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Review of the HE programs in migration, diaspora and border studies - Germany

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O1A1: Report on existing HE programs on migration, diaspora and border studies in Germany

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Aims:

- To review higher education programs/courses focusing on migration, diaspora and border studies in the project countries/regions.
- To map and summarize the characteristics of these programs/courses on the national/regional level.
- To assess the role and importance of these programs/courses within the tertiary educational system, most notably within the field of Humanities and Social Sciences.

1. OVERVIEW OF HE PROGRAMS AND/OR COURSES

General information:

In Germany, we identified 17 study programs on BA and MA-level in the thematic scope of migration, diaspora and border studies, involving 17 universities in Germany, one partner university in Luxembourg, one in France, as well as different partner universities in migration sending or transit countries especially in the Global South, but partly also in the Eastern Europe. In Germany, the HEI offering such programs include public as well as private universities (among them two catholic universities (Mainz and Eichstätt) and one protestant university (Hermannsburg). Various universities (public and private) have a focus on applied sciences. The fees for the study programs are very diverse: Public universities as well as at the religious universities (Mainz, Eichstätt and Hermannsburg) offer their program for free (with a minimal of 50-70 Euros for enrolment and re-registration per semester), as it is the standard at public universities in Germany, or for a limited charge (e.g. with the half-yearly semester rate of 150 to 300 Euro), while the programs at private universities partly may cost up to 690 Euro per month, or, in the case of the BA program “Social work - integration management” at the IB Higher Education Institution, € 17,640 for six semesters (in dual education). International programs partly also differentiate costs depending on the country of origin of the applicant (EU or non-EU).

Due to the already large number of these HE programs, study offers which include only certain modules in border and migration studies or even only individual courses within a HE study programme have not been included in this survey. However, such modules can be found in Degree Programmes like social anthropology, socio-cultural studies and European studies and single courses offered by certain professors and their collaborators may often have an especially critical and new approach to the topic. These are for example courses offered by the

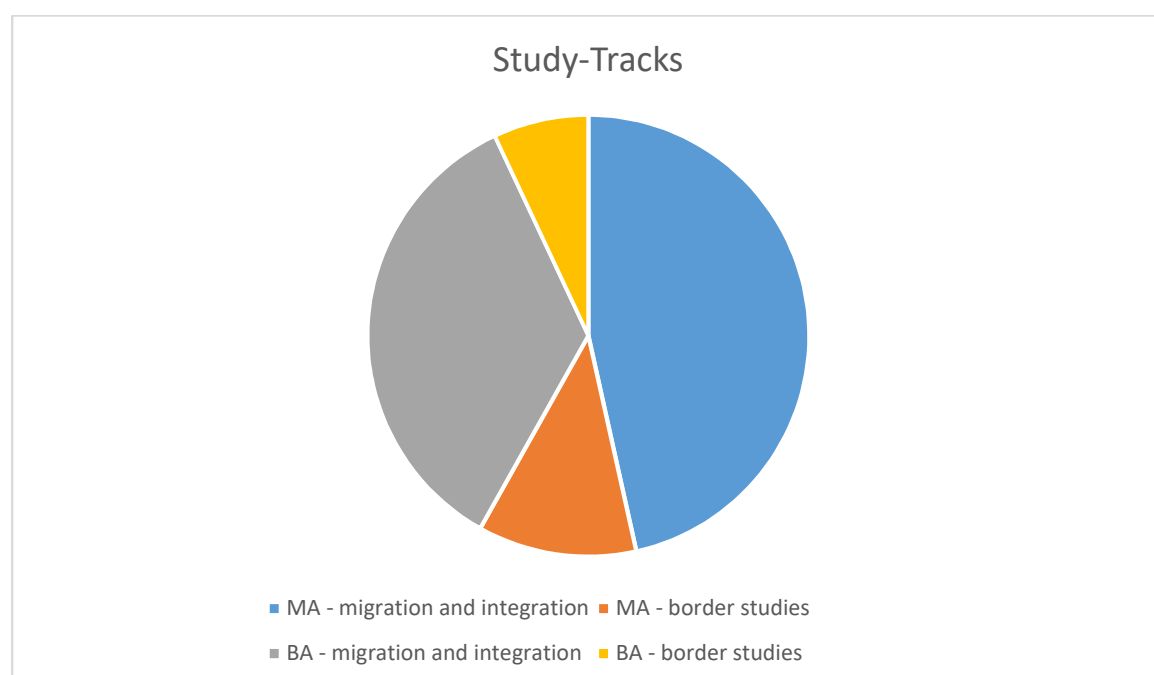
chair of social anthropology at the University of Göttingen (Prof. Dr. Sabine Hess and collaborators), the chair of social anthropology at the Humboldt University of Berlin and the Berlin Institute for Empirical Integration and Migration Research (BIM) at the Humboldt University (Prof. Dr. Regina Römhild, Prof. Dr. Manuela Bojadžijev and collaborators), the chair of social and cultural anthropology at the University of Tübingen (Prof. Dr. Boris Nieswand), the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION (Prof. Dr. Konstanze Jungbluth and collaborators) and the chair of social anthropology (Prof Dr. Kira Kosnick and collaborators), which provide courses for various degree programmes at the European University of Viadrina, among others “socio-cultural studies” and “European studies”. This means that migration and border studies are not only pursued at formalized study programs in the field of migration and border studies, but also within single modules and courses.

