

# Dipl. Päd. Sarah Nimführ M.A.

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Date of Birth: March 20, 1984 in Mannheim, Germany | Married, 2 children (2010; 2017)

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## Education

- Since 10/2014 Ph.D. Candidate **European Ethnology**  
University of Vienna, Austria  
Dissertation Working Title: Everyday Life in Between. Negotiations on Im-/Mobilities in the European Border Regime in the Context of Non-Deportations in Malta.  
Completion in December 2019.
- 12/2012 M.A. **Empirical Cultural Studies and Educational Sciences**  
Eberhard-Karls-University of Tuebingen, Germany  
With focus field in Migration and Society  
Master Thesis: Transculturality and integration regime. German migration and integration policy and the transcultural trial.  
Completed with *magna cum laude*.
- 11/2011 Diploma Degree **Educational Sciences**  
Eberhard-Karls-University of Tuebingen, Germany  
With focus fields in Social Pedagogy, Social Administration, Social Planning, Socio-Pedagogical Cultural and Educational work.  
Diploma Thesis: Diversity as an opportunity?! An ethnographic study on experiencing cultural diversity in pre-school life.  
Completed with *magna cum laude*.
- 2004 A-Levels at the Ludwig-Frank High School, Lampertheim, Germany

## Honors and Awards

- 2019 **Theodor Koerner Award** for my Ph.D. project, Theodor Koerner Fonds, Vienna.
- 2018 **Rinus Penninx Best Paper Award**, IMISCOE – 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Barcelona.
- 2016 – 2020 **DOC-Fellowship** of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW).
- 2016 – 2017 **Junior Fellowship** at the International Research Center for Cultural Studies, Vienna (IFK)

## Academic Experience

- 01/19 – 12/19 **Research Assistant** as part of the OeAW-DOC-Fellowship  
Institute for European Ethnology, University of Vienna, Austria.
- 03/17 – 03/18 **Maternity Leave** (2nd Child)
- 01/16 – 12/18 **Self-Employed** as part of the OeAW-DOC-Fellowship
- 12/14 – 12/15 **Educational Leave** for fieldwork within the dissertation
- 12/13 – 12/15 **Research Assistant** as part of the FWF-Project "Taking Sides – Protest Against the Deportation of Asylum Seekers."  
Department for Political Science, University of Vienna, Austria.

## Non-Academic Experience

- 03/13 – 11/13 **Integration Consultant** at the Vienna Red Cross, Austria.
- 02/13 – 03/13 **Intern** at the Diakonie Refugee Service Vienna, Austria.
- 09/12 – 03/13 **Trainee in Fundraising** at the Refugee Project Ute Bock Vienna, Austria.
- 09/10 – 09/12 **Maternity Leave** (1st child)
- 11/07 – 04/08 **Intern** at the Refugee Council of Australia, Sydney/Melbourne.

## Teaching

- Summer 2019 Ethnology as Critique? Methods and Contours of Critical Migration Studies.  
Institute for European Ethnology and Cultural Analysis, **LMU Munich, Germany**.  
Scientific Working and Writing.  
Institute for European Ethnology, **University of Vienna, Austria**.

- Winter 18/19 Materiality and Metaphor: Migration, Border Control and Mediterranean Islands. Institute for Ethnology and Cultural Studies, **University of Bremen, Germany**.  
Scientific Working and Writing. Institute for European Ethnology, **University of Vienna, Austria**.
- Summer 2018 Contesting the Foreshores: Migration, Border Control and Mediterranean Islands. Institute for European Ethnology, **University of Vienna, Austria**.  
Islands as Spaces of Identity, Belonging and Migration: Ethnographic Excursion to Europe's "tumultuous fringes". Institute for European Ethnology, **University of Vienna, Austria**.
- Winter 16/17 How do to Research with Refugees and Forced Migration? Current Challenges in Ethnology. Institute for European Ethnology, **University of Vienna, Austria**.
- Summer 2016 Irregular Migration. Institute for European Ethnology, **University of Vienna, Austria**.

## Publications

### Peer-Reviewed Article

"Lost in Limbo? Navigating Im-/Mobilities and Practices of Appropriation of Non-Deportable Refugees in the Mediterranean Area", together with Buba Sesay, in: Comparative Migration Studies Journal, Special Issue: Europe, migration and the Mediterranean (accepted, forthcoming). Awarded with the Rinus Penninx Best Paper Award at the IMISCOE 2018.

