

# Preface

Science is a highly specialized enterprise—one that enables areas of inquiry to be minutely pursued, establishes working paradigms and normative standards in disciplinary fields, and supports rigor in experimental research. Yet all too often, “problems” are encountered in research that fall outside the scope of any one discipline, and to get past the intellectual “dead ends” that result, external input is needed.

The Ernst Strüngmann Forum was established in 2006 to address such issues. The topics that we select transcend classic disciplinary boundaries and center on problems encountered in ongoing research: issues that require scrutiny from multiple vantage points and the requisite expertise to do so, where conceptualization has stagnated, and the way forward is anything but certain. Our approach promotes interdisciplinary collaboration among international researchers, facilitates the expansion of knowledge, and generates potential trajectories for future research to pursue.

## Approach

The Ernst Strüngmann Forum is guided by an independent Scientific Advisory Board that is responsible for identifying topics to develop and for reviewing submitted proposals. These topics emerge from a need in basic science, address a problem of high-priority interest to the scientific disciplines involved, are interdisciplinary by nature, take an unbiased approach to the defined problem, involve active researchers from the respective fields, and aim to delineate ways for future research to consider and pursue.

Topics are developed in partnership with active research scientists. Given the relevance of a theme to multiple disciplines, each topic benefits from being proposed by senior representatives of the primary research areas involved. Once accepted, the following stages define further development:

### *Program Advisory Committee*

To bring the issues outlined by the proposal into a scientific framework that will support the focal meeting, or Forum, we convene a Program Advisory Committee. Open, unbiased discourse at a Forum requires a diversity of perspectives and viewpoints. Thus, as it selects Forum participants, the committee aims for balanced representation from the various disciplinary areas involved.

### *The Forum*

Best imagined as an intellectual retreat or week-long think tank, formal presentations do not take place at a Forum. Instead, participants engage in an

evolving dialogue designed to maximize intellectual outcomes. To prepare for this, invited “background papers” introduce key topics and unresolved problem areas which will be addressed at the Forum. These papers are circulated in advance, so that by the time everyone arrives in Frankfurt, a basis for discussion has been established.

The central theme is approached by four working groups, comprised of researchers from various scientific disciplines. Each participant plays an active role in the discussion. Groups work autonomously, guided by a moderator, yet interact over the course of the week. To ensure that emerging insights do not get lost, each group generates a draft report. Attention is given to areas where agreement could not be reached as well as ideas for future research. On the final day of the Forum, the plenum evaluates collective progress and identifies remaining work. This feedback guides the finalization of the group reports.

### *Strüngmann Forum Reports*

For research to benefit from the ideas generated at each Forum, results are made available through the Strüngmann Forum Reports, a monograph series published in partnership with The MIT Press. Each volume offers up-to-date information on the topics discussed at a Forum and highlights proposed research directions. A two-tier peer review process guides the editing. Each volume is available in book form as well as online via MIT Press Direct and the Ernst Strüngmann Forum website.

### **The 32nd Ernst Strüngmann Forum: Stigma Processes in the Context of Migration-Generated Diversity**

The impetus for this Forum began at a meeting of our Scientific Advisory Board in February 2018. Initiated by Amber Wutich, the topic of stigma emerged as a focal point requiring future attention; specifically, the need to expand understanding on the origins and processes inherent to stigma as well as its cross-cultural manifestations and potential approaches to destigmatize. To pursue this theme, I met with Lawrence Yang in November 2018 to discuss the state of research into the processes of stigmatization. Having just attended a Forum on youth mental health in July 2018 (Uhlhaas and Wood 2019), I was interested to learn what types of problems were being experienced, and whether the Forum’s approach could be of assistance. A series of discussions followed and ultimately led Lawrence Yang, Bruce Link, and Maureen Eger to submit a proposal entitled “Stigma, Prejudice and the Immigration Experience: Understanding and Addressing the Consequences of Migration Stigma.” A thorough review process resulted in further development, and in September 2019, the Scientific Advisory Board approved the proposal.

