

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2021. "Informalisation of Work and Workers' Voice in Welfare Markets for In-Home Domestic Care Services in Germany" (with Birgit Apitzsch). In: *The Dynamics of Welfare Markets: Private Pensions and Domestic Care Services in Europe*, edited by Clemence Ledous, Karen Shire, and Franca van Hooren. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 345–69.

2020. *The Social Order of Transnational Migration Markets*. Global Networks 20 (3): 434–53.

2020. *The Origins and Transformation of Conservative Gender Regimes in Germany and Japan* (with Kumiko Nemoto). Social Politics 27 (3): 432–48.

2018. *Transnationalisierung der Arbeit* (mit Sigrid Quack, Ingo Schulz-Schaeffer und Anja Weiss, eds.). Wiesbaden: Springer VS.

Weitere Informationen zu allen Vorträgen am MPIfG unter [www.mpifg.de](http://www.mpifg.de) > Aktuelles > Veranstaltungen

Aktuelle Informationen zu Forschungsprojekten, Veranstaltungen, den neuesten Veröffentlichungen und den Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftlern am MPIfG finden Sie unter [www.mpifg.de](http://www.mpifg.de).

Recherchieren Sie online im Katalog der Bibliothek des MPIfG unter [www.mpifg.de/bib](http://www.mpifg.de/bib).

Möchten Sie, dass wir Sie zu den Vorträgen des MPIfG einladen, oder wünschen Sie, regelmäßig Informationen über die Arbeit des MPIfG zu erhalten? Abonnieren Sie unsere Newsletters unter [www.mpifg.de/aktuelles/newsletter\\_de.asp](http://www.mpifg.de/aktuelles/newsletter_de.asp).

Folgen Sie uns auf Twitter  
[@MPIfG\\_Cologne](https://twitter.com/MPIfG_Cologne)

### MPIfG

Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung  
Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies  
Paulstr. 3 | 50676 Cologne | Germany  
Tel. +49 221 2767-0  
[info@mpifg.de](mailto:info@mpifg.de) | [www.mpifg.de](http://www.mpifg.de)

KVB-Haltestellen:  
Ulrepforte (15, 16),  
Severinstraße (3, 4)  
(jeweils ca. 7 Min. Fußweg  
zur Paulstraße/Ecke Ulrichgasse)



Karen Shire  
Regulating Transnational Labor

Scholar in Residence Lectures  
2022



## Regulating Transnational Labor

In her lecture series, Karen Shire assesses the possibilities and challenges for regulating cross-border labor mobility in the global economy. Migration scholars often advocate for free mobility, while labor scholars focus on how cross-border labor is used to evade and undermine hard-won labor protections. Her three lectures seek to gain leverage on the contradictions between liberalizing labor mobility and regulating employment. The focus is on the theorization of the regulatory challenges posed by cross-border labor mobility, and assessments of regulatory practices emerging at a transnational scale.



**DIENSTAG, 18. JANUAR 2022**

### Theorizing Regulatory Challenges of Transnational Labor

An increasing share of migration no longer results in immigration and settlement, but takes the form of temporary and circular exchanges of labor across borders. Examples include posted work, labor subcontracting, cross-border temporary staffing, illegal forms of forced and trafficked labor, but also “medium-skilled” industrial and service work. Building on theoretical discussions in the economic sociology of markets and labor sociology, Shire proposes a reconceptualization of migration as the organization of cross-border labor markets. The lecture focuses on the multiplicity of market-making actors, the coordination problems specific to the transnational exchange of labor power, and regulatory challenges and solutions in a comparative transnational perspective.

**DIENSTAG, 25. JANUAR 2022**

### Cross-Border Labor Market Intermediaries

The focus of this lecture is on one set of dominant actors in the making and operation of cross-border labor markets – labor market intermediaries. Historical research documents the dominant role of intermediaries in the formation of national labor markets, with international conventions from the interwar period establishing a monopoly for public labor exchanges. This changed in the 1990s, when the ILO reversed course with a convention legitimating private fee-charging employment services. The lecture examines how private intermediaries have become dominant actors in cross-border labor markets, the multiplicity of forms now taken by cross-border intermediation, and the struggles to protect workers who use their services. While most studies of regulatory efforts have been situated on the demand side, and covered the employment relation, recent research about labor recruitment in the Asia Pacific points to the regulatory agency of sending states and the regulation of the commercial side of exchanges for improving labor protections.

**Karen Shire** ist Professorin für Vergleichende Soziologie und die Gesellschaft Japans und Mitglied des Instituts für Ostasienwissenschaften an der Universität Duisburg-Essen. Sie ist Direktorin des Essener Kollegs für Geschlechterforschung und im Wintersemester 2020/2021 Scholar in Residence am MPIfG. Ihre Forschung befasst sich mit Beschäftigungsveränderungen und ihren Auswirkungen auf soziale Ungleichheiten in der globalen Wirtschaft.

**DIENSTAG, 1. FEBRUAR 2022**

### Trafficked, Forced, and Informalized Labor

The extreme exploitation of labor in the form of trafficked, forced, or informalized employment has pervaded the labor-intensive, low-wage segments of labor markets across the global economy. While the discussion of regulatory pathways in this series of lectures so far has attributed challenges to gaps in international conventions and national/sectoral regulations, in this domain, international rules and normative principles are extensive and widely shared. Moreover, extreme exploitation is not confined to the institutionally thinner labor market contexts of the developing world. The available statistics suggest that a large share of trafficked labor is situated in Europe, and occurs between the EU member states. Why then, does extreme exploitation persist, even where conventions are ratified, norms become guiding principles, and employment is heavily regulated at the national level? In this last lecture, the persistence of forced and informalized labor in the advanced economies is explained in relation to the intersection of employment regulation with mobility infrastructures and the gender regime, with evidence taken from comparative research on the regulation of prostitution and welfare markets for domestic/care labor in Europe.

Titelfoto: An Huy Tran

**Weitere Informationen** im Internet unter:  
[www.mpifg.de](http://www.mpifg.de) > Forschung > Scholar in Residence