

DIS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY

PLA

JENS SCHWARZ

CEID



As Hungary sealed off its land border with Croatia by mid September 2015, about 100,000 people on the Balkan route pass through Slovenia. Austria uses buses to transport migrants and refugees from the Slovenian borders directly to the German border; Achleiten border crossing 10/2015

DISPLACED MIGRATION INTO GERMANY SEPT 2015 – APR 2016 PHOTOGRAPHS BY JENS SCHWARZ

Drawing the line

I often look back at the notes I took one afternoon, perusing catalogues on the racks of the Jeu de Paume library in Paris. There, in the middle of thousands of pages I flipped through, I found and carefully wrote down a few words by Yannick Haenel.

These past couple of months, I often felt the need to go back to them, as our plummeted sky plummeted more still. They read: “Of the concentrationary nature of real estate. Thinking a dwelling’s perimeter could have coincided with that of a camp feels immeasurably extravagant. A confusion beyond cynicism, as the nature of one excludes that of the other: people do not live in camps.”
Or do they?

In many ways, Jens Schwarz’s photographs contradict Haenel’s statement. In each, I read life. Granted, a life orchestrated by others, queued up, cornered at times, bursting at others; but a very palpable one. Parsing through prints, I visualize the roots of a tiny plant that grows between cracks of concrete slabs, the resurgence of life, contradicting human desire for control—resilience. Schwarz chose to document the experiences of refugees during what the media called the “migrant crisis.” In a quiet, attentive way, he pictured each step: the emptying of buses, the food linings, moments of compassion, and their corollary: exhaustion. His works are quiet. And, while the term might sound bland, in this case, I find it utterly appropriate. We sit silent, both frustrated by our helplessness and infuriated with Europe’s growing wave of populist nationalism and racism. In the face of this, noisy responses would feel inappropriate.

In 2011, four years before said “crisis,” I wrote a short text about confinement. I spoke of hyphens. *Not even the decency of a line.* Elongated dots, indelibly carved onto grounds that delimitate and often determine. Almost ten years later, looking at Schwarz’s photographs, I am reminded of the way colonial rulers invented borders, tracing arbitrary lines on pieces of paper they later turned to paper planes. And I think of *our* planes, filled to the brim with people from these same invented countries, chartered back to territories *they* coined “Middle East” or “Africa.”

In response to the indecency of hyphens, here a line is drawn: one of indignation. It says *this is BEYOND.*

Our line turns military dots into ethical standing grounds. In the same way, Schwarz bears a responsibility towards every single person he photographed, each image a proof of mutual engagement, I am reminded that borders are *my* business. They are *my* business because in the country I am from, government forces arrest farmers for assisting migrants crossing through the Roya valley to Italy, and the one I now reside in enacts bans preventing the legal immigration of thousands of Iraqis, Iranians, Libyans, Somalians, Sudanese, Yemeni and Syrians.

For all these reasons, *Displaced* draws an immaterial line, which posits the beyond as unacceptable.

VU

Curated by Valentine Umansky, Sept 2019
Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

THE TERM “REFUGEE” SHALL APPLY TO ANY PERSON WHO [...], OWING TO WELLFOUNDED FEAR OF BEING PERSECUTED FOR REASONS OF RACE, RELIGION, NATIONALITY, MEMBERSHIP OF A PARTICULAR SOCIAL GROUP OR POLITICAL OPINION, IS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY OF HIS NATIONALITY AND IS UNABLE OR, OWING TO SUCH FEAR, IS UNWILLING TO AVAIL HIMSELF OF THE PROTECTION OF THAT COUNTRY;

*United Nations High Commission for Refugees,
Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees
(1951), Article 1, [A(2)]*



Due to lack of coordination between the neighboring states waiting zones must be formed; Achleiten border crossing 10/2015

Farid from Iraq near a petrol station close to the border where, during the last days of October, hundreds of people find shelter under its porch; Achleiten border crossing 10/2015





The driver of an Austrian bus transferring migrants and refugees directly from the Slovenian border lost track and was misled by the GPS to approach the border crossing paradoxically from German territory. Passengers must change to a German bus to be transferred to a German reception center; Achleiten border crossing 10/2015

In 2015, an increasing number of people risked their lives to cross the Mediterranean Sea in search of safety and protection. More than 1 million people arrived in Europe by boat during the year, with 84 per cent from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries, including the Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan, and Iraq in the top three. [...]

