiaries of many NGO programmes. For example, only urban refugees who had some form of government document recognising their stay in the



TRAFIG working paper no. 9 • 11/2021

TRAFIG working paper no.9:

Figurations of Displacement in Southern Europe: Empirical findings and reflections on protracted displacement and translocal networks of forced migrants in Greece and Italy

[TRAFIG working paper no. 9](#) is based on empirical research on the Translocal Figurations of Displacement in Greece and Italy. It aims to compare protracted displacement in both countries, looking at the structural forces shaping it and their interactions with migrants' mobility and connectivity. This comparison is based on the analysis of the relations between two contextual variables (governance regimes and host population) and three key variables (mobility, connectivity and marginalisation).

Learn more in [TRAFIG working paper no. 9](#).

TRAFIG practice note no. 9

Resolving the 'mobility paradox': Lessons from southern Europe

As described in [TRAFIG working paper no. 9](#), many forced migrants in Italy and Greece live on the margins of society without hope for or the prospect of change. Their only way out is to go on the move. Mobility is their strategy to connect to social networks and find livelihood opportunities elsewhere.

The problem is that their mobility is often on the fringes of or entirely outside the law, which leads to a 'mobility paradox' that, if left unresolved, limits migrants' own survival strategies from serving as resources/solutions to protracted displacement. [TRAFIG practice note no. 9](#) explains what generates the mobility paradox and presents ways in which it can be resolved.

This practice note is also available in [Italian!](#)



practice note no. 9 • 12/2021

Resolving the 'mobility paradox': Lessons from southern Europe

Protracted displacement exists in the European Union. TRAFIG research shows that many forced migrants in Italy and Greece live on the margins of society without hope for or the prospect of change. Their only way out is to go on the move. Mobility is their strategy to connect to social networks and find livelihood opportunities elsewhere. The problem is that their mobility is often on the fringes of or entirely outside the law. It leads to what we call the 'mobility paradox' that, if left unresolved, limits migrants' survival strategies from serving as resources and solutions to protracted displacement.

Protracted displacement in southern Europe

In both countries, governance regimes at EU- and national levels produce immobilising effects on vast numbers of forced migrants. Immobilisation may be broadly observed at:

- *The intra-EU level:* Movement to other EU member states is prohibited for asylum applicants (due to the Dublin Regulation, the Hotspot Approach, restrictions regarding family reunification, etc.) but is neither a significant option for protection beneficiaries (who are only allowed to travel up to three months).
- *The intra-national level:* Especially in Greece, asylum applicants face increasing limitations to mobility (confinement in Eastern Aegean islands' Hotspots, restricted movement when in reception centres, punitive measures if found absent), while lockdown measures during the COVID-19 pandemic imposed additional burdens on migrants' mobility.

Immobilisation in these cases cuts forced migrants off from employment and socio-economic activities, leading to their marginalisation. In the absence of integration policies, marginalisation of any form seekers, protection beneficiaries or other categories of migrants is structurally reproduced. Yet, receiving international protection status or other types of regular stay alone is not enough to end their marginalisation.

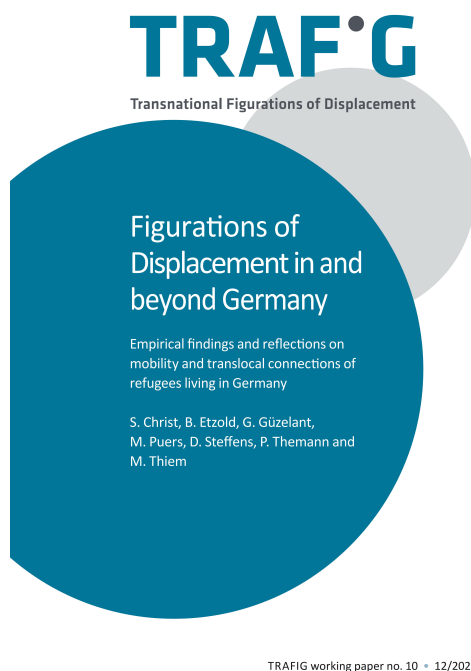
Mobility as a resource

Rather, displaced people use a variety of strategies to meet their basic needs, reconnect with their families and friends, secure their livelihood, or continue their migration projects. These practices are largely defined by mobility. Mobility becomes a form of agency migrants proactively use to regain control over their lives. It is a crucial resource, which allows displaced people to counter:

- Inter-EU immobilisation, e.g. by:*
 - skipping asylum procedures to cross borders irregularly and seek asylum in another member state without being fingerprinted (e.g., in Greece);
 - attempting to submit an asylum claim in another EU country, usually where their family networks are settled, despite having received refugee status in Greece;
 - moving for employment to another EU country while having received protection status in Italy, even though they then need to periodically return to have their Italian residence permit renewed (every five or two years, depending on the form of protection granted).

Intra-national immobilisation respectively in the case of asylum seekers), e.g., by:

- in Greece:
 - moving "forward" in the reception system to be placed in better accommodation;
 - moving without authorisation while staying in a reception facility, e.g. for undeclared seasonal work or to be close to family;
 - moving backwards to Hotspots or camps to deal with homelessness after receiving protection status (subject without being entitled to reception provisions).
- in Italy:
 - moving without authorisation while staying in a reception facility, e.g., for undeclared seasonal work;
 - engage in strategies of hyper-mobility, sometimes of a circular character, seeking seasonal employment opportunities to make ends meet.



