



Call for Papers

Special Issue of the *German Journal of Forced Migration and Refugee Studies*:

Migration, Education, and the Digital Turn

Digital Migration Studies defines a young, interdisciplinary research field that examines the intersection between migration and digital technologies. It deals with how digital media and technologies influence migration, how migrants use them, and how digital practices enable or restrict new forms of mobility, participation, and belonging. With this call for papers, we focus on digital education and educational infrastructures (cf. Beißwenger & Wildt, 2017; Christ & Kosyakova, 2021) and seek to highlight the connection between (digital) education and integration.

Education is a central instrument of integration—both on a structural level and on a cultural level. It not only conveys knowledge but also linguistic skills, social inclusion, and opportunities for participation. Integration, however, must not be understood as a one-sided process of adaptation, but rather as a reciprocal, dynamic process of negotiation (cf. Ager & Strang, 2008; Heckmann, 2015). Education must thus be designed inclusively to enable participation—especially for refugees, who can face specific challenges such as trauma, interrupted educational trajectories, and legal barriers. The online schooling of the Ukrainian diaspora via the e-learning platform *All Ukrainian Online School*—often conducted in parallel with formal education in host countries (Zhenchenko et al. 2022, Lytvynova et al. 2024)—offers a striking example of the impact of digitalization (and, consequently, the call for a transnationalization of educational biographies, cf. Karakaşoğlu 2021).

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, education systems have experienced a surge in digitalization, with practices, tools, and the associated competencies of both teachers and learners continuing to be discussed and adapted for current educational settings (Digital Index 2020/21, Berger et al. 2024). In addition to formal education provided through schools and universities, non-formal learning opportunities play an increasingly important role in promoting participation. These include digital self-directed learning tools, such as mobile applications (Ankommen / BAMF, Learn German / Goethe Institute) and online platforms. Furthermore, innovative digital formats—such as serious games, digital escape rooms, and augmented reality environments—offer additional avenues for inclusive and engaging learning experiences.

For this special issue, accepted by the *Journal of Forced Migration and Refugee Studies*, we are therefore seeking contributions that explore digitalization at the intersection of refugee and educational research. We encourage both empirical and theoretical contributions, and welcome interdisciplinary approaches that push the boundaries of current knowledge in the emerging field of Digital Migration Studies.

Submission guidelines and timeline

Please submit your abstract (350 words) and a short biography by September 15, 2025 to Kateryna Buchko and Kristina Kocyba. Submissions are welcome in both German and English. You will be notified of the acceptance of your abstract by October 1, 2025. Upon acceptance, we kindly ask you to submit your full contribution by the end of November 2025. These academic articles undergo a double-blind peer review and are limited to 80,000 characters (including spaces). The publication of the special issue is scheduled for 2026.

For inquiries or to submit an abstract, please contact:

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The German Journal for Forced Migration and Refugee Studies (Z'Flucht) is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes academic articles from a wide range of disciplines on issues relating to flight and refugee research. Z'Flucht is published by Nomos-Verlag and promotes academic exchange in the field of research through empirical studies, theoretical reflections and methodological discussions. With an international, regional, national or local focus, it examines issues such as the conditions, forms and consequences of flight and displacement, refugee protection, regulations in the endeavour to find lasting solutions such as (re-)integration or resettlement, as well as the actions of refugees and their strategies for dealing with their lives as refugees. The journal takes into account the experiences of forcibly displaced people or those fleeing violence and the debates, discourses, actions, practices and concepts relating to them. In view of the different professional perspectives from which the relevant questions can be posed, particular attention is paid to transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary discussion. This includes law, sociology, history and political science as well as philosophy, ethnology, linguistics and literature, psychology, geography and economics.

<https://www.zflucht.nomos.de/>

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