

SYLFF-MIKROKOLLEG – FORCED MIGRATION

The RUB Research School in cooperation with the Tokio Foundation offers 4 grants for doctoral researchers within the Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF). The Fellows will be part of a small, highly interdisciplinary research group and work on individual doctoral projects within different research perspectives under the overarching topic of **forced migration**. The different perspectives formulated by the cooperation professors are the following:

- Prof. Dr. Thomas K. Bauer, *Foreign aid and migration*
- Prof. Dr. Pierre Thielbörger, *International Refugee- and Migration Law*
- Prof. Dr. Eva Gerharz, *Transnational social movements and their global responsibility*
- **PD Dr. Levent Tezcan, *Religious Difference and Forced Migration***

RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCE AND FORCED MIGRATION

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Forced migration is often connected to religious differences. Converts, new religious formations or minority confessions can be accused and persecuted to have the ‘wrong’ belief. In a second type of forced migration, religious difference, although not the primary reason for a conflict, can supplementary fuel an existing ethnic cleavage within a nation state. Being a legitimated part of a nation is here the main issue which also is interwoven with questions of religious belonging. Finally, the persecution of persons with different beliefs can result from the desire of political power holders for security and control.

The research program sets out to assess the conditions related to religious freedom and persecution in the countries of origin and host countries. Further, it will investigate the lasting impacts of forced migration on the ethnic and religious relations regarding the changing composition of population both in the origin and host countries.