

„Exodus“ A critical examination

(02 143 02605)

Lecturer: Björn Vollan
Room: 01002 (BT 1) , Barfüßertor 2 (BT 2)
Time: Wednesday 12:00-14:00
Time: July, 7th 2016; 08:00-18:00
Module: Seminar on Institutional Economics, Seminar on Economic Policy
The course will be offered every summer semester

Popular science literature of renowned economists, like Paul Collier[1], the author of the "Bottom Billion", "The plundered planet" and "War, guns and votes" are more and more shaping the public debate about important political and economic topics. Naturally, such books do not fulfill the criteria of scientific papers but are meant to be thought-provoking and entertaining. In this seminar we will build upon his most recent book "**Exodus: Immigration and Multiculturalism in the 21st Century**" and give the topic a thorough re-examination: How well are his theses grounded in existing research? Are all major issues addressed? Which implicit assumptions does Collier make? And lastly, how influential are his theses in public debates?

To critically discuss these questions, the seminar will be jointly organized by Rebecca Hofmann and me. Dr. (des.) Rebecca Hofmann is a cultural anthropologist from the LMU Munich and will be helping us to think migration and mobility in a non-economics manner to open up new perspectives on the topic. Besides discussing prominent topics from Collier and dependent on the number of participants for the Seminar we can also discuss related topics (see list below, own ideas welcome).

Each Seminar participant will be assigned one topic (if possible according to her or his choice) and will first explain the claims made by Collier on a specific topic. Present one economic paper and one social science paper (which will be circulated beforehand) on the topic in more detail before discussing the above raised questions.

All participants are required to read the book by Paul Collier[2]hand in an essay on one of the topics below and to present this essay during the seminar. Each topic can only be distributed once.

[1]Paul Collier is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at Oxford and Director of the International Growth Centre, the Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies and was director of the Development Research Group of the World Bank.

[2]In the meantime there is also a German version of the book (only in hardcover) "Exodus: Warum wir Einwanderung neu regeln müssen."

Topics and Literature based on Collier.

- Why migration accelerates? (book ch. 2)
- Host societies: Social consequences of a large diaspora (book ch.3)
- Host societies: Economic consequences (book ch. 4)
- Migrants: The winners and losers from migration (book ch. 6 and 7)
- Sending societies: politics (book ch. 8)
- Sending societies : brain drain (book ch. 9)
- Sending societies: remittances (book ch. 9)
- Policies (book ch. 12)

Other topics

- How do different disciplines conceptualize and theorize migration, mobility and transnationalism?
- Perception and practice of mobility across different cultures.◆
- Human Trafficking
- Climate Change and Migration
- Resettlement and Disaster Migration
- Perception of migrants about the host country
- Migration, return migration and social status: How does social status concern influence the decision to migrate and to return?
- Migration and Income Diversification

Aim of the essay: The seminar participants should focus their essay on the mentioned paper(s) but an own literature search should be done in order to be able to put the paper(s) in a broader perspective. This is important for the introduction and conclusion of the essay. In the main part of their essay seminar participants will describe the empirical approach, quality of data, methods and conclusions of the chosen papers (one economic and one from social sciences). Hereby it is essential that the participants decide which information provided in the papers is important for the overall understanding. The conclusion of the term paper should consist of a critical acclaim of the chosen paper(s) (how reliable are the findings?) and answer the risen research question of the introduction of the term paper.

The term paper needs to be finished and available for all participants at the latest one week before the start of the seminar. The term paper should have 15 pages excluding figures and tables. The term paper can be written in English or German. The format of the term paper should follow the requirements of a master/diploma thesis.

You can apply to the seminar by sending me an email (bjoern.vollan@wiwi.uni-marburg.de) with your preferred two topics. Allocation will be done according to "first come first serve" criteria. The seminar will be held on two days at the end of the semester. We will meet at the beginning of the semester for a short meeting to discuss the procedure of the seminar and fix the date for the two-day seminar.