

VULNER

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY



VULNER Workshop

September 22 – 23, 2022

Organizer: **Luc Leboeuf** - VULNER scientific coordinator
Department 'Law & Anthropology'
Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology
Halle/Saale, Germany

Location: Harnack Haus, Berlin

This event is organized as part of the VULNER project (www.vulner.eu), which has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 870845.





Workshop description

The workshop objectives are to take stock of the research findings, and to identify ways of moving forward towards consistent and common final research outputs – which would allow the VULNER consortium members to contribute to existing academic and policy debates on the consequences, challenges and pitfalls of the increased reliance on ‘vulnerability’ as a key legal and policy concept in EU migration law and policy.

The discussions on September 22, 2022 will focus on the research findings, as part of two panels that will reflect the VULNER project’s geographical diversity:

- A first panel will discuss how and under which conditions ‘vulnerability’ assessments can support the design and implementation of humanitarian protection programmes that benefit refugees in the Global South, in a way that better considers and responds to their actual protection needs. It should allow us to get back to ‘vulnerability’ very first meanings and functions as a humanitarian concept. It will also make a connection with current debates on resettlement programmes, and how ‘vulnerability assessments’ could be improved to guarantee effective access to protection for the most vulnerable refugees.
- A second panel will address the use of vulnerability assessments as part of asylum and border processes. It will allow the workshop participants to debate on the added value and risks of such assessments in terms of refugee protection (including how they relate with international refugee law standards), based on the analysis of the main life challenges encountered by asylum applicants during these processes and of the extent to which they hinder access to protection.

In the evening, a public event will take place as part of the VULNER talk series. The objective will be to take stock of the evolutions of EU migration and asylum law and policy since the adoption of the EU New Migration Pact on Asylum and Migration, while focusing on the uses of ‘vulnerability’ to guide and/or legitimize the adopted measures.

The discussions on September 23, 2022 will be focused on the way forward for establishing the final and common book publication. In the morning, the workshop participants will reflect on how the COVID pandemic impacted the data collection process and the research participants’ experiences. In the afternoon, the VULNER consortium members will discuss the final book publication’s layout.



Day 1: Thursday, September 22

08.45- 09.00 Registration - Doreen Hofmann - MPI Halle, Germany

09.00 Welcome Address

Marie-Claire Foblets - MPI Halle, Germany

09.15 – 09.45 *The Transformations of Vulnerabilities*

Luc Leboeuf - MPI Halle, Germany

09.45 – 12.15 *'Vulnerability' and the Design of Humanitarian Protection Programmes for Refugees in the Global South. How to Better Reflect Refugees' Protection Needs?*

Chair: Cathrine Brun - Center for Lebanese Studies, Beirut, Lebanon

- Sophie Nakueira - MPI Halle, Germany
- Maria Maalouf – Center for Lebanese Studies, Beirut, Lebanon
- Lewis Turner – Newcastle University, Newcastle, UK
- Hilde Lidén and Dorina Damsa – Institute for Social Research ISF, Oslo, Norway
- Dagmar Soennecken – York University, Toronto, Canada

Discussant: Raffaella Greco Tonegutti – Belgian Development Agency (ENABEL), Brussels, Belgium

12.15 – 13.15 Lunch Break

13.15 – 16.00 *'Vulnerability' and Asylum Processes in Europe and Canada. Addressing Special Needs, Shaping Vulnerabilities?*

Chair: Sylvie Sarolea – Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

- Geert Knockaert and Giorgia Ferrara – European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), Valletta, Malta
- Sabrina Marchetti and Letizia Palumbo – Ca'Foscari University of Venice, Venice, Italy
- Hilde Lidén and Jessica Schultz – Institute for Social Research ISF, Oslo, Norway
- Delphine Nakache – University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada
- Winfried Kluth and Jakob Junghans - Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, Halle/Saale, Germany
- Zoé Crine and Francesca Raimondo - Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

Discussant: Christine Jacobsen - University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee Break



17.00 – 18.15

VULNER TALK

The EU New Pact on Asylum and Migration Two Years On: Where do we Stand? *(broadcasted online, and co-organised with Population Europe)*

Event description

This VULNER talk will take stock of the main policy developments at the EU level that occurred since the adoption of the New Pact. Discussions will seek to identify suitable strategies to develop and implement specific protection measures for the migrants and refugees who find themselves in the most vulnerable positions. Speakers will also address the conditions under which such specific protection measures may contribute to addressing and reducing vulnerabilities in migration more broadly – in line with objective 7 of the UN Global Compact for Migration.

Speakers:

- **Isabela Atanasiu** - Legal Officer, DG Home Affairs, EU Commission
- **Cathryn Costello** - Professor, University of Oxford and Hertie School, Berlin, Germany
- **Marcus Engler** – DeZIM, German Centre for Integration and Migration Research, Berlin, Germany
- **Julia Idler** - Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI), Germany
- **Sabrina Marchetti** – Professor, Ca’Foscari University of Venice, Venice, Italy
- **Geert Knockaert** - Head of Asylum and Reception Cooperation and Guidance Unit, EUAA

Moderation:

Susanne Höb - Population Europe, Berlin, Germany

Live tweets during the event:

Daniela Vono de Vilhena – Population Europe, Berlin, Germany

Walid El Houry - Centre for Lebanese Studies, Beirut, Lebanon

19.00 Dinner

20.00 Final Remarks

Luc Leboeuf - MPI Halle, Germany

20.30 End of Day 1



DAY 2: Friday, September 23

09.30 - 09.45 **Registration** - Doreen Hofmann, MPI Halle

09.45-12.00 Conducting Ethnographic Fieldwork in COVID Times. Consequences for the data collection process and for the vulnerabilities experienced by migrants

Chair: Marie-Claire Foblets - MPI Halle, Germany

- **Hilde Lidén** - Institute for Social Research ISF, Oslo, Norway
- **Dany Carnassale** - Ca' Foscari University, Venice, Italy
- **Sophie Nakueira** - MPI Halle, Germany
- **Zoé Crine** - Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
- **Maria Maalouf** - Center for Lebanese Studies, Beirut, Lebanon
- **Larissa Vettters** - MPI Halle, Germany

Discussant: Anthony Good - University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch Break

13.00 – 16.00 Afternoon Session: internal exchange on VULNER's final publication

VULNER Project Coordinator and Consortium Members

(Luc Leboeuf; Sylvie Sarolea, Zoé Crine, Francesca Raimondo and Christine Flamand; Winfried Kluth and Jakob Junghans; Sabrina Marchetti, Letizia Palumbo and Dany Carnassale; Hilde Lidén, Jessica Schultz, Erlend Paasche and Dorina Damsa; Cathrine Brun and Maria Maalouf; Marie-Claire Foblets and Sophie Nakueira; Delphine Nakache, François Crépeau, Dagmar Soennecken, and Anna Purkey)

16.00 Concluding Remarks

Marie-Claire Foblets - MPI Halle, Germany

16.30 – End of Day 2