SYLFF KOLLEG - FORCED MIGRATION

The fellows of the SYLFF Mikrokolleg will work on a variety of aspects related to international forced migration which is understood as a cross-border “migratory movement in which an element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihood, whether arising from natural or man-made causes” (International Organisation for Migration). The fellows will

- analyse the root causes of international forced migration in the home countries, including poverty, loss of land, and the persecution due to ethnicity, traditions and religious beliefs,
- evaluate the effectiveness of different international approaches to respond to forced migration in the home countries, such as humanitarian action, foreign aid, institution building and democracy promotion,
- focus on the rights of forced migrants and refugees in different legal orders and on the duties of the involved actors, including the host state, international or regional organisations

The SYLFF Mikrokolleg invites the application of excellent young researchers with a strong interest in research on international forced migration, with a background in economics, law, political science or sociology and with a clear commitment towards cross-disciplinary cooperation.

Research perspective:
FOREIGN AID AND MIGRATION

Prof. Dr. Thomas K. Bauer
Chair for Empirical Economics
Vice President RWI – Leibniz-Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung
Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Fakultät für Wirtschaftswissenschaft
Universitätsstraße 150
D-44780 Bochum

An important part of the migration policy of the European Union aims at improving the living conditions in important source countries in order to fight “root causes of migration” towards Europe. However, research on the determinants of migration flows suggest that improving living conditions might increase emigration rates because higher incomes allow more and more individuals in the source countries to finance migration. Against this background, the project aims to investigate empirically the effects of economic policies towards potential sending countries on migration flows. These policies may include, for example, foreign aid, trade policy, measures to improve institutions (democracy, anti-corruption, etc.) or the establishment of new cities for refugees or special economic areas in the source regions.