

# Welcoming Refugees: Developing Practical Knowledge for Mutual Engagement

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**You are invited to participate in this exciting cross-institutional workshop for students of Humboldt University and Minerva Schools at KGI.** Minerva students, who live and study in seven major world cities, are studying in Berlin for the fall semester and are deeply interested in issues relating to the welcoming and integration of refugees into the Berlin society and culture. Berlin Institute for the Study of Integration and Migration (BIM) and Minerva are sponsoring this groundbreaking event.

Recognizing that a successful transition for a refugee into the Berlin community requires learning by both the refugees and members of the Berlin community, this workshop is designed to define the “practical knowledge” that is useful for both refugees and the community that they will be joining.

Participants will include Minerva students, regularly enrolled Humboldt students, and refugee students (10-15 in each group). All students will be provided with a certificate documenting their participation in the program. Advance reading will be provided.

Professor Naika Foroutan of BIM will give the keynote address to set the stage and context for the discussion, addressing the idea of Germany as a “post-migrant” society, touching upon the concept of “integration,” and posing suggestions for establishing a sustainable welcoming culture for refugees.

Minerva students will lead a discussion about the concept of “practical knowledge” as a means to achieving goals. This kind of knowledge covers four core competencies: critical thinking, creative thinking, effective communication, and effective interactions with other people. This presentation will be followed by deeper group discussions about the kinds of competencies that both refugees and people in the community need to create and sustain a welcoming culture over time.

The participants will develop a clearly defined list of learning goals that will serve both refugees and those welcoming them into Berlin. This final product may be used to enhance mutual understanding and to develop further programming designed to facilitate learning of the identified goals.

As noted above, this workshop is limited to no more than 45 students: 15 students from each of the three groups. **Please sign up no later than November 1, 2016 by email to Barbara Walder at [bwalder@minerva.kgi.edu](mailto:bwalder@minerva.kgi.edu).**

**When:**  
**Friday, November 11, 2016**  
**1:30–5pm**

**Where:**  
**Institut für Europäische Ethnologie**  
**Mohrenstrasse 40/41, Room 212**

**Contact:**  
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