TRAFIG working paper no. 10: Figurations of Displacement in and beyond Germany: Empirical findings and reflections on mobility and translocal connections of refugees living in Germany

Based on 73 qualitative interviews with displaced people and experts in the field, [TRAFIG working paper no. 10](#) discusses the figurations of displacement of refugees in Germany and analyses the role of connectivity and mobility in this context.

Learn more about the importance of family figurations in displacement, their deep intertwinement with local and transnational bureaucratic figurations and the way in which these structure refugees' everyday lives, as well as forms of connectivity beyond family figurations in [TRAFIG working paper no. 10](#).

TRAFIG working paper no. 10 • 12/2021

TRAFIG practice note no. 10

Following their lead: Transnational connectivity and mobility along family figurations in displacement

As [TRAFIG working paper no. 10](#) shows, family figurations of displaced persons in Germany are of particular importance as they decisively shape their everyday lives—especially when refugees have been separated from close family members, and/or when kin networks are dispersed across multiple countries.

[TRAFIG practice note no. 10](#) depicts the characteristics and policy implications of three specific transnational family figurations: the lone yet connected traveller, the transnationally separated family, and the transnationally extended family.

This practice note is also available in [German](#)!



practice note no. 10 • 12/2021

Following their lead: Transnational connectivity and mobility along family figurations in displacement

Transnational lives are not the exception but rather a reality of displaced peoples' everyday lives. This became obvious in our research with refugees in Germany, in which we used a figural approach to better understand their situation and how they overcome protracted displacement. By focussing on the social constellations in displacement, a figural approach can offer practitioners a new way to identify how to best support displaced people.

A figural approach offers a new perspective to displacement in two critical ways: First, displaced people, whether they journey alone, with family or in a group, are not considered in isolation but rather as part of different social constellations—or in other words, by the networks, power relations and dependencies in which they are inevitably embedded. The approach reveals social settings in which some displaced people find protection with the help of others, while others risk 'falling in limbo' because they lack much-needed support.

Second, the figural approach is not place-based or bound to a certain territory. When considering possible solutions, the question is not where a person would like to build a secure and productive life, but rather how (s)he finds a 'durable solution'. Building a new life may require back and forth mobility within one or between two or more countries—in other words, a translocal and/or transnational way of life. Binding displaced people to a certain place obstructs this necessary mobility and may paradoxically make them more, rather than less vulnerable.

Transnational family figurations in displacement

Everyone belongs to multiple social constellations or 'figurations'. Among the refugees in Germany whom TRAFIG researchers interviewed, family figurations were especially prominent as they decisively shape their everyday lives—particularly when refugees have been separated from close family members, and/or when kin networks are dispersed across multiple countries. Consider the following three figurations and their policy implications:

Figuration of the lone yet connected traveller.



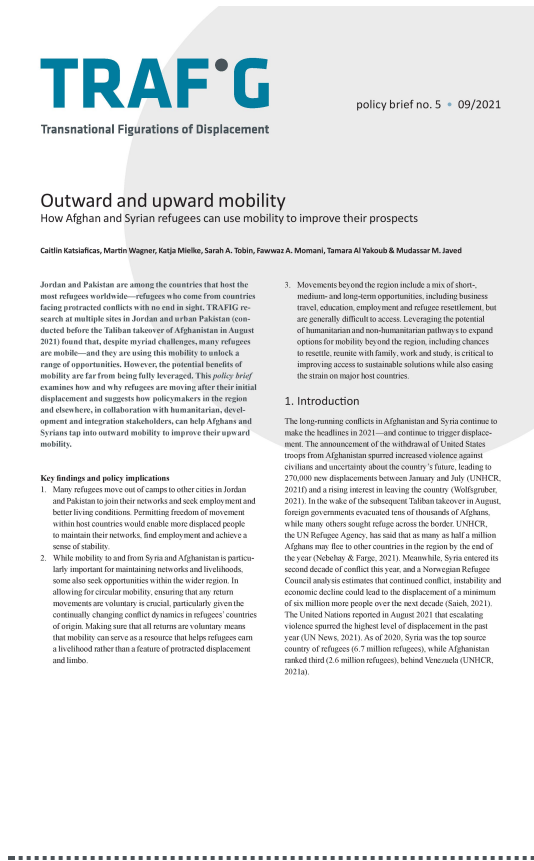
Characteristic: Many displaced people embark on irregular (and therefore unsafe) journeys alone but are nevertheless connected to relatives in their country of origin, at their destination or in a third country. In some cases, these relatives support the journey financially, logistically and emotionally.

Policy implications: Legal pathways must be provided. Upon arrival in Europe, familial ties within the European Union should be immediately assessed. Asylum procedures should be carried out in the country where close relatives live. If contact persons already live in Germany, the lone travellers should be given the option to move to that persons' place of residence.

Figuration of the transnationally separated family.



Characteristic: Many nuclear families have been separated along the journey—often for an indefinite time. One family member new lives in Germany, while others remained in the country of origin or in a country of first reception. Family members in Germany often try to reunite with their family. But when efforts to reunite the family via legal pathways fail and irregular pathways are deemed too costly or dangerous, the separation can become protracted. Families are then forced to organise their lives across a distance.



