

**Conference Organizers**

**Michael Mayer**  
Akademie für Politische Bildung

**Frank Caestecker**  
Ghent University

**Registration**

**Antonia Kreitner**  
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We ask for your binding registration via the online form on the Academy's website by June 24, 2026 at the latest.



Click [here](#) to register or scan

**Cancellation Policies**

If you are registered but unable to attend, please inform Antonia Kreitner no later than June 25, 2026. Cancellations made up to four days before the conference are free of charge. Cancellations or no-shows on the last three days before the event will be subject to the full conference fee.

**Conference Fee**

Including room and board: 170 €  
(reduced fee: 95 €).

Including meals without accommodation: 120 €  
(reduced fee: 75 €).

We kindly request that you pay the conference registration fee in cash (Euros) or via a German debit card upon arrival at the Academy reception. Please note that we do not accept credit card payments.

Pupils, students, individuals performing military or federal voluntary service, trainees, unemployed persons, and recipients of citizen's allowance/basic income support are eligible for a reduced fee. Kindly indicate this status when registering.

**Meals**

The Academy provides vegan, vegetarian, and non-vegetarian meal options. Please inform us in advance of your meal preference. If you have any food intolerances or allergies, we will be happy to accommodate your needs for an additional charge of 10 € per conference.

**Friends of the Academy**

Our Friends of the Academy association supports projects and acquisitions that cannot be funded through public resources. The annual membership fee is 50 €.

Members under the age of 30 benefit from a reduced membership fee of just 20 €. Additionally, the Friends of the Academy cover the participation fee for three Academy conferences per year for members under 30. This offer is available exclusively to private individuals and does not apply to events for closed groups.



Tutzing is situated approximately 35 km southwest of Munich on the shores of Lake Starnberg (Starnberger See). From Munich Central Station (Hauptbahnhof): Take the S-Bahn line S-6 or a regional train (RB) to Tutzing. Upon arrival at Tutzing station, take Bus 958/978 to "Klenzestrasse." Taxis are also available at the station's main entrance. Please check our website under "[How to Find Us](#)" for special conference ticket offers via Deutsche Bahn (DB).



From the airport: Take the S-Bahn line S-1 or S-8 to Munich Central Station, then follow the instructions above.



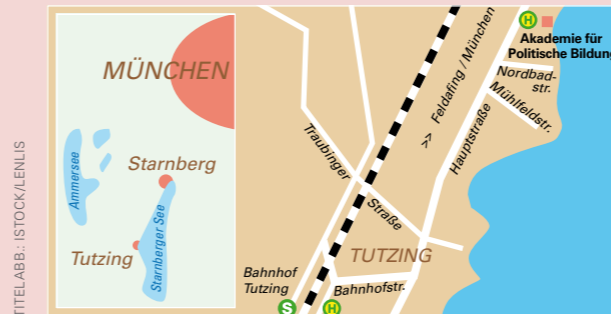
The Academy is also accessible on foot from Tutzing train station, with a walking time of approximately 20 to 30 minutes.



For those arriving by car, take freeway A95 from Munich via A952 to Starnberg, then continue on the federal highway. After passing through the town of Traubing, turn left. At the end of the road, turn right toward Tutzing. The Academy will be on your left shortly after you pass the town sign for Tutzing.



Our guests are welcome to use the Academy's complimentary charging points for electric vehicles, including cars, scooters, and bicycles.



TITELABB.: ISTOCK/LENILIS

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AKADEMIE FÜR  
POLITISCHE BILDUNG  
TUTZING

# From Geneva to Schengen

Shaping Immigration and Refugee Protection in Western Europe, 1951 to 1994



**29 June – 1 July 2026**

In cooperation with Ghent University



## INVITATION

The 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention is a watershed in migration “management” by providing refugees a privileged access to the territory of states willing to protect them. The Convention was never just a static legal text. It was a living instrument, constantly reinterpreted throughout time. This workshop looks at high-level diplomacy, but also focusses on the ground level of implementation, examining how Western European states actually put the Convention into practice during its first four decades. We explore the friction between international obligations and the domestic realities of immigration control, labor migration, decolonization, and the shifting economic tides from the *Trente Glorieuses* to the post-industrial 1980s.

