

La soutenance de mémoire de Master en sciences sociales  
- *pilier migration et citoyenneté (EuMIGS)* - de

**Gesa Teigelkötter**

**The Role of Psychological Paperwork in Asylum Seekers' Credibility  
Psychosocial Centers' Participation in the Migration Regime in Germany**

aura lieu le

**31 août 2023 à 09h00**

A.-L. Breguet 1, bâtiment MAPS, salle -010/-012 (rez-inférieur)

Directrice de mémoire : Lisa Marie Borrelli

Experte : Camilla Alberti

As asylum seekers' credibility is contested in the current climate of suspicion, they are asked to bring evidence to support their claims. Increasingly, psychological paperwork is demanded. To analyze how such paperwork is constructed, a document analysis of paperwork issued by one psychosocial center in Germany was complemented with expert interviews with authors of such paperwork. Using a migration regime perspective, the power relations between the asylum seekers for and about whom psychological paperwork is produced, the psychosocial center's staff members by whom such paperwork is produced, and the state-bureaucratic decision-makers to whom psychological paperwork is submitted, will be discussed. Central to (re)establish the asylum seekers' credibility is the constructed figure of the 'traumatized asylum seeker' that embodies the contemporary geopolitical logics of asylum: suffering from trauma classified as post-traumatic stress disorder due to direct violence elsewhere in the past and seeking protection in the assumed 'safe haven' Germany. Even if unintentionally, the paperwork ultimately (re)produces the migration regime.

Keywords: Credibility, Trauma, Violence, Psychological Paperwork, Asylum Proceedings, Migration Regime