TRAFIG policy brief no. 5: Outward and upward mobility: How Afghan and Syrian refugees can use mobility to improve their prospects

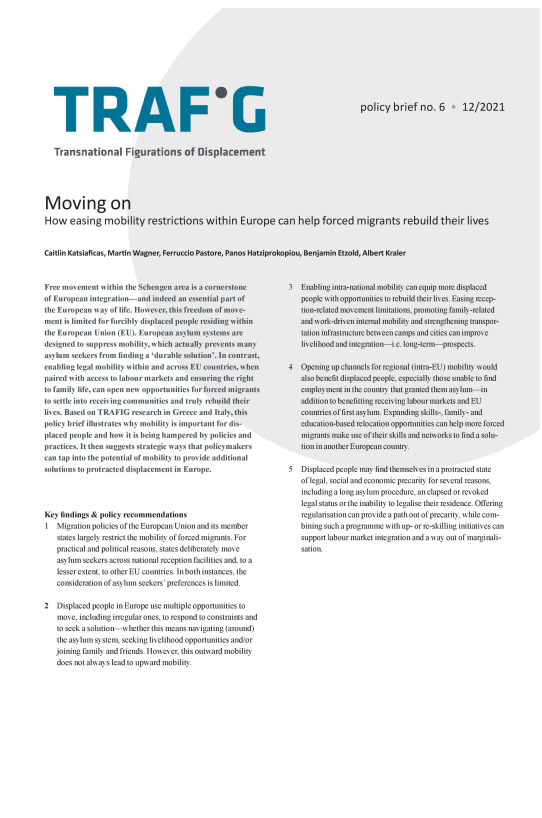
Jordan and Pakistan are among the countries that host the most refugees worldwide—refugees who come from countries facing protracted conflicts with no end in sight. TRAFIG research in [Jordan](#) and [Pakistan](#) found that, despite myriad challenges, many refugees are mobile—and they are using this mobility to unlock a range of opportunities. However, the potential benefits of mobility are far from being fully leveraged.

[TRAFIG policy brief no. 5](#) examines how and why refugees are moving after their initial displacement, and suggests how policymakers in the region and elsewhere, in collaboration with humanitarian, development and integration stakeholders, can help Afghans and Syrians tap into outward mobility to improve their upward mobility.

TRAFIG policy brief no. 6: Moving on: How easing mobility restrictions within Europe can help forced migrants rebuild their lives

Free movement within the Schengen area is a cornerstone of European integration – and indeed an essential part of the European way of life. However, this freedom of movement is limited for forcibly displaced people residing within the EU, with European asylum systems hindering many asylum seekers from finding ‘durable solutions’. Based on TRAFIG research [Greece and Italy](#), [TRAFIG policy brief no. 6](#) illustrates why mobility is important for displaced people and how it is being hampered by policies and practices. It then suggests strategic ways that policymakers can tap into the potential of mobility to provide additional solutions to protracted displacement in Europe.

This practice note is also available in [Italian](#).



TRAFIG reports and other outputs



Urban displacement in Lebanon: Syrians in Tripoli (CMI Report No. 5, 2021)

This fieldwork report documents key findings for the TRAFIG case study of Tripoli, Lebanon, which took place in the context of [TRAFIG's comprehensive research on displaced Syrians](#). [In this report, learn more](#) about the situation of displaced Syrians in Tripoli, including their deteriorating living conditions over the past decade, as well as the impact of declining economic conditions in the past years, and most recently the COVID-19 pandemic.

Picture: © Robert Forster

Internal displacement and network connections in the DRC: Findings and Recommendations

[This document](#) provides a short introduction in both *French and Swahili* of the [special issue on protracted displacement in the DRC's South Kivu region and Internally Displaced Persons' network connections](#) that was published by TRAFIG's DR Congo team.

The document provides a short description of each of the articles, which relate to [TRAFIG's five main themes](#). The work is based on the TRAFIG research in and around Bukavu, in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. At the end of the document the authors provide recommendations which came out of a stakeholder meeting that the team conducted.

[Learn more!](#)

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RÉSUMÉ DES PRINCIPAUX RÉSULTATS ET DES PRINCIPALES RECOMMANDATIONS DE L'ÉTUDE
SUR LES PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES ET CONNECTIVITÉS AU SUD-KIVU EN 2019-2020

KIFUPI YA MATOKEO YA UTAFITI JUU YA WAKIMBIZI NA UHUSIANO NDANI YA KIVU YA
KUSINI NA PENDEKEZO KWA 2019-2020

1. De l'étude

Il s'agit de l'étude sur les figurations transnationales de déplacement (TRAFIG) : connectivité et mobilité des personnes déplacées au Sud-Kivu. Elle comprend les objectifs et l'hypothèse de TRAFIG, les thèmes clés, liens, débats et politiques, les méthodes de recherche et le contexte de déplacement, ainsi que le cadre de gouvernance, régime et pratique de protection.