- **What are the major characteristics of HE programs/courses?**

At which levels and languages are these programs/courses available? Are they obligatory or voluntary?

Out of the 17 study programs in the thematic scope of migration, diaspora and border studies, 10 are on MA-level and seven are on BA level.

Out of the 10 programs on MA level, two have a focus on border studies, while the others focus on migration and integration /diversity / multilingualism. Out of the 7 programs on BA-level, one is focussing on cross-border communication, while the others thematically focus on migration and integration. Within the amount of 106 universities as well as 215 applied universities in Germany, which offer the number can be regarded as limited.



Out of the 10 MA study programs, one is offered in German only (University of Osnabrück) and one demands - next to the courses held in German - the acquisition of a language from migration sending countries (University of Kiel). Three programs are offered in German and English (Pedagogical University of Karlsruhe, Sigmund Freud University Berlin, Dual University Baden Württemberg), two are offered in English only (University of Oldenburg, Applied University of Würzburg), and two are offered in German and French (University of Saarland with partners).

Out of the seven BA study programs, four are in German only (Darmstadt, HdWM, Dortmund, IB), one program is offered in German and English (Mainz), one is in English only (Hermannsburg), and one is in German and French (Saarland/Kaiserslautern).

As these are complete study programs, the Degree Programmes are obligatory for those who enrol, but they also entail electives.

What is the thematic and geographic scope of the programs/courses, what kind of problems and regions do they cover?

In majority, the MA and BA study programs focus on flight, migration and integration/ intercultural relations/ diversity. There is no study program which explicitly brings together migration, integration and border studies – although there are certain modules on migration within the study program on border studies. Within the MA and BA programs on border studies, situated at Universities at the tri-border area of France, Germany and Luxembourg, the focus is in cross-border cooperation in the German/French speaking borderlands within the EU, where the study program is located.

Most study programs on migration and integration have a national focus, concentrating on the German society and legal sphere and questions of migration and integration within an immigration country, but bringing also the EU level as well as international and global aspects and here especially the perspective of sending and transit countries in.

Generally, the thematic scope is rather wide and regionally not specific. At the **Catholic University of Eichstätt – Ingolstadt**, for example, the focus is “on social transformation processes as well as interdisciplinary perspectives in refugee and migration research. The spatial, economic, socio-cultural and political organisation of social living conditions are dealt with, e.g. economic and socio-cultural relationships and processes, interweaving of regional and global structures, historical-social and social conditions of flight and migration, roles and interrelationships of different actors, cultural change through flight and migration. (...) Different social fields of action - such as family, education, culture, language and religion - are addressed as well as questions of identity and diversity.”

Especially the English-speaking study programs at the **University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt** and the **Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg** have a more international focus. The **European Master EMMIR at Oldenburg** provides for example up-to-date education in theoretical concepts, empirical methods and transdisciplinary approaches to migration studies. The curriculum takes into account all forms of migration and displacement and addresses intercultural conflict resolution mechanisms, multi-cultural governance issues and global/regional integration. Within the curriculum, one module is also

focussing on border related aspects. Furthermore, the study program offers the chance to specialise in one of the four programme foci (Gender, Development, Representation, Education).

The **MA- program “Migration and Diversity“** at the **University of Kiel**, which is **limited to the Philosophical Faculty**, focuses on certain sending and transit countries like Russia, Turkey, the Arab speaking countries, but also EU migration sending countries like Poland and Czech Republic. Depending on the obligatory linguistic focus chosen by the students within the study program, they can specialize in Islamic Studies, Slavic Studies or Eastern European History.

Which scientific approach, discipline is used in the programs/courses (i.e. political science, public administration, security studies, economics, sociology, law, history, pedagogy etc.)?

All study programs have a highly interdisciplinary approach. In MA-programs, the interdisciplinary approach is partly focussed on social, political and historical sciences. Some have also a focus on languages / multilingualism (University of Kiel, University of Karlsruhe, University of Saarland). Law, economic and security studies are less taken into account, but may also be dealt with.

The MA-program at the **University Osnabrück**, Institution for Migrations Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS), for example, includes next to sociology, history, linguistics, education, geography, political science, psychology and religious studies and also law into the study program.

