

'Medical border making' and the absence/presence of 'migration' in the production of digital healthcare in Germany

Interdisciplinary research symposium
University of Göttingen
19 - 20 November

Location: Alte Mensa, Emmy Noether Saal, Wilhelmsplatz 3, 37073 Göttingen

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Day 1: November 19, 2025

11:30 - 13:00

Keynote 1

Title: (Tba)

Kayvan Bozorgmehr (Faculty of Public Health / AG 2
Population Medicine and Health Services Research,
University of Bielefeld, Germany)

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch break

14:00 - 15:30

Panel 1

DIGITAL HEALTH AND MIGRATION: MAPPING THE FIELD

This panel explores the entangled relationship between migration and the production of digital health in Germany. It asks how migration is positioned not merely as a demographic variable but as a constitutive element in the shaping of digital health infrastructures, policies, and imaginaries. While digital health is often framed as a universal solution for improving access and efficiency, this panel aims to interrogate if/how this discourse incorporates or marginalizes migration as a key factor. It further examines the socio-technical assemblages through which digital health and migration intersect: Who are the central actors, institutions, and technologies involved? What, policy frameworks, and epistemic practices shape this field? By mapping these dynamics, the panel aims to situate migration as an analytical lens for understanding the broader logics and inequalities embedded in Germany's digital health landscape.

Speakers:

- **Johanna Hanefeld** (Vice President (acting) & Head of Department of the Centre for International Health Protection, Robert Koch Institute, Germany)

- **Cihan Sinanoğlu** (German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM), Berlin, Germany)
 - **Katrin Amelang** (Institute of Ethnologie and Cultural Studies, University of Bremen, Germany)
 - **Tanja Ahlin** (Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)
- Chair: Reza Bayat** (Center for Global Migration Studies (CeMig), University of Göttingen, Germany)

15:30 - 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 - 17:30

Panel 2

DIGITAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS; DEMOCRATISING THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

This panel examines the development and implementation of digital health interventions for migrants and individuals with limited local language proficiency, exploring how technological solutions can bridge communication gaps while addressing systemic inequities in healthcare access. Drawing on expertise from the United States and different European Union countries, panelists will discuss challenges in developing culturally competent eHealth and mHealth technologies that serve diverse populations effectively. The session will highlight participatory development approaches that center migrant voices in the design process, examining both successful implementations and persistent barriers that contribute to the exclusion of migration perspectives in digital health innovation. Key topics include intercultural communication strategies in telemedicine, the role of video technology in urgent primary care settings, telehealth platforms to overcome language barriers, and the risks of perpetuating inequitable access through poorly designed digital interventions. Through case studies, panelists will discuss best practices for creating inclusive digital health systems that recognize migration as a fundamental consideration rather than an afterthought. The discussion will address why migration experiences are often marginalized in health technology development and propose frameworks for ensuring that digital healthcare solutions serve all community members, regardless of linguistic background or migration status.

Speakers:

- **Steven Ondersma** (Charles Stewart Mott Department of Public Health, Michigan State University, USA)
- **Barbara Schouten** (Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)
- **Annika Kreienbrinck** (Center for Psychosocial Medicine, Institute and Policlinic for Medical Psychology, University of Hamburg, Germany)

Chair: Eva Maria Noack & Frank Müller (Department of General Practice and Family Medicine, University Medical Center Göttingen, Germany)

18:30

Joint Dinner

Day 2: November 20, 2025

09:30 - 11:00

Keynote 2

- **Title:** (Tba)
- **Speaker: Tereza Hendl** (Institute for Ethics and History of Health in Society (IEHHS), University of Augsburg, Germany)

11:00 - 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 - 13:00

Panel 3

Whose Data Counts? Who is Seen, Included, and Cared for

As health systems become increasingly data-driven, the presence - or absence - of migrants in digital infrastructures reveals deeper structures of inclusion, exclusion, and control. Who appears in health datasets? Who remains invisible or misrepresented? And how do digital technologies shape notions of who is seen as legitimate, treatable, or worthy of care? Bringing together interdisciplinary perspectives, the panel investigates the political, ethical, and social dimensions of data practices in healthcare, with a focus on how they reflect and reinforce broader dynamics of mobility, belonging, and justice.

Speakers:

- **Linda Supik** (Institute of Sociology, University of Frankfurt am Main, Germany)

- **Anamika Kundu** (Department of Law, European University Institute, Florence, Italy) & **Farid Mahsouli** (Department of Private Law, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands)

Chair: Louisa Peters (Chair of Information Management, Digital Health Research Group (DHRG), University of Göttingen, Germany)

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch break

14:00 - 16:00

World Café & Wrap-Up