

Placement Director: Robert Pollin, Ph.D.  
(413) 577-0126 pollin@econs.umass.edu

## Esra Erdem

Reichenberger Str. 99  
10999 Berlin, Germany  
Tel: +0049 30 610 740 63  
esra\_erdem\_de@yahoo.de

### Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, May 2008  
(Major Fields: Political Economy of Migration, Feminist Economics)

M.A. in Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, May 2005  
(Major Fields: Political Economy, Macroeconomics)

B.A. in Industrial Engineering, Universitaet Karlsruhe Germany, July 1995  
(Major Field: Computer Science)

### Primary Fields

- Political Economy
- Feminist Theory
- Migration Studies

### Dissertation

Title: 'Migrant Women and Economic Justice: A Class Analysis of Anatolian-German Women in Homemaking and Cleaning Services'

Committee: Richard D. Wolff (Chair), Stephen A. Resnick, Julie Graham

- The dissertation foregrounds immigrant women from Turkey as economic subjects. It reports findings from two empirical case studies undertaken by the researcher on their work patterns in Germany.
- The first case study is based on a semi-structured survey of 83 immigrant homemakers. It studies economic justice concerns around women's household/caring labour. It theoretically links these gendered economic struggles with struggles over the construction of the diasporic imagined community.
- The second case study is based on 7 in-depth qualitative interviews and examines the impact of outsourcing on the wages and working conditions of female immigrant janitors in Berlin. It also discusses why paid domestic work is not a viable employment option for Anatolian-German women.

### Publications

#### Articles in journals:

'Migrations from the "Global South" and the Informal Sector in Turkey: Laissez Passer, Laissez Faire?' *Revista de Economia Mundial*, vol. 14. 2006.

'Migrants' Rights: Gender Discussions in Germany' [in Turkish]. *Güncel Hukuk*. 2006.

'Internal displacement and Gendered Economic Strategies in Turkey' (co-authored with Ceren Özselçuk and Neşet Özevin). *Acta Geographica-Trondheim*, Series A, No.6. 2003.

'Organisations of Anatolian-German Women' [in German]. *Neue Soziale Bewegungen*, 2003.

'Contesting Neoliberal Globalisation: An Egalitarian Perspective' (co-authored with Phil Kozel), *International Review of Applied Economics*, vol. 16(4), 2002.

Articles in edited volumes:

'Contested Constructions of the Migrant ‚Home‘: Gender, Class and Belonging in the Anatolian-German Community'. Graham Cassano (Ed.), *Home Front: Work, Conflict and Exploitation in the Contemporary Household*. (forthcoming)

'Feminism and the Integration Debate: The Pitfalls of the ‚Politics of Ressentiment‘ ' [in German]. Sabine Hess (Ed.), *No Integration?* Transcript Verlag. (forthcoming)

'Migration Policy as the Battlefield of Feminism' [in German]. Christina Kaindl (Ed.), *Ungleichheit als Projekt*. BdWi Verlag. (forthcoming)

'Gay Imperialism: Gender and Sexuality Discourse in the ‚War on Terror‘ ' (co-authored with Jin Haritaworn and Tamsila Tauqir). Adi Kuntsman and Esperanza Miyake (Eds.), *Out of Place: Interrogating Silences in Queerness/Raciality*. Raw Nerve Books. 2008

'The Location of Household Labour in Ethnic Economies' [in German]. IFADE (Ed.), *Insider-Outsider: Bilder, ethnisierte Räume und Partizipation im Migrationsprozess*. Transcript Verlag. 2005.

'Economic Subject Positions and Activism in Migrant Communities' [in German]. DemoPunk (Ed.), *Indeterminate!* Unrast Verlag. 2005.

'Household Labour in the Ethnic Economy' [in German]. Dimitria Clayton / Maria do Mar Castro-Varela (Eds.), *Migrantinnen auf dem Arbeitsmarkt*. Ulrike Helmer Verlag. 2003.

'Gendered patterns in the recruitment and labour force participation of migrants from Turkey to Germany' (co-authored with Monika Mattes). Rainer Ohliger / Karen Schönwälder / Phil Triadafilopoulos (Eds.), *European History as Migration History*. Ashgate Publishers. 2003.

