**Short Bio of the Speaker**

Dr. Kerstin Schmidt is a lecturer and researcher in the department for sociology at the Bielefeld University, Germany. In the School for Public Health, she is a coordinator of the collaborative project "Research, Training and Evidence Network for Public Health". Until December 2020, she managed the Graduate School "Opportunities and Challenges that Global Refugee Migration presents for Health Care in Germany".  
In the Faculty for Sociology, she has been involved in three research projects: Transnational Migration in Transition: Transformative Characteristics of Temporary Mobility of People (EURA-NET - 2014-2017), Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP - 2014-2015), and Youth mobility: Maximizing opportunities for individuals, labor markets and regions in Europe (YMOBILITY - 2016-2018).

Kerstin's PhD (Sussex University, UK 2012) developed a conceptual and methodological approach to the climate change-migration nexus and empirically investigated the potential impact of climate change on existing migration patterns in Mexico. In her Magister thesis (Cologne University, Germany 2005) she analyzed patterns of solidarity and reciprocity in a hostel for Malian labor migrants in Paris.

She has published on methodological and conceptual aspects of the climate change-migration nexus, on linkages between development, climate change and migration in Mexico, as well as on recent developments of the characteristics of migration to Germany and related policies.   
Kerstin has been teaching undergraduate and graduate courses related to migration, environment, and development also at Sussex University and Leuphana University Lüneburg (Germany) since 2010.

Kerstin has also worked as a consultant on questions related to the climate change migration-nexus, on migration between Latin America and Europe and high-skilled and student migration to Germany. Furthermore, she has worked for the International Council for Science (ICSU) in Bonn (2000-2002), Paris (2002-2005) and Mexico City (2011-2013).

Kerstin is currently interested in exploring the consequences of the legal and social categorizations of migrants. Other research topics of interest are the transnational perspective on migration, migration and related policies in Germany, international development, and the social dimensions of global environmental change, particularly migration in the context of climate change.