From February 27–29, 2020, the Program Advisory Committee was invited to Frankfurt, Germany, to fine-tune the proposal. Joining us on the committee

were Irena Kogan and Christian Albrekt Larsen. Together, we worked to refine overarching goals, delineate discussion topics, and select participants.

The Forum was originally scheduled to take place on June 6–11, 2021, but like so many other gatherings, it needed to be rescheduled due to conditions imposed by the COVID pandemic. A year later, conditions improved and we were able to convene an in-person Forum in Frankfurt (a) to scrutinize the relationships between stigma and migration-generated diversity and (b) to explore the linkages that underpin stigma in the context of migration-generated diversity at multiple levels and from diverse perspectives. The ensuing discussion was constructed around four general themes:

1. How are stigma processes related to different aspects of migration-generated diversity?
2. How do differences in the daily lived experiences of minority and majority social groups contribute to stigma and, alternatively, processes of resilience and social cohesion?
3. How are stigma processes reflected in (social, public, and private) policies? How do policies mitigate and/or amplify stigma processes?
4. Stigmatization and destigmatization: Emergence, persistence, and dissipation.

This volume, structured around these topical areas, contains the background papers that initiated the discussion. Each paper has been finalized to reflect the current state of knowledge on the topic. In addition, summary reports of each discussion group are provided (see Chapters 2, 5, 8, and 10). They provide a synthesis of a vibrant discussion and seek to highlight areas that require further consideration and research.

As one might imagine, a Forum is not a linear process. The initial framework put into place triggered lively debate and created unique group dynamics (see Yang et al., this volume). I wish to thank each person who participated in this Forum for their time, efforts, and positive attitudes, which greatly helped offset conditions brought about by COVID restrictions. A special word of thanks goes to the Program Advisory Committee as well as to the authors and reviewers of the background papers. In addition, the work of the discussion groups' moderators—Bruce Link, Tomás Jiménez, Christian Albrekt Larsen, and Maureen Eger—and rapporteurs—Drew Blasco, San Juanita García, Supriya Misra, and Paolo Velásquez—deserves special recognition. To support lively debate and transform this into a coherent, multiauthor report is no simple matter. Finally, I extend my appreciation to Lawrence Yang, Bruce Link, and Maureen Eger, whose expertise and commitment accompanied the entire project.

The Ernst Strüngmann Forum is able to conduct its work in the service of science and society due to the generous backing of the Ernst Strüngmann Foundation, established by Dr. Andreas and Dr. Thomas Strüngmann in honor of their father. I also wish to acknowledge the support received from our

Scientific Advisory Board as well as the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, which provided supplemental financial support for this project.

Expanding the boundaries to knowledge is never simple and can be easily compromised by long-held views, which are difficult to put aside. Yet once such limitations are recognized, the act of formulating strategies to get past these points can be a most invigorating activity. On behalf of everyone involved, I hope this volume will expand understanding of the multilevel and temporal processes that contribute to migration stigma and equip societies to address its harmful consequences.

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This is a section of [doi:10.7551/mitpress/15529.001.0001](https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/15529.001.0001)

# Migration Stigma

## Understanding Prejudice, Discrimination, and Exclusion

**Edited by:** Lawrence H. Yang, Maureen A. Eger, Bruce G. Link

### **Citation:**

*Migration Stigma: Understanding Prejudice, Discrimination, and Exclusion*

**Edited by:** Lawrence H. Yang, Maureen A. Eger, Bruce G. Link

**DOI:** [10.7551/mitpress/15529.001.0001](https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/15529.001.0001)

**ISBN (electronic):** 9780262378833

**Publisher:** The MIT Press

**Published:** 2024

The open access edition of this book was made possible by generous funding and support from MIT Press Direct to Open



The MIT Press

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the Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies

Series Editor: J. R. Lupp  
Editorial Assistance: A. Gessner, C. Stephen  
Lektorat: BerlinScienceWorks

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The book was set in TimesNewRoman and Arial.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1