The impact of the crisis was felt across the continent, due to the significant onward movement from Greece to countries in Western and Northern Europe through the Western Balkans route. During the summer and early autumn thousands of people were crossing borders across numerous countries. [...] The refugee emergency in Europe tested asylum and reception systems in 2015, and illustrated the imperative of a comprehensive response, based on solidarity and responsibility sharing. Existing frameworks were in many instances unable to facilitate the management of the crisis or preserve the protection space in a sustainable manner. Numerous European countries responded to the crisis by unilaterally imposing greater restrictions on access to their territories. In particular, 2015 saw increased border controls and fences erected along borders between several countries in an effort to thwart the movement of refugees into their countries and across Europe. In addition, many countries passed legislation restricting access to asylum systems and placing limitations on family reunification.

UNHCR, Global Trends, Forced Displacement in 2015, pp.32-34

The Dublin Regulation (Regulation No. 604/2013) is a European Union (EU) law that determines which EU Member State is responsible for the examination of an application for asylum, submitted by persons seeking international protection under the Geneva Convention and the EU Qualification Directive, within the European Union. It is the cornerstone of the Dublin System, which consists of the Dublin Regulation and the EURODAC Regulation, which establishes a Europe-wide fingerprinting database for unauthorised entrants to the EU. The Dublin Regulation aims to “determine rapidly the Member State responsible [for an asylum claim] and provides for the transfer of an asylum seeker to that Member State. Usually, the responsible Member State will be the state through which the asylum seeker first entered the EU.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dublin_Regulation

According to the instructions [issued by German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)], dated 21 August 2015, Dublin procedures that have already been initiated in relation to Syrians are to be cancelled, in order for Germany to become the Member State responsible for processing their claims. This entails that enforceable return orders for Dublin transfers to other countries are also to be revoked. Newly applying Syrian asylum seekers are to be immediately channelled into the regular asylum procedure and will not be given the Dublin questionnaires usually provided to applicants.

Under the Dublin Regulation, a Member State may make use of the “sovereignty clause” to voluntarily assume responsibility for processing asylum applications for which it is not otherwise responsible under the criteria of the Regulation.

<http://www.asylumineurope.org/news/24-08-2015/germany-halt-dublin-procedures-syrians>

Status of proceedings: Individual application for asylum at the field office or effective written application to the Federal Office, possibly Dublin procedure.

Action: No initiation of Dublin procedure, questionnaire parts 1 and 2 do not need to be requested or sent. The national asylum procedure has to be carried out.

German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), Procedural arrangements suspending the Dublin procedure for Syrian nationals, RL'in 411, RD'in Wenzl, Az. 411 - 93605/Syrien/2015, Nuremberg, 21.08.2015

In the reporting period 2015, 476,649 asylum applications (first and follow-up applications) were registered. This represents an increase of 135 % compared to the previous year. Main country of origin is Syria.

bamf-migration-report-2015_central-conclusions (pdf), p.2

2010	48.589
2011	53.347
2012	77.651
2013	127.023
2014	202.834
2015	476.649
2016	745.545
2017	222.683
2018	185.853

<http://www.bamf.de/DE/Infothek/Statistiken/Asylzahlen/AktuelleZahlen/aktuelle-zahlen-asyl-node.html>



Global forced displacement has increased in 2015, with record-high numbers. By the end of the year, 65.3 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations. This is 5.8 million more than the previous year (59.5 million).

UNHCR, Global Trends, Forced Displacement in 2015, p.2

More than half (54%) of all refugees worldwide came from just three countries: the Syrian Arab Republic (4.9 million), Afghanistan (2.7 million), and Somalia (1.1 million). *[Ibid., p.3]*

Eight-bed-cabin shared by Somali refugees from Ogaden, a territory at the view time claimed and dominated by Ethiopia; AWO reception center, Nuremberg 04/2016



Moustapha from Afghanistan at a former accommodation of the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW), Austraße, that had been converted into an emergency shelter for refugees; Simbach am Inn 10/2015

On Tuesday afternoon, 27 October 2015, two migrants jumped into the river Inn in order to quickly reach German territory. They underestimated the drift, but were able to hold onto a bridge pier. Water rescue forces then saved the refugees from the cold river. Suffering from hypothermia they were provided with medical care on the German side; River Inn, Simbach am Inn 10/29/2015





During the first September weekend within only two days more than 14,000 people arrive via Hungary from Syria, Afghanistan, Africa and the Balkans at Munich central train station. Refugees and Migrants are received with a considerable sense of solidarity by Munich citizens and authorities with hundreds of helpers and volunteers providing refugee care.