"Living Liminality. Ethnological insights into the life situation of non-deportable refugees in Malta", in: Österreichische Zeitschrift für Volkskunde, 70/119, H. 3+4, Vienna 2016, 245-271.

"Preserving Maltese Identity in Refugee Management: On the Emergence and Absence of a Prison Spatiality", together with Laura Otto and Patrick Bieler, (under review for Shima: The International Journal for Research into island cultures).

"Overcoming Islandism. Reflections on Islandscape as an Analytical Tool in Research on and about Islands", together with Laura Otto, (under review for Island Studies Journal).

"What if Research Partners don't cross National Borders again? Challenging the Dichotomy of Multi-Sited and Single-Sited Ethnography", together with Laura Otto, (under review for HAU: Journal for Ethnographic Theory).

### Book Chapters in Collective Volumes

"Contesting Profit Structures. Rejected Asylum Seekers between Modern Slavery and Autonomy", together with Jorinde Bijl, in: Siobhán Guirk and Adrienn Pine (Eds.): Profit and Protest in the Asylum Industry. Oakland, CA, USA: PM Press (2019, in press).

"Gerettet, aber nicht angekommen. Von Geflüchteten in Malta" [Saved but not arrived. About Refugees in Malta], together with Laura Otto and Gabriel Samateh, (in German) in: Sabine Hess, Bernd Kasperek, Stefanie Kron, Mathias Rodatz, Maria Schwertl and Simon Sontowski (Eds.): Der lange Sommer der Migration. Grenzregime III, Berlin/Hamburg: Assoziation A (2017), 137-150.

"Stuttgarter Melange – Integrationserfahrungen in der Schwabenmetropole" [Stuttgarter Melange – Experiences of integration in the Swabian metropolis], in: Anja Dauschek, Sarah Kubin-Scharnowski and Bernhard Tschofen (Eds.): stuttgarter leben : stuttgart erleben. Kulturwissenschaftliche Erkundungen zur Gegenwart einer Stadt. Tuebingen (2013), 41-56.

"Denying while demanding integration. An analysis of the Integration Paradox in Malta and refugees' coping strategies", together with Laura Otto and Gabriel Samateh, in: Sophie Hinger and Reinhard Schweitzer (Eds.): Politics of Dis-Integration. Springer (2019, forthcoming).

"Umkämpfte Im-/Mobilitäten. Die soziale Produktion von Nichtabschiebbarkeit im transinsularen Raum" [Contested Im-/Mobilities. The Social Production of Non-Deportability within the transinsular space], in: Reinhard Johler and Jan Lange (Eds.): „FluchtMigration. Perspektiven auf eine veränderte Gegenwart“, Bielefeld: transcript (in progress).

"Die Wirkmächtigkeit der Kleinheit. Methodentheoretische Überlegungen zur Kontextualisierung und

Repräsentation von insularen Zuschreibungsdiskursen“ [*The effectiveness of smallness. Methodological theoretical considerations on the contextualization and representation of insular attribution discourses*], together with Laura Otto, in: Margrit E. Kaufmann, Laura Otto, Sarah Nimführ and Dominik Schütte (Eds.): *Forschen und Arbeiten im Kontext von Flucht. Reflexionslücken, Repräsentations- und Ethikfragen*, Springer (in progress).

### Editorship

“Forschen und Arbeiten im Kontext von Flucht. Reflexionslücken, Repräsentations- und Ethikfragen” [*Research and Work in the Context of Forced Migration. Gaps in reflection questions of representation and ethics*], together with Margrit E. Kaufmann, Laura Otto and Dominik Schütte, Springer (in progress).

### Publications in daily newspaper, magazines and media portales

“Malta ist wie ein Gefängnis“ [*Malta is like a prison*], Guest Commentary for science.ORF.at, 12. March 2017.

“‘Living in Malta without documents is like walking in the roundabout all the time.’ Nicht abschiebbare Geflüchtete zwischen Selbstermächtigung und Schutzlosigkeit“ [*‘Living in Malta without documents is like walking in the roundabout all the time.’ Non-deportable Refugees between Autonomy and Defenselessness*], in: Zeitung GEDENKDIENT, Issue 2/16 (2016), 4-5.

