Call for Papers

The History of Migration on the Move: France and Germany
(19th, 20th, 21st centuries)

International Conference 29-30 June 2017, Nantes

Political and public debates on migrations and migrants have intensified in Europe and more particularly since the beginning of 2015. France currently has the most significant proportion of migrants in its history undoubtedly comparable to its situation during the period known as “The Glorious Thirty”. France certainly became a land of immigration as early as the second half of the 19th century, much earlier than Germany. However Germany became a society of immigration a long time ago and migration and its consequences are fundamental subjects in politics, media and science.

The main purpose of this conference is to trace and shed light on mutations of migratory contexts and regimes in Germany and in France since the 19th century. National particularism will be explored from bilateral (Franco-German) and European perspectives.

Possible topics for paper include the following:

- Nationality and citizenship: the concepts of nation, culture, national identity (theoretical reflections and empirical observations) will be questioned and, if necessary, re-examined.

- Efficiency of national models of integration in supranational (European) contexts: can we speak of French or German models in terms of political integration? At the dawn of the 21st century, is it still possible to find a national response to the question of migration whose variables differ according to national contexts? National rhetoric and its resonance in the public arena will be explored in the context of the current European attitude towards integration. In the light of these reflections an attempt will be made to thematize the rise of populism (National Front in France and Alternative für Deutschland).

- Migratory regimes in France and in Germany: the influence of collective and institutional actors on migratory constellations can be discussed and particular attention can be paid to the way the right of asylum is politically handled.

- Memorialization of migration: how is migration memorialized in France and Germany? Who organizes the process and against what sort of backdrop?

- Theory of migration: over the past few years, little has been done to develop new approaches and new theoretical proposals with a view to explaining the social phenomenon of migration. Given the dynamism and resourcefulness of empirical research, it is time to re-examine the relevance of current concepts and theories.
This inter- and multi-disciplinary conference will thus seek to explore the conditions, forms and effects of migration. By cross-checking retrospective and prospective analyses, an attempt will be made to analyze models, traditions and perspectives in terms of migration management and integration in France and Germany.

Papers are invited from various disciplinary perspectives such as history, sociology and anthropology, geography, law, philosophy or demography.

Please send paper proposals (abstract + brief biography) simultaneously to Jochen Oltmer, Gwénola Sebaux et Zaïhia Zeroulou before 23 January 2017:

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Papers can be given in French, German and English and must not exceed 20 minutes to allow 15-minute discussions. Conference proceedings will be published.

Scientific coordination:

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