2. Déplacement prolongé

Les personnes déplacées internes (PDI) souffrent de trois types d'incertitudes qui sont interconnectées : spatiales, socio-économiques et relationnelles. Elles entravent l'intégration des personnes déplacées dans la ville et entretiennent leur situation de déplacement prolongé. Mais elles peuvent aussi, en même temps, être un catalyseur de changement. Disposer d'un réseau social plus solide et d'un revenu stable constitue sans doute la voie de sortie.

3. Personnes déplacées et stratégies de survie

Les stratégies de survie des PDI tournent autour de contact avec des acteurs forts, de la connexion multiple (nombre de personnes/groupes dans le réseau de la PDI) et de la capacité de celles-ci de maintenance de ce réseau. Une des raisons qui retardent le réseautage entre les PDI et les résidents est le sentiment de retenu alimenté par des soupçons

1. Kuusu utafiti

Inaangazia habari ya watu wakimbizi ndani ya inchi (TRAFIG) : kuunganishwa na matembezi ya wakimbizi katika Kivu ya Kusini. Imeonesha shabaa na mawazo ya TRAFIG, maneno makuu, mlingano, ongezi, mbinu za utafiti na hali ya ukimbizi, pamoja na uongozi na hali ya ukingo.

2. Ukimbizi wa muda mrefu

Wakimbizi wa ndani (PDI) wanapatwa na aina tatu za kukosa uhakika zenye kuunganishwa : kukosa makao, kiuchumi na kimahusiano. Izi zimeacha wakimbizi kukosa kushirikiana ndani ya mji mkuu na kudumisha hali yao ya kuhamu kwa muda mrefu. Lakini zinaweza pia, kuwa kichocheo cha mabadiliko. Kuwa na mlingano wa kukaza na pato ya kila mwezi ni njia ya kutoka ndani ya hali iyo.

3. Wakimbizi na hali ya kuishi

Hali ya kuishi ya wa PDI inapita kujuana na watu wenye kujijweza na miungano mingi na watu wala vikundi, na pia uwezo wa wakimbizi kuchunga nguvu ya miungano lio. Kitu moja yenye kuchelewesha masiliano kati ya PDI na wakaaji ni hatua ya kujisua inayochoweka na kowaziana na chuki inayotuma wakimbizi wamoya

Mobility and agency in protracted displacement

Special feature in the Forced Migration Review

FMR 68, November 2021

The [Forced Migration Review issue 68](#) includes a [special feature on mobility and agency for those living in protracted displacement situations](#), produced in collaboration with TRAFIG. Based on the TRAFIG research at multiple sites in Africa, Asia and Europe, the five featured articles focus on the

role of displaced persons' mobility and agency in protracted displacement - exploring, more specifically, how mobility and translocal networks of displaced persons can provide important resources in their search for durable solutions.

Content

["Understanding the dynamics of protracted displacement"](#)

Albert Kraler ([Danube University Krems](#)), Benjamin Etzold ([BICC](#)) and Nuno Ferreira ([University of Sussex](#))

- Displaced persons' mobility and their translocal networks can provide important resources in the search for durable solutions.

["Mobility dynamics in protracted displacement: Eritreans and Congolese on the move"](#)

Carolien Jacobs ([Leiden University](#)) and Markus Rudolf ([BICC](#))

- Millions of Eritreans and Congolese find themselves in situations of protracted displacement. A more nuanced understanding of how physical and social mobility affects their daily lives is crucial to developing more effective tailor-made interventions.

["Family networks and Syrian refugees' mobility aspirations"](#)

Sarah A Tobin ([Chr. Michelsen Institute](#)), Fawwaz Momani ([Yarmouk University](#)), Tamara Adel Al Yakoub ([Yarmouk University](#)), Rola Fares Saleem AlMassad ([Yarmouk University](#))

- Syrian refugees' aspirations to move contradict the notion that those refugees who are 'stuck' in displacement are passive victims without agency. Rather, in the absence of viable options for physical mobility, refugees may still engage in aspirations to 'move on' even when they are not able to do so physically.

["Constrained mobility': a feature in protracted displacement in Greece and Italy"](#)

Panos Hatziprokopiou ([Aristotle University of Thessaloniki](#)), Evangelia Papatzani ([Aristotle University of Thessaloniki](#)), Ferruccio Pastore ([FIERI](#)) and Emanuela Roman ([FIERI](#))