In the BA-programs, a focus on social work, pedagogy, psychology and intercultural communication – mainly in Germany, but also in sending and transit countries - is predominant. Here, also a background in legal and social policy aspects is an important column of higher education. The approach of several such programs is also to strengthen the intercultural opening of social institutions and governmental organisations within Germany.

The BA-program **“Social work - integration management” at the IB University** for example focusses on “basics and methods of social education, special education/ social policy & work by social institutions/ legal & business basics/ developmental & learning Psychology/ Special target groups for integration work, empowerment/ Intercultural communication & anti-bias work/ social space orientation and the re-production of social space/ practical modules, everyday orientation and action research”.

What are the skills these programs/courses try (or promise) to develop, which parts of the labour market (professions, occupations) are targeted or indicated as possible job opportunities after finishing the given program/course?

MA programs introduce students in scientific work and enable graduates to pursue with a doctorate. However, most MA programs also have a clear practical focus, which is underlined with an obligatory practical assignment (internship). Similar like within BA study programs at Applied Universities, an interconnection between specific labour market needs and experiences

and the study programme and its specialisation shall be actively achieved. More generally, the MA programs open up career opportunities both in higher education and in numerous other fields of employment in politics, administration, business, educational institutions and human rights and aid organisations, psychosocial organisations and in (inter)national, governmental and non-governmental organisations.

While in most of these programs, the foreseen job market is mainly located in Germany, the envisaged job market is also international, especially in the European Union, but also in migrant sending, transit and return countries outside the EU.

The focus of the single MA-study programs is slightly different.

Within the MA-program “International Migration and Intercultural Relations“ at the **University Osnabrück**, the focus is on teaching academic and practical skills in the fields of migration and integration in history and the present, intercultural and interethnic relations as well as socio-spatial development and multilingualism.

The master degree program “**Flight, Migration, Society**” at the **Catholic University of Eichstätt** contributes to the analysis of global problems and current crises and enables graduates to work on the sustainable development of society. By linking research, academic in-depth study and practical components, students are prepared for later professional activities in the multifaceted and complex field of flight and migration as well as sensitised to the relevance of civic engagement for strengthening civil society.

The **European Master in “Migration and Intercultural Relations” Join EMMIR at the Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg** provides Graduates with skills for employment in national and international governmental and private sector organisations or in academia. It also trains students for more general labour market demands like flexibility, self-motivation and problem-solving skills.

The one year MA-program “**Cultural Relations and Migration**“ at the **Sigmund Freud Private University of Berlin** qualifies for working in fields such as inter-/transcultural education, social management with a focus on migration, anti-discrimination and anti-racism work, psychosocial work and work with refugees in migration societies and post-conflict areas. The MA-program “**International Social Work with Refugees and Migrants**”, offered in English language at the **University of Applied Sciences at Würzburg-Schweinfurt** generates interdisciplinary understanding of the interrelationships between flight, migration and development policy as well as their effects on the individual, families and groups. Students learn to “act sensitively in the intercultural field of activity and deal professionally with pluralism and the associated challenges”. Due to its international orientation and cooperation with universities abroad – among other the German Jordanian University Amman/Jordan (GJU), this master’s programme fosters human and professional exchange with countries of origin and transit regions and thus qualifies also for work in the international context.

BA courses mainly focus on developing skills in social work, diversity oriented civil society organisations, educational institutions and administration.

For example, the **BA-program ”social work - integration management”** at the **HdWM (Hochschule der Wirtschaft für Management)** and the **BA-program** of the same name, “Social work - integration management”, at the **IB University** train skills for job opportunities

for state-approved social workers in the post-migrant, urbanized society, in fields as youth services and migration advice in public authorities, integrative day care centres, homes, clinics and schools, businesses, NGOs, social organizations and educational organizations. The program also trains for jobs like integration manager or case worker in youth welfare offices/ job centres/ charities/ integration projects of municipalities or companies. Further professional fields are teaching and research activities and lectureships at nursery schools, colleges and universities in the field of social work / social pedagogy.

The BA-program “**Social Work Plus - Migration and Globalization**” at the **h_da, Hochschule Darmstadt, University of Applied Sciences** qualifies graduates for work in social services and institutions with a focus on migration and displacement, which may also include an international professional career.

The religious based universities (Mainz, Eichstätt, Hermannsburg) also focus on scientific-theological and practice-oriented skills, opening up wide range of fields of activity in the context of churches, diakonia and church-related or development institutions in Germany and globally.

