

Dr. Sarah Nimführ

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

Education

- 10/14 – 06/20 **Ph.D. European Ethnology**
University of Vienna, Austria
Dissertation Title: Living in the Limboscapes. Negotiations of belonging of non-deportable refugees in the European border regime.
Completed with *summa cum laude*.
- 10/05 – 12/12 **M.A. Empirical Cultural Studies and Educational Sciences**
Eberhard-Karls-University of Tübingen, Germany
Master Thesis: Transculturality and integration regime. German migration and integration policy and the transcultural trial.
Completed with *magna cum laude*.
- 10/04 – 06/11 University Degree (Dipl. Päd.) **Educational Sciences**
Eberhard-Karls-University of Tübingen, Germany
Diploma Thesis: Diversity as a chance?! An ethnographic study on experiencing cultural diversity in pre-school institutions.
Completed with *magna cum laude*.

Academic Appointments

- 04/20–present **University Lecturer**
Chair for European Ethnology, University of Würzburg, Germany
- 10/20–present **University Lecturer**
Department of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology, University of Graz, Austria
- 03/16 – 12/19 **University Lecturer**
Department of European Ethnology, University of Vienna, Austria
- 01/19 – 12/19 **Research Associate** as part of the DOC-Fellowship of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) at the Institute for European Ethnology, University of Vienna, Austria.
- 04/19 – 09/19 **University Lecturer**
Institute for European Ethnology and Cultural Analysis, LMU Munich, Germany
- 10/18 – 03/19 **University Lecturer**
Institute for Ethnology and Cultural Studies, University of Bremen, Germany
- 03/17 – 03/18 **Maternity Leave** (2nd Child)
- 01/16 – 12/18 **Self-Employed Researcher** as part of the DOC-Fellowship of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW)
- 12/14 – 12/15 **Educational Leave** for fieldwork within the dissertation
- 12/13 – 12/15 **Research Associate** in the FWF-Project "Taking Sides – Protest Against the Deportation of Asylum Seekers." Department for Political Science, University of Vienna, Austria.

Research projects and academic project participation

- In progress **Sharing stories, sharing memories**
Postdoc research project
- 01/16 – 12/19 **Living in the Limboscapes – Dissertation project**
DOC-research project of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW)
- 12/13 – 11/14 **INEX – Research group Politics of Inclusion and Exclusion**
Research assistance in the FWF-project: Taking Sides – Protest against the deportation of asylum seekers.
- 04/08 – 09/09 **HeimatStadtStuttgart**
Research assistance as part of the study project at the Ludwig-Uhland-Institute for Cultural Studies in cooperation with the cultural office of Stuttgart.

Research Interests

Critical Migration Studies // EU Border Regime // Engaged Anthropology // Island Studies // Collaborative Knowledge Production // Transnational Memory Cultures

Acquisition of external funds and Awards

- 2020 **Funding grant from the Deutscher Akademikerinnenbund e.V.**
For the publication of the monograph "Umkämpftes Recht zu bleiben"
Funding grant: 300,- EUR
- 2020 **Funding grant from the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies of University of Vienna**
for the publication of the monograph "Umkämpftes Recht zu bleiben"
Funding grant: 1.500,- EUR
- 2019 **Theodor Körner Award** for the Ph.D. project, Theodor Körner Fonds, Vienna.
Prize money: 4.000,- EUR
- 2019 **Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility Grant** for a teaching stay at the LMU Munich
Funding grant: 300,- EUR
- 2019 **Funding grant from the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies of University of Vienna**
for the workshop "Anthropology of islands"
Funding grant: 850,- EUR
- 2018 **Rinus Penninx Best Paper Award**, IMISCOE – 15th Annual Conference, Barcelona.
Prize money: 750,- EUR
- 2016 – 2019 **DOC-Fellowship** of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW).
Funding grant: 117.000,- EUR
- 2016 – 2017 **Junior Fellowship** at the International Research Center for Cultural Studies, Vienna (IFK)

Research visits

- 03/20 **Dominican Republic**, prestudy postdoc project
- 06/18 **Malta**, revisit PhD project
- 08/16 **(South)Italy**, fieldwork PhD project
- 04/16 **Malta**, fieldwork PhD project
- 10/15 **Malta**, fieldwork PhD project
- 07/15 **Malta**, fieldwork PhD project
- 02/15 **Malta**, prestudy PhD project

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 **Fundraiser** 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.