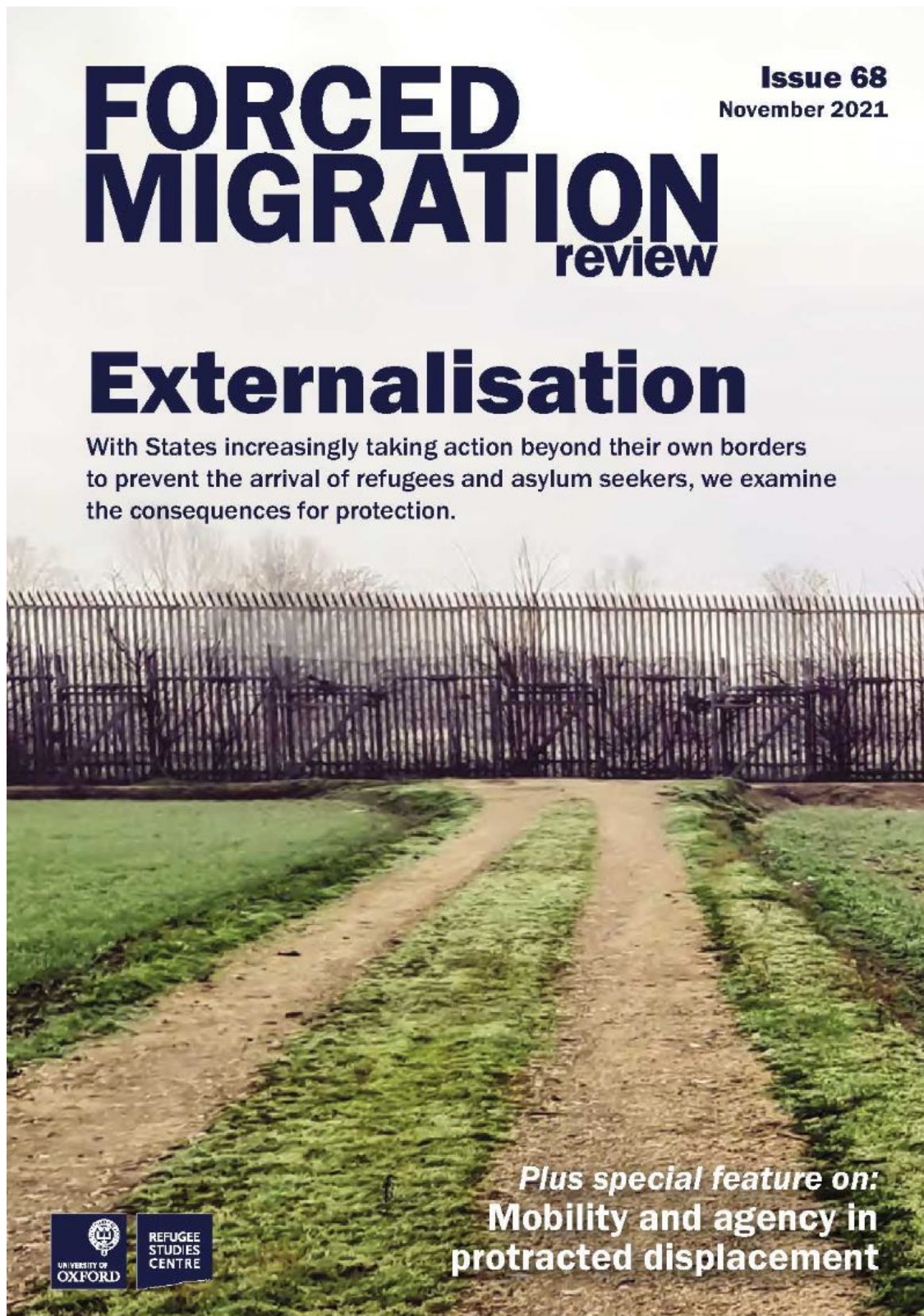
- People living in protracted displacement in Italy and Greece are frequently more mobile than is generally recognised in public discourse and policy.

["Humanitarian Admission Programmes: how networks enable mobility in contexts of protracted displacement"](#)

Benjamin Etzold ([BICC](#)) and Simone Christ ([BICC](#))

- Recent research explored how refugees make use of their networks to escape from protracted displacement. Germany's Humanitarian Admission Programmes have been able to provide legal 'complementary' pathways for Syrian refugees who had transnational ties. The effectiveness and reach of these schemes, however, are constrained by various factors.

The special issue is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Arabic](#)!





TRAFIG video documentaries:

"Il mio posto è qui? - Is my place here? Living as refugees in Italy"

by Andrea Fantino, Italy, 2021

6 characters, 3 locations, one country: **Italy**. From North to South, from Cuneo to Castel Volturno, passing through Rome, "Is my place here?" collects the testimonies of refugees from sub-Saharan Africa that share their life path, conditioned by the precariousness of the Italian and European reception system. "Luck" and "will" – cornerstones within which to move one's steps, according to one of the documentary's protagonists – seem to dissolve in a time made of mobility and constraints, where institutions often do not help and inclusion in a new society is often in the care of individuals able to make a difference, or in the possibility of becoming political subjects in all respects, giving rise to a fight to conquer their spaces and their rights.

The documentary was created in the context of TRAFIG, and managed by partner organisation [FIERI - Forum Internazionale ed europeo di ricerche sull'immigrazione](#). Along with the documentary maker, it has seen researchers Pietro Cingolani, Milena Belloni and Giuseppe Grimaldi at work.