“‘In Deutschland sieht man Weiß aus.’ – Zum Umgang mit kultureller Vielfalt in Kindertageseinrichtungen“ [*‘In Germany you look White’ - How to deal with Cultural Diversity in Day Care Centers for Children*], in: Faktor 14. Magazine for Research and Science, No. 3, (2010), 24-27.

### Conference, Panel and Workshop Organisation

“Anthropology of Islands: Reflecting Islandness from a historical and cultural studies perspective”, together with Greca N. Meloni. Workshop at the Institute for European Ethnology, University of Vienna, Austria, 11/2019.

“Island Ethnography: Reflecting islandness in the Anthropocene”, together with Francesco Bachis and Greca N. Meloni. Panel at the IUAES 2019: Inter-Congress ‘World Solidarities’, Uniwersytet Adama Mickiewicza, Poznan, Poland, 08/2019.

“CommunicAction: Anthropology beyond Academia“, together with Manuel Liebig and Greca N. Meloni. Roundtable as part of the Institute Colloquium at the Institute for European Ethnology, University of Vienna, Austria, 03/2019.

PhD-Network Meeting, together with Manuel Liebig and Greca N. Meloni, as part of the Network Meeting of the Institutes of Ethnology and Cultural Studies of Austria at the University of Vienna, Austria, 03/2019.

“Escape from Syria. Rania’s odyssey. Filmscreening and Talk with the Film Director“, Moderation of the Institute Colloquium at the Institute for European Ethnology, University of Vienna, Austria, in cooperation with the Museum for Folk Like and Folk Art in Vienna, Austria, 01/2019.

### Conference Presentations and Lectures

#### 2019

“Wissenschaft nur der Wissenschaft? Ein Plädoyer für engagierte, kollaborative Wissensproduktionen“ [*Science only for Science? A Plea for Engaged, Collaborative Knowledge Productions*], German Congress for Geography, Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel, Germany, 09/2019.

“The island as an imaginary space“, IUAES 2019: Inter-Congress ‘World Solidarities’, Uniwersytet Adama Mickiewicza, Poznan, Poland, 08/2019.

#### 2018

“Understanding Island Societies: Ethnological Reflections on Islandscape as an Analytical Tool in the Context of Island Migration“, Island Cities and Urban Archipelagos 2018, Zhejiang University’s Ocean College, Zhoushan/China, 09/2018.

„Lost in Limbo? Moving contours and practices of settlements of non-deportable refugees in the Mediterranean area“, 15th Annual Conference IMISCOE, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain, 07/2018.

"Umkämpfte Mobilitäten. Die soziale Produktion von Nichtabschiebbarkeit im transinsularen Raum" [*Contested Im-/Mobilities. The Social Production of Non-Deportability within the transinsular space*], Institute Colloquium of the Ludwig-Uhland-Institute for Empirical Cultural Studies: 'Auf der Flucht, nach der Flucht. Kultur- und sozialwissenschaftliche Positionen, ethnographische Zugänge', Eberhard Karls University of Tuebingen, Germany, 07/2018.

## 2017

"What if my research partners just don't cross national borders again? Multi-sited research in a single geographic locality", World on the Move – Migration Lab, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK, 11/2017.

"'Malta is like a prison' – Islandness im Blickpunkt von Nichtabschiebbarkeit" [*'Malta is like a prison' – Non-Deportability through the lens of Islandness*], Monday Lecture of the International Research Center for Cultural Studies (IFK), Vienna, Austria, 03/2017.

"Living Liminality. Ethnographische Einblicke in die Lebenssituation nicht abschiebbarer Geflüchteter in Malta" [*Living Liminality. Ethnographic Insights into the Life Situation of Non-Deportable Refugees in Malta*], Kick-Off Event of the Doctoral College "Dynamiken von Ungleichheit und Differenz im Zeitalter der Globalisierung", University of Innsbruck, Austria, 01/2017.

## 2016

Semesterfrage 2016: Wie verändert Migration Europa? Podiumsdiskussion [*Semester question 2016: How does Migration change Europe? Panel Discussion*]: Video Interview (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfylfgjVW6M>), University of Vienna, Austria, 06/2016.

"Living Liminality. Ethnological Insights on the Life Situation of Non-Deportable Refugees in Malta." International Conference on Migration, Irregularisation and Activism, Malmö universitet, Malmö, Sweden, 06/2016.