Conference Presentations and Public Talks (**invited talks**)

2021

****Inseln als Aushandlungsräume von Sprache, Identität und Migration. Einblicke auf und aus Malta.**
[Islands as negotiating spaces for language, identity and migration. Insights on and from Malta].
Summer School 'Inselromania und Mediterraneität', Department for Romance Studies, University of Regensburg, Germany, 09/2021.**

Sharing memories: Transgenerational experiences of Jewish exile in the Dominican Republic. ISISA 2021: Sharing Lessons, Sharing Stories. Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada, 06/2021.

2020

****Erfahrungen und Reflexionen zu kollaborativen Forschungspraktiken im Kontext von Flucht_Migration.**
[Experiences and reflections on collaborative research practices in the context of forced migration research], Public Talk and roundtable discussion, Chair for European Ethnology, University of Würzburg, Germany, 11/2020.**

****Forced migration to, in and from the island. Contested mobilities and negotiations of belonging in Malta. ISA Regional Guest Lecture. Institute for Social Anthropology at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria, 10/2020.****

****Book Launch *Politics of (Dis)Integration*. Panel Discussion as part of the IMISCOE Spring Conference, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal, 02/2020.****

2019

****Reif für die Insel?! Forschen auf und über Inseln. [Ready for the island?! Research on and about the island], Institute Colloquium at the Department of European Ethnology, University of Vienna, Austria, 10/2019.****

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 Im-/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 Tübingen, 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 Program "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=JfylfgjVWeM>), 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: Positionalities of Researchers in the Field], Institute Colloquium at the Department of 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. 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 Department of 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.

Conference, Panel and Workshop Organization

2020

Forschen und Arbeiten zwischen Handlungsdruck und Orientierungsunsicherheit im Kontext von Flucht Migration. Panel convenor together with Margrit E. Kaufmann, Laura Otto and Dominik Schütte; Annual Conference of the German Network of Forced Migration Researchers: 'Contexts of Displacement, Refugee Protection and Forced Migrants' Lives', Universität zu Köln, Germany, 09/2020.

2019/2020

Anthropologie der Insel, together with Brigitta Schmidt-Lauber and Greca N. Meloni. Organization and moderation of the lecture series as part of the Institute Colloquium at the Department of European Ethnology, University of Vienna, Austria, Winter semester 2019/2020.

2019

Anthropology of Islands: Reflecting Islandness from a historical and cultural studies perspective, together with Greca N. Meloni. Workshop at the Department of 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 Department of 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 Department of European Ethnology, University of Vienna, Austria, in cooperation with the Museum for Folk Like and Folk Art in Vienna, Austria, 01/2019.

Publications

Monograph

2020

Umkämpftes Recht zu bleiben. Zugehörigkeit, Mobilität und Kontrolle im Europäischen Abschieberegime [Contested right to stay. Belonging, mobility, and control in the European deportation regime]. Münster: Westfälisches Dampfboot.

Editorship

2021

Representing islands – producing islandness: Rethinking identities, mobilities, and relations in island research, together with Greca N. Meloni, Special Section of *Island Studies Journal*, 16(2), November 2021 (in progress).

2019

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, Wiesbaden: Springer.

Peer-Reviewed Article

2020

Doing research on, with and about the island: Reflections on islandscape, together with Laura Otto, in: *Island Studies Journal* 15(1), 185–204.

2019

Preserving Maltese identity in refugee management: On the emergence and absence of a prison spatiality, together with Laura Otto and Patrick Bieler, in: *Shima: The International Journal for Research into island cultures* 12(2), 131–154.

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* 7(26). Awarded with the Rinus Penninx Best Paper Award at the IMISCOE 2018.

2016

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

Under review

Decolonial thinking: A critical perspective on positionality and representations in island studies, together with Greca N. Meloni.

What if research partners don't cross national borders again? Challenging the dichotomy of multi-sited and single-sited ethnography, together with Laura Otto.

(Un-)Making Smallness: Islands, Spatial Ascription Processes, and Mobility, together with Laura Otto.

Book Chapters in Collective Volumes

2021

Asyl [Asylum], in: Manuel Liebig and Brigitta Schmidt-Lauber (Eds.): *Gebrauchsanweisung Kultur. Zentrale Begriffe in der alltäglichen Verständigung*. Wien: Böhlau (in progress).

2020

Contesting Profit Structures. Rejected Asylum Seekers between Modern Slavery and Autonomy, together with Jorinde Bijl, in: Siobhán McGuirk and Adrienne Pine (Eds.): *Asylum for Sale: Profit and Protest in the Migration Industry*. Oakland, CA, USA: PM Press, 295–306.

