

# Removal Experiences of Muslim Irregularised Migrants

## Islam, Deportation and Return

### Workshop

Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology  
University of Munich (LMU)  
October 14 - 15, 2022

**Keynote:**  
Alice Elliot  
*Goldsmiths University of London*

**Discussant:**  
Sabine Strasser  
*University of Bern*

**Organisers:**  
Martin Sökefeld & Usman Mahar  
*University of Munich*

*For details visit:*  
[www.ethnologie.uni-muenchen.de/removal\\_experiences](http://www.ethnologie.uni-muenchen.de/removal_experiences)



Artwork: Courtesy of Waseem Ahmed



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Oettingenstraße 67, 80538 München

*Registration:* Room 123 (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

*Workshop:* Room L155 (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

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Funded by

**DFG** Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft  
German Research Foundation

### **Workshop Synopsis**

Muslim conceptions of what being human means are often ignored in migration research. These conceptions, however, play an affective and central role in the experiences of many migrants from different Muslim communities. This is particularly true for irregularised migrants struggling with mobility or facing removal (deportation or “voluntary” return). Their view of cross-border mobility and life more generally, including notions of freedom of mobility and human rights, are often intimately entangled with religious ideas, experiences, interpretations, narratives, and feelings. Which are, in turn, profoundly bound up with their migration and removal experiences. To bracket out religion in migration research, as is often done in secular legal and human rights frameworks, may marginalise people’s religious experiences and ontological notions. For ethnographers working with Muslim migrants, it is all the more difficult to ignore this aspect of the lives of their interlocutors. Often, religion is the lens through which their research partners make sense of their (irregularised) migratory lives. However, there is no single understanding of Islam, and different collective beliefs, conceptions, or subjective interpretations inform the experiences and narratives of Muslim migrants: From religious ideas of *tagdeer* or *muqaddar* (destiny) to *istikhaara* (seeking Allah’s counsel), various Islamic practices, ideas, and subjectivities play an essential role in the lives of many Muslim migrants. Taking into account, the role Islam plays in the migration and removal experiences of our research partners can help us better understand their aspirations, lived experiences, and struggles. Consequently, it may also help us as researchers to unpack the dismal migration management policies across the globe that fail to consider the religious and cultural realities of the people they try to manage and control.

LMU Workshop: Islam, Deportation and Return

Workshop Program			
Day 1			
14th October, 2022			
Time	Activity	Author/Speaker, Title of Paper	
9:00 AM	Registration	Stephania López	
9:30 AM	Welcome	Martin Sökefeld	
9:45 AM	Keynote	Alice Elliot	
10:45 AM	Tea Break		
11:00 AM	<u>Session 1</u> Irregularisation and Precarity	<u>Chair</u> Sabine Strasser	Ashfaq Khan, "Afghan Pashtun Asylum seeker's Deportation Issues and Ideological Resistance in Landshut and Cologne"  María Hernández Carretero, "Practicing patience: Irregularisation, faith and patience among Senegalese migrants in Spain"  Usman Mahar, "Human Borders: Challenging restrictive mobility through everyday Islam and destiny"
12:30 PM	Lunch		
1:30 PM	<u>Session 2</u> Beyond Europe: "Privileged" Im/ mobilities and Ir/regularisation	<u>Chair</u> Usman Mahar	Joud Alkorani, "Between Istikhara and (Im)mobility: Navigating divine will and human obligation"  Anika Kabani, "Negotiating Theological Borders: A case study of irregularisation amongst Ismaili Muslims in the U.S."
2:30 PM	Tea Break		
3:00 PM	Discussion	Sabine Strasser and Martin Sökefeld	
Day 1 to conclude by 4:00 PM			
6:30 PM	Dinner	For invited speakers only	