

Time Matters: Temporal Aspects of Transnational Intimate Relationships and Marriage Migration Processes

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Abstract

This keynote will focus on temporal aspects in marriage migration processes from a life course research perspective. Based on empirical material from a longitudinal research project during which in-depth interviews were conducted with both females and males in Turkey and Germany who were engaged in an intra-ethnic transnational relationship, the significance of time as a structuring element of marriage migration processes will be discussed. The couples reported during these interviews about their relationship history as well as their experiences while preparing for marriage and migration. Departing from these narrations the following questions will be addressed:

- How do transnational couples report about time and the temporal order of events they experience prior to their unification in Germany? How does this perspective change depending on the location and gender of the partner?
- What role do families and important others play in this time period?
- Which time related effects are exerted by administrative procedures and preparatory steps the couples go through in order to fulfill the formal obligations for family unification?

These questions do not only allow for delineating important temporal aspects of transnational relationships between Turkey and Germany, but hopefully also contribute to a better theorization of marriage migration processes from non-EU countries in general.