Workshop proposal nr.34

Title: Managing Afghan migration: Between 'the war on terror' and 'the refugee crisis'

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Managing Afghan migration: Between 'the war on terror' and 'the refugee crisis'

The proposed session will explore questions of Afghan migration in the politicized contexts of 'the war on terror' and 'the refugee crisis'. Afghan migrants' position as both victims of insecurity and securitisation, as well as a long and complex migration history, resulting in a diverse and geographically dispersed diaspora, means that Afghans provide a fascinating case study to explore multiple migration issues. In this session, we seek to engage with the notion of 'migration management', at a variety of scales. On the one hand, migration management is a policy tool, used by states and international organisations, to control and govern migration. On the other hand, we also suggest that the notion of migration management can be explored in relation to the multiple ways in which non-state entities might seek to control and influence mobility, notably the role of family and extended family in shaping Afghan migration decisions. Migration management, whoever the 'managers' are, affects the space for migrants' agency and mobility decision-making, as well as actual mobility. As such it provides a lens to examine how and why Afghans make the decision to migrate as well as their experiences of onward mobility and settlement after leaving Afghanistan. We invite papers from a range of disciplines, with an empirical and/or conceptual focus, from across a variety of geographic contexts, in Europe and beyond.