- **How does the nationwide structure of programs/courses look like (e.g. are there some typical ones, it is possible to separate them to some groups with common characteristics, which type/types of programs dominate and which are rather exceptional or non-existing)?**

Most BA-study programs last three years. They partly are designed as dual education programs (meaning that students obligatorily work half of the time or even more, e.g. at the DHBW CAS, Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg, University of Applied Sciences) and that within the study period, they can reflect on their practical skills. Other BA study programs offer the possibility to study part time, meaning that they can continue their work and finish the study program in the double amount of time, with reduced rates per semester. The BA-program “Social Sciences: Migration and Integration” at the Catholic University of Applied Sciences, Mainz, lasts four years, as it has an obligatory one year stay abroad period.

Most MA-study programs last two years (Osnabrück, Eichstätt, Oldenburg and Karlsruhe) and the last semester is used to write the master thesis. Some modules are obligatory, while others are elective, or offer a wider range of elective courses.

The MA-program “*International Social Work with Refugees and Migrants*”, offered in English language at the **University of Applied Sciences at Würzburg-Schweinfurt** is limited to **three semesters** (including the thesis) and starts in the summer term only. Due to the cooperation with the German Jordanian University Amman/Jordan, there is the possibility for an optional semester abroad.

The **Master in “Cultural Relations and Migration” at the Sigmund Freud Private University Berlin**, which is in English language and directed at international students, is limited to **two semesters** (one year) full time or four semesters part time. However, this master is relatively specialized, as it has a clear focus on psychology. It is thus more narrowly defined than other master programs. Furthermore, a study degree with 240 ECTS (most BAs have only

180 ECTS) and first practical experiences in the profession are needed in order to enrol in the master program. Participants with a regular BA (180 ECTS) receive only a certificate after finishing the study program.

Various study programs demand **an obligatory internship** of one up to two or even two and a half months (e.g. Osnabrück, Eichstätt).

Various study programs also offer a semester / year abroad.

Some also offer a **double or even joint degree** and thus collaborate with one or several partner universities. **The MA-program “International Social Work with Refugees and Migrants” at the University of Applied Sciences at Würzburg-Schweinfurt**, for example offers students to study the 2nd semester at the University of Palermo and obtain a Double Degree. **The EMMIR at the University of Oldenburg is the first African-European Erasmus Mundus Master Course in Migration Studies** and offers a **joint degree** within a network of six partner universities. While the first and fourth semester takes place at the University of Oldenburg, the second semester takes place at the University of Stavanger in Norway and the third semester can be spend at one of the partner universities, among them universities South Africa and Uganda, as well as Slovenia. Within the border study programs, studying at two and more universities is obligatory and part of the program, and also leads to a Double Degree.

- **How large is the number and share of students attending these programs/courses (if available)? What is the role and importance of these programs/courses within the tertiary educational system? How many HEIs are having (or had) such programs or at least courses? Is the number of programs/courses large (across the country) or rather limited?**

In most cases, study programs start in the winter term and offer space for 30 students per year. This means that there are about 300 students in MA courses per year and 200 students in BA courses per year in Germany.

Generally, the offer on study programmes in migration/integration/border studies developed rather recently, in reaction to the rising numbers of migrants in Germany especially in 2015. To give a few examples (as we could not trace the start of all study programs): On MA-level, the program at the **University of Eichstätt** has been established recently (start 2019). Same applies to the MA-program “International Social Work with Refugees and Migrants”, offered in English language at **the University of Applied Sciences at Würzburg-Schweinfurt** which has started in summer term 2016. The BA-program „Social Sciences: Migration and Integration“ at the **Catholic University of Applied Sciences, Mainz**, has been established only a few years ago. The BA-study-program “Social work - poverty and (refugee) migration” at the **University of Applied Sciences in Dortmund** has started only in 2019. Also, the joint degree study programs in cross-border cooperation/border studies at the University of Saarland in collaboration with neighbouring universities (Metz and Luxembourg, Kaiserslautern) are

rather new and still unique in Germany. Older, more established programs are for example the one at the University Osnabrück, as well the joint degree at the University of Oldenburg, which started in 2010, but which came to hold in 2020, future continuation being insecure.

Also at Applied Universities, the focus on migration and integration developed rather recently, and here especially as a subfield of social work, which has been so far an area focussing on the “container of the nation state”. Social workers have not been specialized on inequalities arising from global dynamics and within highly diverse immigration societies. It was and is thus the aim to fill the professional grasp of social work in the context of migration and to further develop intersectional perspectives within field, which take care of gender, class and culture/ethnicity and by integrating global or transnational dimensions.

Conclusion

The study programs on migration, integration and border studies are still an emerging field. Programs offered so far mainly focus on the need arising in an increasingly diversified society, in which migration is everyday reality, and are often offered at applied universities with a focus on social work. The specialization is however still very limited and especially a focus on Eastern Europe is not yet offered. Furthermore, study programs are either specialized on migration and integration or on border studies and cross-border cooperation. The interlinkage of migration and border studies is not yet formalized in study programs

2. APPENDIX:

List of programs/courses (in excel format)

Detailed information on study programs and course manuals in Germany (world file)