'Job Deficits in UK Regions' (co-authored with Andrew Glyn). R. Dickens / J. Wadsworth / P. Gregg (Eds.), *The State of Working Britain*. Centre for Economic Performance: London School of Economics. 2001

'Employment Growth, Structural Change and Capital Accumulation' (co-authored with Andrew Glyn). Thijs ten Raa / Ronald Schettkat (Eds.), *Services: High Costs, Strong Demand*. Edward Elgar. 2001

Expert reports:

'Migrant Women from Turkey in Germany' [in German]. Expertise report commissioned by the *Immigration and Integration Commission of the Federal German Government*, <http://www.bamf.de/>. 2004.

'The UK Jobs Gap - Lack of Qualifications and the Regional Dimension' (co-authored with Andrew Glyn). Memorandum for the House of Commons, Education and Employment Committee, *Fourth Report: 'Employability and Jobs: Is there a Jobs Gap?'* London, April. 2000.

Other publications:

(forthcoming) --- "The Anti-Domestic Violence Perspective in the Integration Debate" [in German]. die tageszeitung, November 25 special issue.

2008 --- Book review of *Das Scharnier der Macht* by Michael Willenbücher. *Das Argument* vol. 277.

2006 --- Book review of *¡Que se vayan todos! Krise und Widerstand in Argentinien* by Colectivo Situaciones. *Rethinking Marxism* vol. 18 no. 3.

2005 --- „The Politics of Migrant Women's Rights: Anti-racist Feminists Discuss Domestic Violence, Feminism and Multiculturalism" (co-authored with Jinhana Haritaworn / Jennifer Petzen), <http://www.nextgeneration.net/texts/hatuneng.html>

2002 --- „ Women from Turkey in a Multinational Society [in German and Turkish], brochure prepared for the Association of Migrant Women from Turkey, Berlin.

2000 --- "Northern Exposure"( co-authored with Andrew Glyn). *The Guardian*, April 4.

2000 --- "From Welfare to No Work"( co-authored with Andrew Glyn). *Financial Times*, February 17.

**Research Experience**

Research associate with the Heinrich Böll Foundation (November 2005 - February 2006)  
Berlin, Germany

- Concept development and organization of the international conference „Fortress Europe“

Research officer, Social Science Research Center Berlin; Program on Intercultural Conflicts and Societal Integration,  
May-October 2005.

- Concept development and organization of a workshop for research groups on 'Migration and Integration'

Research assistant at the University of Oxford, Department of Economics. October 1998 – March 2001

- Project on Regional Job-Deficits in the UK and OECD Countries

Research assistant, University of Oxford, Said Business School, October 1997 – September 1998

- Project on Institutions and Sectoral Performance in OECD Countries

Research assistant, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Department of Economics, 1996

- Project on Globalization and US Multinational Companies

**Research Interests**

- Political Economy of Migration
- Feminist Economics
- Contemporary Marxian Theory
- Rethinking Economic Development; Solidarity/Community Economies

**Teaching Experience**

Instructor at the Center for Transdisciplinary Studies, Humboldt Universität Berlin (with J. Haritaworn), October-February 2005

Instructor at the JFK Institute at the Freie Universität Berlin, October-February 2003

Instructor in the Department of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, September 2001 – May 2002

Instructor in the Department of Politics at the University of Warwick, 1999

Courses

Intersections: Representations of Migration, Gender and Class (Fall 2005), Political Economy of Gender (Fall 2003), Political Economy of Racism (Fall 2001), Economic Development (Spring 2002), Political and Economic Statistics (Spring 1999)

Teaching Assistant in the Department of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, September 1994 – May 1996

Courses

Introduction to Political Economy (Fall 1994, Spring 1996), Introduction to Macroeconomics (Spring 1995, Fall 1995)

**Teaching Interests**

- Political Economy
- Economics of Migration and Globalization
- Feminist Economics
- Development Economics

**Awards**

Fellowship of the "Integrationxchange" Program for Migration Practitioners, US State Department/Körber Stiftung, 2008

Graduate School Travel Grant of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2002