"kritisch: Positionierungen von ForscherInnen im Feld" [*Critical: Positioning of Researchers in the Field*], Institute Colloquium at the Institute for European Ethnology, University of Vienna, Austria, 06/2016.

"Betwixt and Between. Eine ethnologische Studie zur Lebenssituation nicht abschiebbarer Geflüchteter in Malta" [*Betwixt and Between. An ethnological Study to the Life Situation of Non-Deportable Refugees in Malta*], Poster Presentation at the StipendiatInnenstag 2016 of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria, 06/2016.

"Liminalität als Lebensform. Ein intersektionaler Blick auf nicht abschiebbare Migrantinnen in Malta" [*Liminality as a way of life. An Intersectional View on Non-Deportable Migrant Women in Malta*], Interdisciplinary Doctoral Conference Zurich, Vienna, Berlin: Cultural Studies - Historical Anthropology, University of Zurich, Switzerland, 01/2016.

## 2015

"Embodied liminality. Von nicht abschiebbaren Geflüchteten auf Malta" [*About Non-Deportable Refugees in Malta*], Annual Meeting of the Research Group "Economy and Society". Faculty of History and Cultural Studies, University of Vienna, Austria, 11/2015.

"Alltag im Dazwischen. Von nicht abschiebbaren Geflüchteten auf Malta." [*Everyday Life in Between. About Non-Deportable Refugees in Malta*], Interdisciplinary conference: The Everyday Life of (In-)Security. Ethnographic-cultural perspectives on the security society, University of Graz, Austria, 11/2015.

"'Being in limbo'. Grenzgänger\*innen in Malta" [*Being in Limbo. Border Crossers in Malta*], Autumn School: Border Crossers in Theory and Practice. Europe University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder, Germany, 10/2015.

"Alltag im Dazwischen. Porträts von Geflüchteten auf Malta" [*Everyday Life in Between. Portraits of Refugees in Malta*], Talking Anthropology and Wine. As part of the Accompanying Program of the Exhibition "Bitter Oranges" by Gilles Reckinger, Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art, Vienna, Austria, 10/2015.

"Werkstattgespräch: Alltag im Dazwischen" [*Workshop Discussion: Everyday Life in Between*], Institute Colloquium at the Institute for European Ethnology, University of Vienna, Austria, 06/2015.

## 2014

"Taking Sides – Protest Against the Deportation of Asylum Seekers." Poster Presentation, 2nd Interdisciplinary Conference on Social Protest, University of Kent, UK, 03/2014.

## Training and Additional Qualifications

### 2019

Seminar Design: Variety of Methods for University Teaching: When do I use which method?  
Centre for Teaching and Learning, Universitätsstraße 5, 1010 Vienna.

Examine and Evaluate: Develop Multiple Choice Exams.  
Centre for Teaching and Learning, Universitätsstraße 5, 1010 Vienna.

Seminar Design: Presentations: How do I use them specifically in my course?  
Centre for Teaching and Learning, Universitätsstraße 5, 1010 Vienna.

### 2018

Planning Teaching: Planning Courses.  
Centre for Teaching and Learning, Universitätsstraße 5, 1010 Vienna.

### 2016

Starting University Teaching - Basic Qualification for Beginners in the Humanities, Social sciences and Cultural Studies.  
Centre for Teaching and Learning, Universitätsstraße 5, 1010 Vienna.

### 2014

Workshop "Multi-sited and multi-method Ethnography", Herbstwerkstatt, Center for Migration, Education and Cultural Studies, University of Oldenburg, Germany.

ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques: Introduction on Statistics for Political and Social Scientists, University of Vienna, Austria.

### 2008

UN-Strategy-Workshop „Advocating for Human Rights at Local and International Levels“, OHCHR, Melbourne, Australia.

## Memberships

Kritnet – Network Critical Migration and Border Research (since 2014)

Research Group on Economic and Society from a Historical-Cultural Studies Perspective (since 2014)

dgv – German Association of Anthropology (since 2014)

Migration Law Network (since 2016)

Working Group “Flight and Asylum“ – transdisciplinary and intersectional“ (since 2017)

Association for Folk Life and Folk Art (since 2019)

## Research Interests

Forced Migration and Refugee Studies

Border Regime Studies

Engaged Anthropology

Research Ethics

Island Studies

Ethnographic Methods

Vienna, April 1, 2019

Sarah Niefel