Our analysis centers on how individual governments defined who “counted” as a refugee and how they built the administrative machinery to determine status, grant rights, or enforce exclusions. By tracing these national trajectories up to the decisive 1994 turning point – the threshold of the Schengen era – we reassess how forty years of diverse state practice fundamentally shaped the asylum landscape in Europe.

You are cordially invited to attend this conference.

*Michael Mayer*

Akademie für Politische Bildung

*Frank Caestecker*

Ghent University

### MONDAY, 29 JUNE 2026

2.00 pm **Arrival, Registration and Welcome Coffee**

3.00 pm **Opening Remarks**

*Michael Mayer*

*Frank Caestecker*

**Keynote**

3.15 pm **Before Geneva: The Formation of Refugee Regimes in Europe, 1920s to 1940s**

*Philipp Luis Strobl*

University of Vienna

4.30 pm **Break**

**Section 1: Shaping the Refugee Regime before the Geneva Convention**

5.00 pm **“In Limited Terms”:**

**The 1943 Bermuda Conference on the “Refugee Problem” and the Emergence of the Post-War Refugee Regime**

*Annika Heyen*

Osnabrück University

**Norms, Practices and Marginality.**

**The Production of Non-Western “Others” in the Postwar Refugee Regime**

*Jessica Wehner*

Osnabrück University

**The Afterlife of Atrocity: Jewish Displaced Persons, Sovereignty, and the Administrative Closure of the Holocaust Refugee Problem in Post-1951 West Germany**

*Harshada Anand Kavade*

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

6.30 pm **Dinner**

### TUESDAY, 30 JUNE 2026

8.00 am **Breakfast**

**Keynote**

9.00 am **The 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention between Humanitarian Protection and Migration Management**

*Annette Weinke*

University of Jena

**Section 2: Implementing the Geneva Convention**

10.30 am **Reluctant Cooperation: Italy, Intergovernmentality and Refugees, 1951 to 1963**

*Pamela Ballinger*

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

**Restricting Asylum through International Refugee Law: West Germany and the Geneva Refugee Convention**

*Michael Mayer*

**Informal Governance and International Obligations: Luxembourg and the 1951 Refugee Convention, 1951 to 1993**

*Denis Scuto*

University of Luxembourg

**Interpretations of the Refugee Convention: The Case of the Cold War “Defections” to Finland**

*Matti Välimäki*

University of Helsinki

12.30 pm **Lunch**

**Section 3: From Objects to Actors: Refugees in the Making of Protection Regimes**

3.00 pm **Being a Refugee in Post-War Germany: The Internationalisation and Political Belonging of a Contested Figure**

*Isabella Löhr*

Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History  
Potsdam (ZZF)

**Between Refugee Protection and Restrictive Citizenship Policies: The Naturalization of Geneva Convention Refugees in West Germany**

*Nicholas Courtman*

King’s College London

4.30 pm **Coffee Break**

**Section 4: Reshaping the International Refugee Regime since the 1970s**

5.00 pm **Between “Refugees Welcome” and Restrictiveness. Policy and Practice in Sweden from the 1970s to 1994.**

*Pär Frohnert*

Stockholm University

**Humanitarian Admission and Political Constraints: The Ambivalent Resettlement of Vietnamese Boat Refugees in Europe**

*Marcel Berlinghoff*

Osnabrück University

**In the Shadow of the Basic Law. Jurisprudence and Legal Practice of the Geneva Refugee Convention in the Federal Republic of Germany (1980s to 1990s)**

*Bastian Högg*

Lern- und Erinnerungsort  
Notaufnahmelager Gießen

6.30 pm **Dinner**

### WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY 2026

8.00 am **Breakfast (Check-out by 8.45 am)**

**Keynote**

9.00 am **Formalizing Asylum Policy under the Pressure of Globalization and the Collapse of the Soviet Bloc, 1975 to 1993**

*Frank Caestecker*

10.00 am **Break**

10.30 am **From Refugees to Inadmissibles: International Aviation Governance and Migration Control in Western Europe, 1980s to 1990s**

*Carolin Liebisch-Gümüş*

Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History  
Potsdam (ZZF)

**Making Human Rights Matter in Migration: The Case of the ECHR in The Netherlands before 1995**

*Wiebe Hommes*

University of Amsterdam

**Shaping European Migration Governance: The Origins of the Schengen and Dublin Systems**

*Simone Paoli*

University of Pisa

11.45 pm **Conference Wrap-up**

12.00 pm **Lunch, End of Conference**