Dissertation Writing Grant of the Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2001

Dissertation Research Grant of the Böckler Foundation, Germany, 2001

Fellowship of the Baden-Württemberg / Massachusetts Student Exchange Program, 1993-1994

**Work History**

Project manager with the TIO Immigrant Women's Rights Organization (August 2002 to present)  
Berlin, Germany

- Project management, budget management, quality management
- Active participation in public debates on topics of concern to immigrant women in Germany
- Facilitation of an expert dialogue between feminist activists and academics
- Representation of TIO on working groups on immigration and in feminist networks
- Counseling of immigrant women on immigration, domestic violence, work related issues
- Supervision of interns

Project based work for NGOs (2000-2006)

- Clean Clothes Campaign
- Asylum Welcome Oxford
- Women's Rights Bureau Berlin
- Human Rights Association, Istanbul
- Association of Migrant Women from Turkey (BTKB)

Secretary of the Graduate Student Organization (GEO) at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (1996)

**Professional Service**

Member of the editorial board of the journal *Rethinking Marxism* (July 2008 to present)

Member of the advisory board of the journal *Das Argument* (2007 to present)

**Professional Affiliations**

Association for Economic and Social Analysis (AESAs)

IFADE network of migration scholars in Germany

Community Economies Collective (CEC)

**References**

Professor Richard D. Wolff  
1014 Thompson Hall  
Department of Economics  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Amherst MA 01003  
(413) 545-6351  
rdwolff@worldnet.att.net

Professor Stephen A. Resnick  
1014 Thompson Hall  
Department of Economics  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Amherst MA 01003  
(413) 545-0947  
resnick@econs.umass.edu

Professor Julie Graham  
Department of Geosciences  
611 North Pleasant Street  
233 Morrill Science Center  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA 01003-9297  
USA  
Tel.: +001 (413) 545-5935  
graham@geo.umass.edu

Dr. habil Karen Schönwälder  
Max-Planck-Institut zur Erforschung multireligiöser  
und multiethnischer Gesellschaften  
Postfach 28 33  
37018 Göttingen  
Germany  
Tel.: +0049 (551) 4956 – 0  
schoenwaelder@mmg.mpg.de

**Dissertation Abstract**

Challenging the widespread perception of Anatolian-German women as economically inactive, the thesis presents two detailed case studies of sites where they figure prominently as economic subjects. Using a Marxian theoretical framework, the study renders visible Anatolian-German women's economic contributions and underlines exploitation as an economic justice concern to migrant women in Germany.

The first case study scrutinizes the Anatolian-German household as a site of unpaid labor. Feminist scholarship has established the migrant 'home' to be a highly contested terrain, where women's homemaking activities reflect struggles over the ethnic and gendered marking of belonging. The thesis contributes to this field of research by introducing class as a contested process that overdetermines how 'home' is lived in the Anatolian-German community. Struggles over the production, appropriation, and distribution of surplus labor in migrant homes are explored, using data from the researcher's survey of homemaking practices among Anatolian-German women. The discussion points to myriad economic, socio-cultural and political factors that trap migrant women in exploitative household constellations. Self-appropriation is critically assessed as a non-exploitative alternative encountered across household types (among singles, single mothers and in nuclear families).

The second case study focuses on Anatolian-German women's paid work in cleaning services. In-depth interviews explore the effects, which the outsourcing of janitorial services by public institutions and private enterprises has had on the exploitation of the female migrant janitorial workforce. It analyzes the value flows characterizing the highly fraught economic relations between capitalist enterprises specialized in the provision of janitorial services, clients purchasing such services as well as janitorial and non-janitorial employees. Anatolian-German's collective and individual struggles against exploitation are critically assessed. Finally, the study explores why, contrary to global trends in migrant women's employment, jobs as domestic workers in private homes remain unattractive to Anatolian-German women and evaluates the implications from a Marxian perspective.

What emerges is a complex portray of Anatolian-German women as economic subjects. Against the spectacle of oppressed Muslim migrant women dominating popular and academic discourse in Germany, this study urges feminists to rethink their understanding of migrant women's emancipatory struggles and recognize class as a crucial dimension of economic justice.