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University of South Florida

Forced Immobility: Sub-Saharan Migrant Experiences in Southern Morocco

While significant attention has focused on sub-Saharan Africans attempting to reach Europe, large populations unable or unwilling to return to their home countries are now settling in Morocco with irregular status. While the government has begun to address this new pattern of settlement through integration programs and mobility management, migrants continue to live in precarious conditions. This talk presents findings from a project examining communities forged in “transit” spaces, which have become increasingly common around the world today. Engaging with theoretical frameworks of forced immobility, legal status precarity, gendered geographies of power, and critical race theory, this talk explores the transition from “stuckness” in transit to settlement and incorporation in Morocco.

Heide Castañeda is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of South Florida. Her research areas include critical border studies, legal anthropology, medical anthropology, migration, and migrant health. She is the author of *Migration and Health: Critical Perspectives* (Routledge, 2023), *Borders of Belonging: Struggle and Solidarity in Mixed-Status Immigrant Families* (Stanford University Press, 2019), and co-editor of *Unequal Coverage: The Experience of Health Care Reform in the United States* (NYU Press, 2018). Dr. Castañeda's work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, the Fulbright Program, the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), and the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research.

Weitere Informationen: www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de



Graffiti in the park
of Qamra.

Photo: Heide
Castañeda, 2019.