



Conference

29 – 30 March 2017

Berlin (Germany)

Im/Possibilities

Perspectives on Refugee Participation

An event jointly organized by the W. Michael Blumenthal Academy of the Jewish Museum Berlin and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Forum Berlin

Given the discourse on flight, migration and refugees in Europe and Germany, the conference titled **“Im/Possibilities. Perspectives on Refugee Participation”** is dedicated to discussing what opportunities people have to participate in a plural society. Against what historical and political backdrop are the current debates on flight and migration taking place? How are borders of belonging negotiated and how are these reflected not only in the opportunities but also in the limitations of refugees’ participation? What strategies are required in order to facilitate social, political and cultural participation? And, last but not least, what expectations do refugees themselves place on participation?

The conference comprises a kick-off event open to the public at the Jewish Museum Berlin on the evening of 29 March along with a keynote speech and subsequent panel discussion on the historical dimensions and current strategies for dealing with refugee flows. The second day of the conference, to be held at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, will provide a platform for exchange and networking and address specific dimensions in the context of refugee participation on matters relating to: political participation, aid between solidarity and paternalism, as well as matters pertaining to media representation.

The details of the program can be found on the following pages.

Venue

Wednesday, 29 March 2017:
Jewish Museum Berlin
Lindenstrasse 9 – 14, 10969 Berlin (Germany)
Großer Saal, 2nd floor

Thursday, 30 March 2017:
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
Hiroshimastraße 17, Haus 1, 10785 Berlin (Germany)

How to register

By e-mail at forum.aj@fes.de | Entrance is free

When registering, please indicate whether you would like to take part on both days of the event or only on 29 or 30 March.

Further information

[Im/Possibilities. Perspectives on Refugee Participation](http://www.fes.de/de/veranstaltung/veranstaltung/detail/206857/)
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Program

Wednesday, 29 March 2017

Jewish Museum Berlin, Lindenstraße 9-14, 10969 Berlin, Großer Saal, 2nd floor

19:00 h	Words of welcome Serpil Polat, Academy Programs, Jewish Museum Berlin
19:15 h	Keynote speech The Current Crisis of Europe: Refugees, Colonialism, and the Limits of Cosmopolitanism Prof. Dr. Gurminder K Bhambra, University of Warwick, UK
19:45 h	Panel discussion Europe for all – an im/possible vision? Prof. Dr. Gurminder K Bhambra, University of Warwick, UK Petra Köpping, Member of the Regional Parliament of Saxony, State Minister for Gender Equality and Integration Prof. Dr. Manuela Bojadžijev, Leuphana University Lüneburg/Berlin Institute for Empirical Research on Integration and Migration (BIM), HU Berlin Rex Osa, Refugees4Refugees Moderator: Andrea Dernbach, Der Tagesspiegel
21:00 h	Conclusion of day with reception

The kick-off event will be held in English and German with simultaneous interpretation provided.

Thursday, 30 March 2017

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Hiroshimastraße 17, Haus 1, 10785 Berlin

10:30 h

Words of welcome

Felix Eikenberg, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Forum Berlin

10:45 h

Round table

Refugees in Germany – Take part, be part!

For most refugees, the first stage of arrival has now been concluded. The question to be asked today is how political, cultural and social participation can be achieved. What best practice examples exist and what are the obstacles? What should policymakers do to ensure that refugees do not become mere objects but a natural and active part of society?

State Minister Aydan Özoğuz, Member of the Bundestag, Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration

Prof. Dr. Carmen Mörsch, Zurich University of the Arts

Eben Chu, Refugees Emancipation e.V.

Moderator: Dr. Dietmar Molthagen, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Forum Berlin

This plenary session will take place with English/German/Arabic interpretation.

11:30 h

Small group talks and discussion in the plenary session

12:15 h

Lunch break

13:15 h

Parallel forums

1 Representation in the media

How are refugees depicted in the German (and European) media? What positive and negative stereotypes exist? Do refugees themselves have a say and, if so, in what capacity?

Chair:

Dr. Chadi Bahouth, *Neue Deutsche Medienmacher* (New German Media Professionals)

This forum will be held in German.

2 Aid between solidarity and paternalism

By assisting millions of refugees, voluntary helpers are conveying an impressive image of personal commitment and dedication. But do good intentions always translate into good deeds? What expectations do those assisting and those being assisted have of each other? Do refugees receive the assistance that they need most and where do the paternalist dangers lurk?

Chair:

Felix Eikenberg, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Forum Berlin

Discussants:

Thomas M. Ochieng, refugee coordinator and media producer

Bernd Schüller, Project Manager "Ankommenspatenschaften" (Arrive Sponsorships), Federal Association of Volunteer Services (bagfa)

This forum will take place with English/German/Arabic interpretation.

3 Political participation at local level

This forum will investigate the relationship between civil society and local government. How are political spaces created where responses can be jointly formulated to the needs and concerns of newcomers and long-established communities alike in our rapidly changing demographics? What are the main ingredients for effective strategies for political participation? How can civil society organisations and local city administrations gain trust and respect for each other?

Chair:

Klaus Dik Nielsen, advocate on inclusion

Discussants:

Dr. Abdulkadir Osman Farah, AarhusSomali, Denmark

Lena Haddenhorst, Department for Inclusion, City of Oldenburg

This forum will be held in English.

15:15 h	Coffee break
15:45 h	What exactly is integration? Firas Alshater, comedian and author
16:00 h	Closing fishbowl Prospects, limits, ambivalences: What means of participation do refugees have? Comments on the conference from different observers, followed by a discussion Khalid Alaboud, journalist, "Amal, Berlin!" Eben Chu, Refugees Emancipation e.V. Sharmila Hashimi, journalist, "Amal, Berlin!" Moderator: Dr. Chadi Bahouth, <i>Neue Deutsche Medienmacher</i> <i>This plenary session will take place with English/German/Arabic interpretation.</i>
17:00 h	Close
