

Exploring the temporalities of migration governance

How does prolonged waiting affect migrants?

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Topic of the lecture

- The role of time in the governance of migration.
- The effects of prolonged waiting on migrants.



Hamburg City Park.

RESEARCH

WAIT - Waiting for an uncertain future: the temporalities of irregular migration

The WAIT project uses theories of temporality and the concept of 'waitinghood' as tools for producing new and critical insights into the cultural conditions and implications of migration. Project start was January 2017, and you can read more about the project on the project webpage.





Temporary protection as a durable solution? The 'return turn' in asylum policies in Europe (TemPro)

Following high numbers of refugee arrivals in 2015, European countries have responded with restrictive policies reinforcing the temporary nature of the protection they are willing to provide. These measures, part of a 'return turn' in the practice of refugee law, include granting short-term protection permits to refugees from certain groups, stricter requirements for receiving permanent residence, and regular protection reviews to identify people whose need for asylum no longer exists.



Photo: euractive.com



Introduction



‘The lawyer told me these are risky times... Germany is doing everything fast now’, Fatima said. She talked about their fear of deportation back to Norway before the six-month period was over and showed me some pills she had gotten to ‘help her with her feelings.’ Her feelings were bad that day, she said. Yesterday, the date on the calendar showed that they had been eight years in Europe: ‘Yesterday we have been eight years in Europe. That made me cry. Before I had so much energy. Now, I do not have any left. I have used up all my energy’, she said. (fieldnotes, Hamburg, Dec. 2017)

Outline of the lecture

1. The why and what of irregularised migration.
2. Waiting, time and governance.
3. The role of time in European migration governance.
4. The effect of prolonged waiting on migrants.



Hamburg City Park.

Part 2: Irregularised migration

Irregularised migration

The concept includes various categories of people whose presence on state territory is somehow contested and/or legally precarious.



Hamburg asylum camp fence.