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 (Hg.): *Politics of (Dis)Integration*. Cham: Springer, 161–181.

Liminalität [Liminality], in: Timo Heimerdinger and Markus Tauschek (Eds.): *Kulturtheoretisch argumentieren. Ein Arbeitsbuch*. Münster: UTB, 271–294.

2019

Ethnografisch forschen und die Wirkmächtigkeit der Kleinheit. Methodentheoretische Überlegungen und empirische Einblicke zur Produktion, Wahrnehmung und Repräsentation von räumlichen Zuschreibungsdiskursen [*Ethnographic research and the effectiveness of smallness. Methodological theoretical considerations and empirical insights on the production, perception and representation of spatial discourses of ascriptions*], 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*. Wiesbaden: Springer, 69–93.

Forschung und Praxis zwischen Handlungsdruck und Orientierungsunsicherheit im Kontext von Flucht_Migration [Research and practice between pressure to act and orientation uncertainty in the context of flight_migration], in collaboration with Margrit E. Kaufmann, Laura Otto and Dominik Schütte, in: Kaufmann, Margrit E./Otto, Laura/Nimführ, Sarah/Schütte, Dominik (Eds.): *Forschen und Arbeiten im Kontext von Flucht. Reflexionslücken, Repräsentations- und Ethikfragen*. Springer, 1–17.

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.): *Konfliktfeld Fluchtigration. Historische und ethnographische Perspektiven*. Bielefeld: transcript, 155–171.

2017

Gerettet, aber nicht angekommen. Von Geflüchteten in Malta [Saved but not arrived. About Refugees in Malta], together with Laura Otto and Gabriel Samateh, 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, 137-150.

2013

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*. Tübingen, 41–56.

Publications in daily newspaper, magazines, journals and media portals

2020

Reflections on collaborative knowledge production in the context of forced migration. Feministische GeoRundmail 83. Special Issue: "Feminist research practice in geography: Snapshots, reflections, concepts, 29–33.

Forschungspraxis als Aushandlung. Kollaboratives Forschen im Wissen(schaft)sfeld Flucht_Migration. [Research practice as negotiation. Collaborative Research in the field of forced migration]. *Kuckuck. Notizen zur Alltagskultur* 1(20), 54–59.

2017

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

2016

'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*, 2/16 (2016), 4–5.

2010

'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, in: *Faktor 14. Magazine for Research and Science*, No. 3, (2010), 24–27.

Teaching

- Summer 2021 Introduction to Critical Migration Studies.
Chair for European Ethnology, **University of Würzburg, Germany.**
- Winter 20/21 B/Ordering Islands: Islands in the focus of migration.
Chair for European Ethnology, **University of Würzburg, Germany.**
Engaging, Criticizing, Changing: Methods and interventions of Critical Migration Studies.
Department of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology, **University of Graz, Austria.**
- Summer 2020 Engaged migration studies: concepts, methodology and research practice.
Chair for European Ethnology, **University of Würzburg, Germany.**
- Winter 19/20 Scientific Working and Writing.
Department of European Ethnology, **University of Vienna, Austria.**
- 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.
Department of 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.
Department of European Ethnology, **University of Vienna, Austria.**
- Summer 2018 Contesting the Foreshores: Migration, Border Control and Mediterranean Islands.
Department of European Ethnology, **University of Vienna, Austria.**
Islands as Spaces of Identity, Belonging and Migration: Ethnographic Excursion to Europe's "tumultuous fringes".
Department of European Ethnology, **University of Vienna, Austria.**
- Winter 16/17 How do to Research with Refugees and in Forced Migration? Current Challenges in Ethnology.
Department of European Ethnology, **University of Vienna, Austria.**
- Summer 2016 Irregular Migration.
Department of European Ethnology, **University of Vienna, Austria.**

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

Basic Teaching 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.

Review activities

Journal of Refugee Studies

Kuckuck. Notizen zur Alltagskultur

GRITIM – UPF (Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration, Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona)

Memberships

Kuckuck. Notizen zur Alltagskultur (since 2020 Editorial Board)

Memory Studies Association (since 2020)

Mediterranean Studies on Island Areas (since 2020)

Association for Folk Life and Folk Art (since 2019)

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

German Network of Forced Migration Researchers (since 2017)

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)

Linz, October 22, 2020