



Study information sheet for the dissertation project of
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„Refugee Protests and Trade Unions:
Positions – Encounters - Expectations“
(Working Title)

Background

In 2012, a self-organized protest of refugees started in Germany. Their primary demand is the right to stay. Furthermore, the protest in Munich, Berlin, Hamburg and many other cities demands freedom of movement and the right to work.

The protesting refugees asked trade unions for support. In 2015, they achieved the right to become members in the service union ver.di for workers without a residence permit in Germany. Although, relationships between refugee protest and unions had crises, like ‘occupations’ of union houses in 2013 and 2014.

Project Aims and Methodology

How do self-organized refugee protests and trade unions interact, started with the year 2012? Empirical and qualitative research answers this question with an ethnographic methodology, using fieldnotes, interviews, online analysis and press statements.

On the one hand, the researcher reconstructs the social interaction between refugee protest and trade union actors. On the other hand, he discusses the experiences of the protest, especially of the group “Refugee Struggle for Freedom”, during the so called “Refugee Crisis” in Europe.

Supervision and Scholarship

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Prof. Dr. Stephan Lessenich (co-supervisor)

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