Part 3: Time, waiting and governance

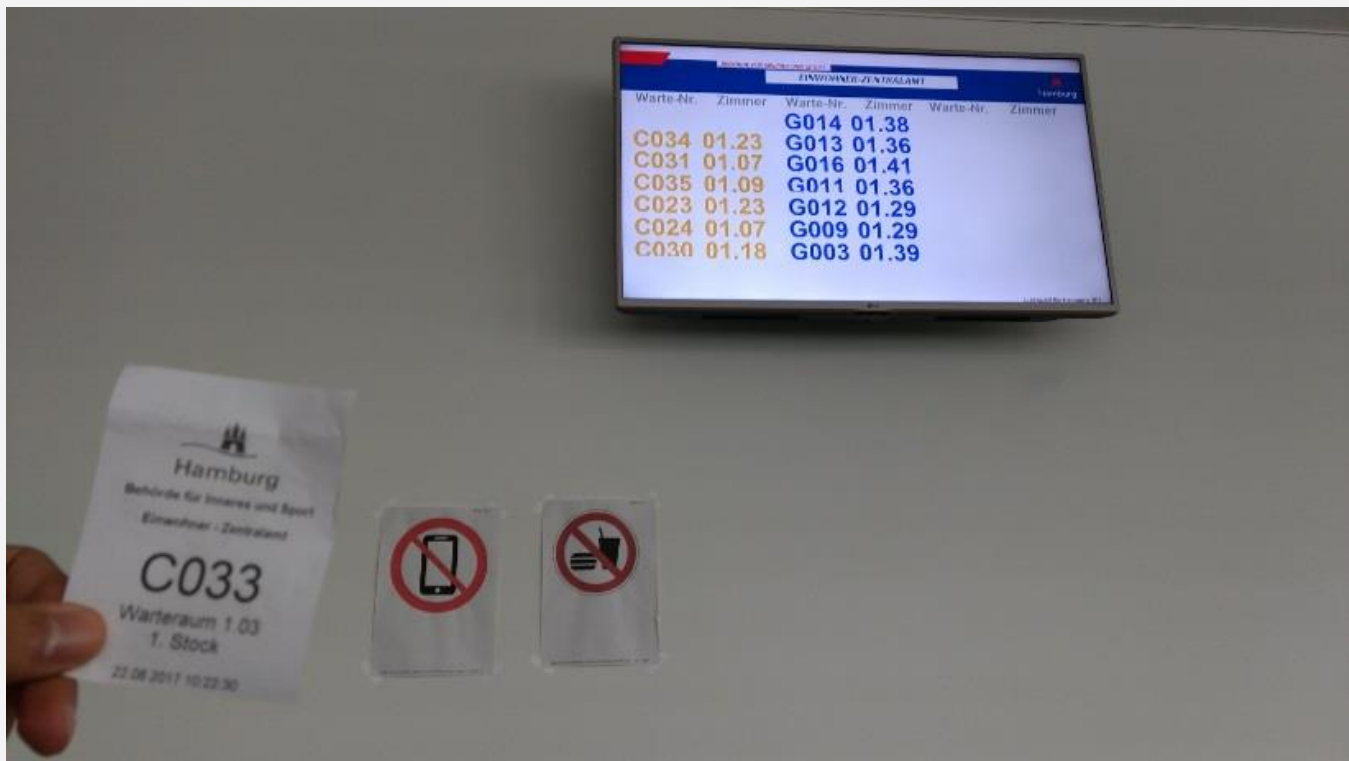




Photo: www.fenderbender.com

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Consequences of long waiting times in the asylum system

15/03/2021

Ventiden på en asylafgørelse er steget (Original language title)



Waiting for an asylum decision is stressful, and can still have negative effects many years after a person receives their asylum permit - especially if the waiting time is long. **In Denmark, the waiting time in the asylum system increased to 19 months on average in 2018 - 2019.** This report by the Rockwool Foundation examines the effects of these long wait times.

Strangely, longer waiting times do not appear to be linked to a higher number of applicants. On the contrary, the report finds that in periods of very few applicants for asylum, the waiting time for an asylum decision increased.

The Rockwool Foundation has compared waiting times with the number of new arrivals, and also looked into the long-term effects of waiting times on these arrivals' employment prospects. It found that **the risk of receiving a psychiatric diagnosis clearly increases with an increase in waiting time**, but that the effects on employment are not significant over time.

Related Content

6th European Migration Forum meeting 27/10/2021
M8 Alliance webinar on the need for integration of migration health aspects in the education of health professionals 07/09/2021
Migration policy of Poland - 25/08/2021 main directions and assumptions



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REPORT | SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

Still in Limbo: About a Million Asylum Seekers Await Word on Whether They Can Call Europe Home

About half of Europe's 2015-16 asylum applicants had decisions still pending at end of 2016

BY PHILLIP CONNOR



REPORT MATERIALS

Complete Report PDF

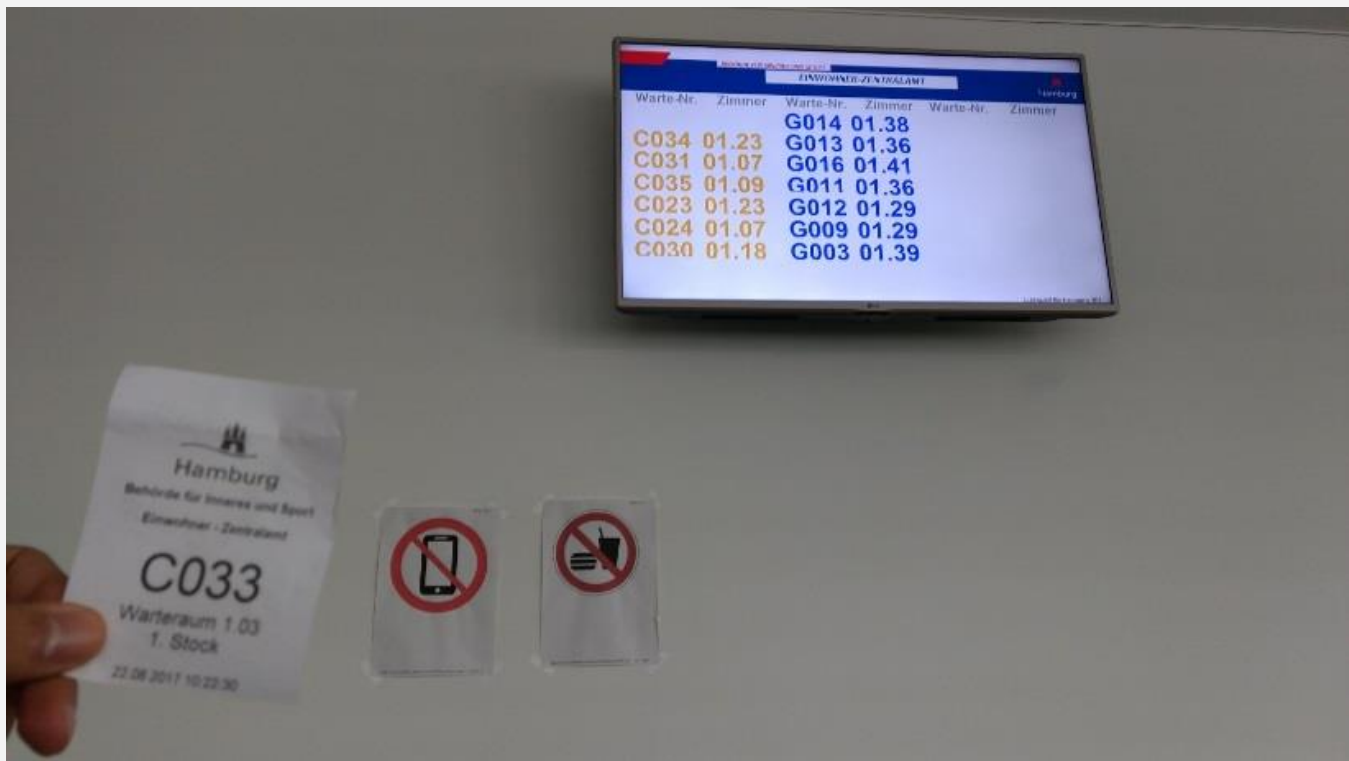
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Still in Limbo: About a Million Asylum Seekers Await Word on Whether They Can Call Europe Home

