

# Possibilities and Limits of Current Anticipatory Approaches for Displacement/Migration and Disasters

10:00 – 17:00, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020

TOPOI Building, Freien Universität Berlin, Hittorfstraße 18, 14195 Berlin-Dahlem, Germany

## About the project

The Disaster Research Unit (DRU) at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, is coordinating a three-year research project called “WAKE – Migration-related Knowledge Management for the Civil Protection of the Future” (2018-2021) funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research.

The project is concerned with knowledge management for the case of the emergency response and management of the European refugee situation 2015/16. It analyzes whether lessons learned from the management of the refugee situation can be used for future cross-border civil protection situations. Our partners of the project are the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW), the German Red Cross HQ, Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe and the University of Applied Sciences Cologne. Furthermore, the project is supported by associated partners such as other German aid organizations (Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB), Malteser Hilfsdienst), Austrian aid organizations (Austrian Red Cross, Johanniter Österreich) and German public authorities such as the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF).

More information about the project can be found here: <https://wake-project.eu/en/>

Part of the project is a series of workshops. One is titled "Possibilities and Limits of Current Anticipatory Approaches for Displacement/Migration and Disasters" and will take place in Berlin, Germany on the 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.

## About the workshop

In previous analyses of the European refugee situation in 2015/16, many actors have emphasized the lack of a reliable database, forecasts and thus of knowledge for planning responses as a major problem.

Although there were already increases in refugee numbers in 2013/14 and warnings were announced publicly that at there would be food cuts in refugee camps in Jordan or Syria, the specific dynamics and tipping points, esp. in the summer 2015, were not foreseen or the corresponding knowledge – for political reasons, for example – was hardly shared or processed.

In order to address this topic, the workshop is structured as follows: After a presentation on specific challenges in the refugee situation 2015/16, it is planned to present various forecast and foresight approaches from the area of displacement/migration, but also anticipatory humanitarian action and forecast-based financing, in order to discuss

- how current foresight and forecast approaches could have supported operational forces in the situation,
- which data would have been necessary for this and
- what implications the use of such procedures would have had.

In addition, regardless of the specific situation in 2015/16, the following basic questions should also be addressed:

- When does prognostic knowledge initiate action on the side of operational actors?
- How does prognostic knowledge change modes of action?
- What role do self-fulfilling and self-destroying prophecies play?



15:30-17:00 Joint Discussion and Closing  
Remarks

*Cordula Dittmer, Daniel F. Lorenz*, Disaster  
Research Unit (DRU), Berlin, Germany

18:00 Joint Dinner

For those who still in the city  
(Malafemmena, Hauptstraße 85, 12159  
Berlin)