

Martin Murray, University of Michigan
Fulbright Senior Expert, TU Dortmund University
**The “Refugee Crisis” at the Start of the 21st Century:
Myths and Realities**



The early 21st century has seen massive movements of refugees across the globe to escape wars, environmental degradation, but also the long-term problems resulting from the declining role of agriculture and the disappearance of industrial jobs. All these factors have now come together triggering massive movements of peoples. Europe experiences some of the most visible "shocks". The large number of refugees raises questions about absorption and integration, about refugee camps as temporary solutions that become permanent fixes, about new modes of conducting war in cities, the ideological foundations of so-called "terrorist" motivations, and the use of improvised weapons. The talk will discuss these questions taking into account current discourses and discussions in Europe and beyond.

Martin Murray is a professor at the Taubman College Urban Planning program at the University of Michigan. He began his academic career as sociologist with a strong foundation in urban geography. His current research engages the fields of urban studies and planning, cultural geography, distressed urbanism, development, historical sociology, African studies, and transnational urbanism. Professor Murray has authored three books on city building and spatial politics in Johannesburg after apartheid. In May and June 2017, Martin Murray is a Fulbright Senior Expert at Dortmund, teaching a seminar for the Faculties of Spatial Planning and Culture Studies engaging with the situation of refugees in the Ruhr Region.