Applying for asylum in Europe

Majorities of asylum seekers from many countries don't know whether they can stay in Europe

More than half of asylum applicants in several European countries are waiting for decisions



Waiting: governance through time

- Waiting is more than a by-product of imperfect institutions and systems.
- “The distribution of waiting time coincides with the distribution of power” (Schwartz, 1974).
- The state uses, stretches and regulates time, to control and manage migration, mobility and peoples’ acquisition of rights.
- Situational and existential waiting.



Hamburg asylum camp.

Part 4: Waiting and time in European migration governance



Photo: Stein / Borge

Temporary protection as a durable solution? The 'return turn' in asylum policies in Europe (TemPro)

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Following high numbers of refugee arrivals in 2015, European countries have responded with restrictive policies reinforcing the temporary nature of the protection they are willing to provide. These measures, part of a 'return turn' in the practice of refugee law, include granting short-term protection permits to refugees from certain groups, stricter requirements for receiving permanent residence, and regular protection reviews to identify people whose need for asylum no longer exists.

Temporary protection

- Downgrading the type of protection provided.
- Rolling back policies that provide a path to long-term residence.
- Measures that require refugees to prove their need for continued protection.
- Return agreements.



From an asylum camp barrack.

Temporary protection

- Downgrading the type of protection provided.
 - Rolling back policies that provide a path to long-term residence.
 - Measures that require refugees to prove their need for continued protection.
 - Return agreements.
-
- Rather than functioning as a supplementary or exceptional response, temporary policies infiltrate the mainstream practice of refugee law.



From an asylum camp barrack.



The case of Syrian refugees in Germany

- From 2016: increased use of subsidiary protection.
- Subsidiary protection: 1 + 2 years temporary residence permit.
- 5 years before a permanent residence permit might be applied for (previously 3 years for convention refugees).
- 2016: Suspension of family reunification.
- Mechanism for withdrawal of refugee status.

Part 5: The effects of prolonged waiting

The effects of waiting

- Sense of being out of sync with the society.
- Negotiations of identity.
- Stress and anxiety.

How to understand waiting

The effects of waiting

- Sense of being out of sync with the society.
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How to understand waiting

- Waiting – more than inactivity. Struggles for a viable life.

The effects of waiting

- Sense of being out of sync with the society.
- Negotiations of identity.
- Stress and anxiety.
- Shapes the relation to the present and the future.
 - Enforced orientation to the present and near-future.
 - Insecurity might affect people's ability to make long-term plans.

How to understand waiting

- Waiting – more than inactivity. Struggles for a viable life.
- Waiting “for” and “waiting out”

The effects of waiting

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How to understand waiting

- Waiting – more than inactivity. Struggles for a viable life.
- Waiting “for” and “waiting out”
- People do not wait alone – the situation of waiting is shaped through peoples' relation to other people in other places.
- A transnational perspective on waiting.



Thank you!