"Crafting futures" (soon to be shared)

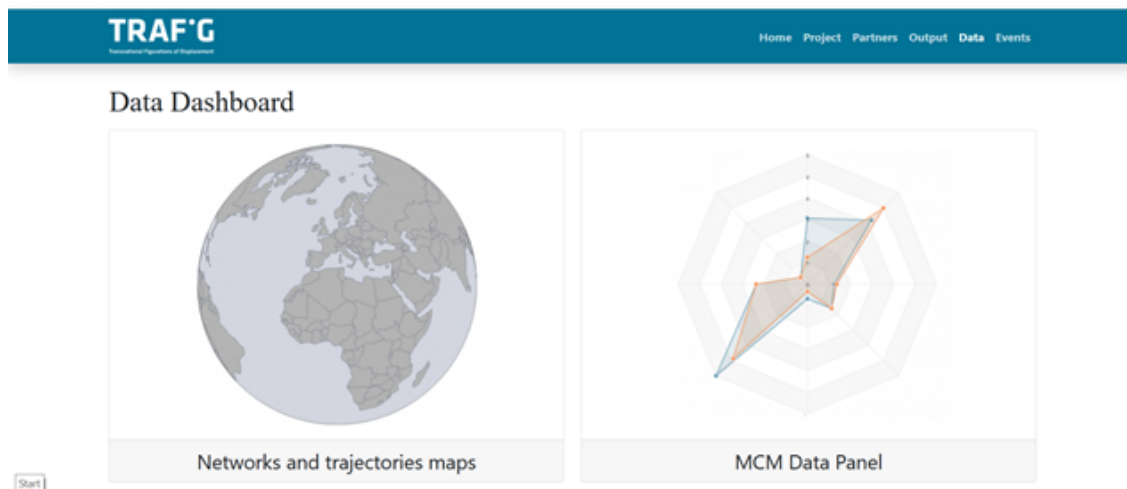
Next to the Italian documentary, the TRAFIG team in [Greece](#) has produced the documentary "Crafting futures", directed by filmmakers Michalis Kastanidis and Io Chaviara, based on the fieldwork in Greece. For some time now, Greece has been a passage for people seeking security and better life prospects in Europe. In recent years it has become a necessary stopover. Having experienced multiple losses and passed through long and difficult journeys, many may see their displacement getting protracted, as they are faced with border and migration regimes. Yet their lives and deeds are not only marked by immobility, passivity and victimhood, but also daily struggle, learning and creativity, intimate encounters and connections with places, institutions and people. The documentary narrates fragments of the everyday life of persons who have lately found themselves displaced in different parts of Greece: Thessaloniki, Lavrio camp and Chios island. Their stories together articulate a polyphonic stapling of such encounters and connections built around common spaces and joint activities. Of course, there exist numerous others.

Both the Italian and Greek documentaries have been released for the first time at the [Film festival "Crocevia du Sguardi" organized by TRAFIG partner FIERI](#). A public screening for the Greek documentary is planned to take place in Greece in early 2022, [before making the documentary available online](#).



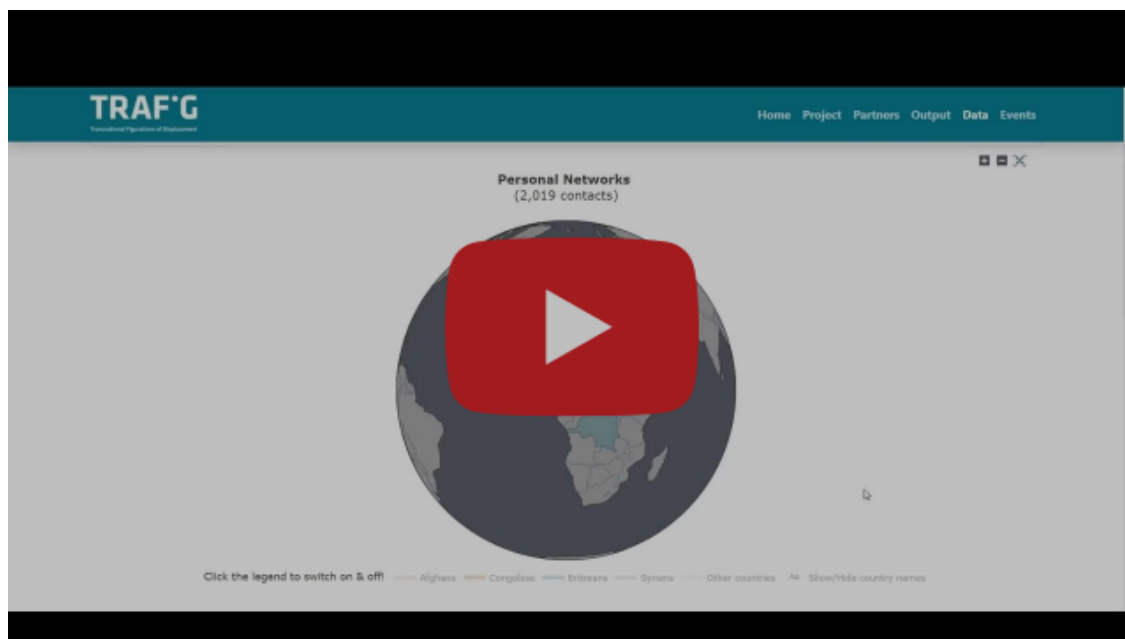
Picture: © Michalis Kastanidis

TRAFIG Data Dashboard



The TRAFIG data dashboard is a visual toolbox to provide first insight into the findings of our TRAFIG survey data on the conditions, trajectories and networks of protractedly displaced persons. The [MCM data panel](#) displays the degree of displaced persons' mobility, their network connectivity and their marginalization, which we use as proxy for protracted displacement. For each of these 3 dimensions 8 key indicators reflect the respondents' answers to a set of relevant survey questions. The global [networks and trajectories maps](#) display the ego-centric networks (with up to 5 key contacts) of our survey respondents as well as the displacement journeys to their current place of living.

