The Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS) is an interdisciplinary and interdepartmental research center at Osnabrück University. It deals with various aspects of spatial mobility and intercultural encounters in past and present. IMIS is a nationally and internationally renowned research institute with members from a variety of disciplines:

• Art History
• Education
• Ethnology
• Gender Studies
• Geography
• History
• Language Studies
• Law
• Political Science
• Psychology
• Religious Studies
• Sociology

The research interests and research projects at IMIS are currently concentrated in three fields:

• Migration regimes
• Conditions, forms, and consequences of forced migration
• Potentials of migration and diversity

Aims and Tasks

Founded in 1990, IMIS has explored spatial mobility and intercultural experiences from both historical and contemporary angles. Through basic research, publications, public events, and the provision of academic consultation, IMIS seeks to strengthen existing and encourage further interdisciplinary research networks and hence contribute to the dialogue between science and professional practice.

The selection of current third-party funded projects:

• The production of knowledge on migration
• Refugees Research and travel. Forced migration studies in the Federal Republic of Germany
• Focus MIGRATION: Online publication series on migration and integration
• Women, forced migration – and peace: Peace-building practices of women in refugee camps
• Global refugee protection and local refugee engagement: Scopes and limits of the agency of refugee community-based NGOs
• Gender, forced migration, administration policy. Processes of gendered risk and solutions in Lebanon
• International Migration, Integration and Cohesion (MINCIC). International research network
• Spatial Polysemy: Migration and integration of German-Jewish diaspora in Germany
• Junior Professorship – forced migration and refugee studies
• Coordination of refugee activities at Osnabrück University
• The production of culture in migration societies (KultMIX)
• Projects in the framework of the German Center for Migration and Migration Research (DGM)
• DGM research coordination
• State project – ethnomusicology: Migration – research on culture in migration
• Eth.T. Fust – Trans– Transformation
• Participation through the cooperative developments of open spaces in central neighborhoods (Koepel)
• Online refuge support to escape aids. Refuge protection as a conflicting issue in the German migration regime and the role of civil society initiatives
• Welcome, culture and democracy in German. Refugee support initiatives as site of active citizenship and democratic learning
Active Members

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Department of Political Science
Chairs: Migration and Development
Disciplines: migration studies, development studies

Dr. Johann Neudert
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Dr. Inga Zimmermann
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IMIS graduate programme «The production of migration»

The interdisciplinary IMIS graduate programme «The production of migration» was established in 2013, and is a part-time programme in the field of migration research. It is open to students from across the world, and combines content and methodologies from different fields of study.

Doctoral programme «Boundary formations in migration societies»

- Boundary formations in migration societies is a cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary graduate programme based on established national and international visible research of institutes and research teams. The research programme is designed to bring together outstanding young scholars in their doctoral and postdoctoral phases. The projects analyse these complex, but often unarticulated interdependencies and thus contribute to the development of and insight into methods in migration research.

IMIS Working Papers

Since 2012, the IMIS Library has been publishing IMIS Working Papers on a regular basis. They are open access publications and focus on migration research. They include research results and are an important step towards dissemination and public understanding of migration research.

IMIS Library Research

The IMIS Library is an online publication platform that offers access to research results in migration studies. It is designed to provide researchers with a platform to publish their works and to facilitate public understanding of migration research. The IMIS Library is open to researchers, academics, students, and policymakers for research, education, and policy development.