



# Lecture Series in Social Anthropology

Full  
Semester  
2024

Tuesday 10 December 2024 | 4.15 p.m. | Room AND-4-06

## Claiming Time. Migrants' Struggles Across Borders and Neoliberal Economies

**Prof. Elena Fontanari (University of Milan)**

This presentation focuses on a 10-years ethnographic field with a group of Sub-Saharan refugees moving between Italy and Germany from 2011 to 2021, giving insights on how they daily negotiate the European borders and how borders affect their lives in the long-term. Thus, time emerges as analytical lens to grasp the tensions between the process of migration to Europe and the Border Regime implemented to contain migrant mobilities. The presentation highlights the politics of time embedded in the European asylum system to govern migrants' lives, giving also insights on temporality as a subjective experience through which migrants navigate the Border Regime. Navigating 10 years across the European Border Regime, the research protagonists face practices of institutional abandonment, mechanisms criminalizing their intra-EU mobility, and selective programs aiming to differentially integrate them through the labour market. Refugees struggle and interact with these structural mechanisms through everyday resistance practices and collective self-organized political protests, supported by solidarity networks in the host societies. Ultimately, this presentation reflects on how the asylum realm is becoming increasingly tangled with the neoliberal paradigm governing, hence, the entire lives of individuals. The European Border Regime, thus, is not only a system to control migrants' mobilities, but rather a wider system that govern migrants' lives in their totality. Their everyday struggles are here understood as claims for temporal justice being migrants dispossessed of their personal time.

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Entrance free of charge.

Subject to change. For details see: <https://t.uzh.ch/1s7>

