

Title of the Ph.D. project: “Patterns of Integration in the life course of highly skilled migrants. A international comparison between Luxembourg and Germany”

Nicole von Hausen

Free movement within the European Union contributes to the differentiation of geographical labour market mobility. In the course of this development, patterns of circular migration processes on the basis of temporary job contracts and residence permits have emerged also among the highly skilled migrants. This temporary nature of migration can be assumed to have a significant impact on the modes of everyday participation of this special group of migrants. This study will address the question, if and what kind of relation is there between the different types of labour market mobility of highly skilled migrants and distinctive patterns of integration.

Since economic integration does not necessarily imply social, cultural and political integration, nation states face novel issues in terms of social stability. There are remarkable differences between Luxembourg and Germany as far as the legal framework and the composition of the immigrant population is concerned, the often-neglected international comparison will be highly beneficial for capturing the possible ongoing impact of national regulations and institutions on processes of globalization.

The study goes beyond the current state of research in several respects: The analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data will combine the benefits of both methodical approaches in an international comparison. Employing the documentary method for the interview analysis, typical patterns of integration of the highly skilled will be reconstructed. The typology thus obtained will allow crucial insight into the influence of social structure on the formation of integration practices. For it is the [interdependency](#) of structural and individual circumstances that structure the migrants' experience and action within the borders of a nation as well as beyond.

The overall goal of this study is not only to advance existing sociological theories of migration, but also to provide significant insights into current processes of social transformation connected with the temporalisation of migration in the group of the highly skilled migrants. Furthermore it aims at providing a basis for intervention within the political possibilities of a national context.