Find out how the [TRAFIG Data Dashboard](#) works in the [introduction video](#):



[Browse through the Data Dashboard yourself!](#)

TRAFIG Blog Articles

- **Caitlin Katsiaficas, Martin Wagner, Elvan Isikozlu and Benjamin Etzold:** [Networks and mobility as tools for solutions to protracted displacement. Contribution by the TRAFIG project consortium to the Virtual Space of the 2021 High-Level Officials Meeting and the Digital Platform for the Global Compact on Refugees.](#) December 2021.
- **Catherina Wilson:** [All for a Bag!](#) December 2021.

TRAFIG Project Activities

Stay informed about the project developments.

TRAFIG Activities: Events and Conferences

TRAFIG project events

TRAFIG is in its final stage! Having published [all findings from the empirical research in Africa, Asia, and Europe](#), the whole team is currently engaged in creating the final outputs, mainly the TRAFIG synthesis report, the handbook for practitioners, and toolkit for policymakers.

These outputs will be shared in the following months! Stay updated on our [website](#) and [twitter](#)!

Get a quick preview of the upcoming [TRAFIG toolkit for practitioners](#), which is a joint effort by the TRAFIG team, based primarily on findings from [Greece, Tanzania and Pakistan](#).

In [Greece](#), TRAFIG partner [Aristotle University of Thessaloniki \(AUn\)](#) has been working on the development of the Toolkit for Practitioners in collaboration with “[Athens Development and Destination Agency](#)” (ADDMA) of the Municipality of Athens since October 2021. The tool concerns the design and pilot testing of a participatory decision-making methodology, aiming at better everyday cohabitation in the blocks of flats of Athens where asylum seekers are hosted in rented apartments under the accommodation program ESTIA.

In December 2021 the two teams (TRAFIG & ADDMA) completed the 1st stage, which involved a series of consultation meetings (in the form of focus groups and interviews) with (a) ESTIA employees, (b) Farsi- and French-speaking ESTIA beneficiaries, and (c) Greek residents and landlords. These meetings sought to explore aspects of everyday relations of cohabitation, focusing on tensions as well as reciprocity between asylum seekers and local residents in ESTIA-hosting blocks, and on participants’ views for better communication and meaningful, positive contact. During December 2021, the two teams moved on to the 2nd stage of the tool development, assessing the results of the consultation and planning the production of a pilot communication material based on cartoons.



Consultating meetings with ESTIA employees, Farsi- and French-speaking ESTIA beneficiaries, and Greek residents and landlords. / Pictures: © Evangelia (Eva) Papatzani, Filyra Vlastou

In [Tanzania](#), the toolkit is realized in form of a game called the “**DIGNITY Kwanza method**” ([DIGNITY Kwanza is the TRAFIG partner organisation in Tanzania](#)), which is based on the stories of urban refugees living in Dar es Salaam. The game is designed to provide useful tools to practitioners that are engaged in helping these refugees during the process of regularizing their status. In the context of the game, the player takes the perspective of an urban refugee in order to better understand the challenges and realities those affected face, as well as to think about possible solutions and needs. The game will soon be shared.

In **Pakistan**, the toolkit, which is realized in the form of a [website](#), is targeted towards practitioners of any kind of international, regional, national or local organization that is involved in designing and implementing activities on the ground. The purpose of this toolkit is to help practitioners organize and implement ideas to promote the connectivity and mobility of refugees. The toolkit is currently being adapted into a format that also allows for practicable and effective online use. In the following weeks, it will be launched in Pakistan to practitioners in the field. Together with the previous two elements, it will be shared as well.

TRAFIG project events and participation in conferences

On **15 November 2021**, the TRAFIG team in Germany presented their research findings in a public event at the [Adult Education Center Bonn](#). The results of the research implemented by TRAFIG consortium leader [BICC](#) - which can be found in [working paper no. 10](#) and [practice note no. 10](#) - were presented and discussed with participants from various backgrounds.

On **18./19. November 2021** the TRAFIG team in Tanzania conducted a Stakeholder Workshop on Protracted Displacement in Dar es Salaam. [During the workshop](#), which was organised by TRAFIG partner organisation [DIGNITY Kwanza](#), with colleagues from [Leiden University](#) and [BICC](#), the team [presented the TRAFIG study on urban refugees in Dar es Salaam](#).

On **26 November 2021**, TRAFIG colleague Panos Hatziprokopiou ([AUTH](#)) spoke at a Roundtable on "Housing and Shelter", in the context of the "[Markets, States and Civil Society: Strengthening Responses to Urban Crises](#)" Conference (LSE-online), drawing partly on material and findings from TRAFIG research in [Greece](#).

On **10 February 2022**, TRAFIG coordinator Benjamin Etzold ([BICC](#)) gave a presentation on "[Protracted precarity. Informal labour and translocal livelihoods under conditions of long-lasting displacement](#)" at the annual meeting of the German working group on labour geography, which took place in Bonn and virtually.

On **15 February 2022**, TRAFIG colleague Catherina Wilson ([Leiden University](#)) participated in the [Leiden Interdisciplinary Migration Seminar series](#) with a session on "[Strangers and Hosts \(un\)welcoming attitudes and spaces of refuge in contemporary urban Tanzania](#)".

