



Gambian Migration Politics

Workshop & ABI Report Launch

ABI Freiburg

September 15, 2017

10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Background to the Workshop

Not least since the ‘refugee crisis’ in 2015, African-EU migration has come to the forefront of political attention in Europe. Despite being such a small country, Gambian migration patterns have caught the attention of European and in particular German policy makers because of the large numbers coming to Europe. Gambians make up the fifth-highest nationality of arrivals in Italy in 2016, and so far in 2017. Over 14,500 Gambian refugees live in Germany; over two thirds of these in Baden-Württemberg, making up one of the largest national groups amongst asylum seekers in this state. But Gambian migration is a far more complex phenomenon – encompassing circular migration in the West African region, problems of brain-drain in the country paired with a high dependence on remittances, and the protection of refugees from other African countries within the borders of the country. In January 2017, after a tense stand-off, the long-standing autocratic leader Yaya Jammeh was ousted through the ballot box and a large coalition government under the leadership of Adama Barrow came into power. One of their campaign promises was to address the large number of migrants leaving the country.

The ABI has conducted a study on Gambian migration politics which will be launched at the upcoming workshop. The study is based on 31 expert interviews and background research in the Gambia and Germany between April and June 2017. It covers different types of emigration and immigration into and out of the Gambia, and follows the overall objective of contributing more African perspectives, contexts and priorities to European discussions on African-European migration.

The current situation regarding migration and migration politics in the Gambia stands in the center of this workshop, but the broader politics of migration governance in sub-Saharan Africa will also be discussed. The workshop will provide a platform of discussion for researchers, political and development decision makers and the Gambian Diaspora. It includes presentations and panel discussions on the Gambia, the regime change and resulting political consequences.

Workshop Programme

10:00 **Opening & Welcome**

10:15- **Gambian Mobility and Immobility (Presentation)**

11:00

- Paolo Gaibazzi (Leibniz Zentrum Moderner Orient Berlin)

11:00- **Regime Change: Hopes and Fears (Panel Discussion)**

12:00

Moderator: Judith Altrogge (ABI Freiburg)

- Kawsu Drammeh
- Nyima Jadama
- Bubacarr Komma
- Biran Ngum

12:00- **Migration Politics in the Gambia: Report Launch (Presentation)**

13:00

- Franzisca Zanker (ABI Freiburg)
- Judith Altrogge (ABI Freiburg)

13:00- Break

14:00

14:00- **EU Politics, Involuntary Return and Migration Dynamics in West
14:45 Africa: Navigating disrupted and (im)mobilized migratory
adventures in the Malian South (Presentation)**

- Susanne Schultz (Bielefeld University)

14:45- **German Migration Politics Reconsidered (Discussion)**

15:45

Moderator: Franzisca Zanker (ABI Freiburg)

- Bettina Fellmer (GIZ, German Agency for International Cooperation)
- Julian Staiger (Flüchtlingsrat Baden-Württemberg)

15:45- Closing & Departure

16:00