On **14 March 2022**, TRAFIG colleagues Catherina Wilson and Carolien Jacobs ([both Leiden University](#)), along with Jochem Scheelings (former MA African Studies, Leiden University) and Sapin Makengele (Congolese artist) will organise a workshop at [Leiden University](#) to present findings from the TRAFIG fieldwork in [Tanzania](#) and the [Democratic Republic of the Congo \(DRC\)](#), as well as the game "[the DIGNITY Kwanza method](#)".

Find out more about the workshop [here](#)!

And while you're there, learn more about the life and community of Congolese refugees and migrants [in the Netherlands](#) in the TRAFIG video "[Congo in The Netherlands](#)".

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.

Meeth **Simone Christ** from the TRAFIG Team at the [Bonn International Center for Conflict Studies \(BICC\)](#).



"As social scientists, we are aware of the subjectivities of research. Social research can never be objective, a lesson which forced migration studies in particular tell us. It is nearly impossible to be a neutral observer when listening to the stories of our research participants."

Simone is part of the TRAFIG Team in Germany. At [BICC](#), she was involved in the conception of the TRAFIG project itself, and later led the fieldwork in Germany.

Find out more about Simone's work in the context of TRAFIG, her experience and perspective as a social anthropologist, and her reflections on the research in Germany in [her article on the TRAFIG Blog](#).

Horizon 2020 Sister Projects

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



The Horizon 2020 project "[Whole-COMM](#)" explores the integration of post-2014 migrants in small and medium-sized towns and rural areas from a Whole of Community Perspective.

For this purpose, the [international consortium of 13 partner organisations](#) combines a range of qualitative and quantitative methods in the context of their research, **covering 49 localities across 10 different countries**.

Find out more about the motivation and purpose of [the Whole-COMM project](#) as well as its specific research questions and objectives in a [new article on the TRAFIG blog](#).

Zooming in on Migration and Asylum - H2020 Webinar Series

In the webinar series "[Zooming In On Migration and Asylum](#)", the Horizon 2020 sister projects [TRAFIG](#), [ADMIGOV](#), [MAGYC](#), and [MIGNEX](#) join forces 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.



Starting in June 2020, the team has been organising monthly webinars based on findings from the different projects, which have been supported by experts' insights as well as lively discussions with the audience of currently more than 960 registered participants.

Find out more about the [webinar series and all sessions so far](#) on our website, or watch the recordings on the [TRAFIG YouTube channel](#).

Recent TRAFIG Webinars:

Revisiting protracted displacement – policies, mobility and agency – Launch of a Forced Migration Review special feature

On 14 December 2021, TRAFIG organised the webinar "[Revisiting protracted displacement – policies, mobility and agency](#)".

On the occasion of the publication of a special feature on [Mobility and Agency in Protracted Displacement](#) in the [Forced Migration Review 68](#), this edition of the webinar reflected on TRAFIG findings presented in the feature. More specifically, it revisited the notion of protracted displacement, its critical potential for

present day debates and the role that the mobility and agency of displaced persons themselves may play in promoting solutions to displacement.

Find a recording [here](#).

Ties that bind? Opportunities and pitfalls of migrants' international networks

On 18 January 2021, TRAFIG organised the webinar "[Ties that bind? Opportunities and pitfalls of migrants' international networks](#)".

Migrants are embedded in networks of family, personal and professional connections, and they form new networks during and after migration and displacement. This webinar explored the role that these international networks are playing, and can play, in creating transnational bridges to address contemporary global challenges. Panellists discussed the various roles of diasporas in supporting the circularity of skills and talents but also providing humanitarian aid in the face of crisis. They also explored the role of networks in finding solutions to protracted displacement and facilitating integration in receiving communities. Lastly, how might these different networks speak to each other to amplify their collective impact?

Find a recording [here](#).

Announcements

Find the most recent announcement from TRAFIG and related projects!

New research project led by the University of Sussex

'Negotiating Queer Identities Following Forced Migration (NQIfM): A Comparative Study of Iranian Queer Refugees Living in Turkey, the UK and Canada' (2022-2023), funded by ESRC.

This two-year project is led by TRAFIG partner organisation [University of Sussex](#) and run in collaboration with the [University of Nottingham](#). The NQIfM study will investigate the processes of identity transition of Iranian diasporic queers seeking international protection in countries generally seen as being of transition, destination or resettlement. It will develop concepts of postcolonial sexual identity, augment life histories of exile, explore trauma-based cultural politics, consider more carefully creative methods, and make a nuanced contribution to emerging queer studies of migration, transnationalism and exile.

The project will explore the lived experiences of Iranian queers in exile (IQIEs), enquiring: a) how migration affects IQIEs negotiation of sexual and gender identity from Iran to 'the West'; b) how culturally specific categories such as 'LGBTQ+' are negotiated; c) how poetry or other creative practices help IQIEs express or construct such journeys for 'sexual liberty'; and d) how poetic forms might help articulate the 'hidden experiences' of IQIEs.

New publications from TRAFIG Team Members

- Etzold, B. (2021). [Flucht ist ein Prozess](#) - Interview with Deutschlandfunk, 12 December 2021.