A large temporary emergency shelter at Munich trade fair center Messe Riem provides a piano for to be played by refugees and migrants. The instrument is donated by music teachers on loan from the nearby municipal Wilhelm-Röntgen-secondary-school; Munich 09/2015

A typical Bavarian »Festzelt« (beer tent) hosts an emergency shelter providing donated materials to accommodate refugees and migrants during the night. Temperatures in Lower Bavaria at that time of the year may go below zero degrees celsius; Neuhaus border crossing 10/2015



Lebanon hosted the largest number of refugees in relation to its national population, with 183 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants. Jordan (87) and Nauru (50) ranked second and third, respectively. [Ibid., p.2]

Asylum-seekers submitted a record high number of new applications for asylum or refugee status – estimated at 2.0 million. With 441,900 asylum claims, Germany was the world's largest recipient of new individual applications, followed by the United States of America (172,700), Sweden (156,400), and the Russian Federation (152,500). [Ibid., p.3]

HUMAN BEINGS ARRIVE HERE WHO HAVE BEEN FLEEING FOR DAYS, WEEKS, IF NOT MONTHS, FROM WAR, DEATH AND MISERY. THEY HARDLY SLEPT. AND THEN HERE YOU ARE, AND HUNDREDS OF OTHERS WHO ARE JUST TRYING TO MAKE THESE PEOPLE SOMEHOW, AND AFTER A LONG TIME, FINALLY COME TO REST. YOU GIVE THEM FOOD, DRINK AND CLOTHES AND YOU RECEIVE THE REFUGEES WITH A SMILE AND SAY: WELCOME TO MUNICH, WELCOME TO GERMANY.

The wave rolled, we needed to create accommodations and had decided to open the emergency shelter in Karlstraße. I was there with the head of the social department, found it was acceptable, suitable for 500 people, I then built beds, 220 beds were still packaged, I organized helpers, using contacts, to clean up the hall, a call for donations, communicating that we need mattresses, the refugees should walk over from the train station by foot, then I organized escorts, then came the first 250, some seriously injured, many small children.

Rudi Borsch, coordinator of the volunteer helpers at Munich Central station, September 2015 (Artist's archives, recorded and provided by courtesy Frieda Cossham, journalist)

Rudi Borsch, coordinator of the volunteer helpers at Munich Central station, September 2015, (quoted from a radio interview at Südwestrundfunk Anstalt des öffentlichen Rechts, 11.9.2015)



Tarek, Nabil and Lâmi from Afghanistan in a special refugee train to Cologne. During the last days of October 2015 an average of more than 6,500 people arrive in the Passau border area every day. To create capacities at the local emergency reception centers up to four special trains provided by Deutsche Bahn (German Rail) leave Passau per day to distribute more than 2000 people to other federal states; 10/2015

Bridge over river Inn, German federal police checkpoint; Neuhaus border crossing 10/2015



At night, when the floors are to be cleaned, people sleep everywhere. Once there were 220 who could no longer redeem their travel voucher. Or were waiting for the first train next day. [...] But in the meantime there is a structure, because sometimes 18,000 refugees could be handled in one day. But where should they go? Five times a day I sit in the steering committee with government officials, paramedics, fire brigade, federal and state police, community service staff and volunteers.

Heiko Hamann, Munich Central station Manager, September 2015 (Artist's archives, recorded and provided by courtesy Frieda Cossham, journalist)

The refugees smell: They have been traveling for weeks. They smell like sweat, as I have not smelled it for a long time. It's the smell that makes me figure out what they've gone through, suddenly the misery is palpable.

Artist's archives, personal diary entry by Frieda Cossham, journalist, Munich Central station, September 2015

WIR SCHAFFEN DAS!

„We can manage this“ [is a] statement made by the German Chancellor Angela Merkel in the Federal Press Conference on 31 August 2015 regarding the refugee crisis in Europe from 2015 and the admission of refugees in Germany, which has since found far-reaching repercussions in the media and in the political debate. It is considered the core slogan or soundbite of the “new welcome culture”. She repeated the later often criticized sentence several times, including at the CDU Federal Party Congress on 14 December 2015.

The truncated quote from the Federal Press Conference has subsequently been reproduced again and again. Literally, the Chancellor said: “Germany is a strong country. The motive with which we approach these things must be: We have accomplished so much - we can manage this!”

In mid-September 2016 Merkel first relativized her motto, in view of significant losses of her party in the federal state elections of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern as well as the House of Representatives in Berlin and the emergence of the right wing AfD.

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wir_schaffen_das



At a peak period about 1000 people are accommodated at Paul-Hallen, a former industrial production site. It also houses the federal police command centre of the region and registrations are processed here prior to further distribution of migrants and refugees to other reception centers all over Germany, Passau 10/2015



DEVELOPING REGIONS HOSTED 86 PER CENT OF THE WORLD'S REFUGEES UNDER UNHCR'S MANDATE. AT 13.9 MILLION PEOPLE, THIS WAS THE HIGHEST FIGURE IN MORE THAN TWO DECADES. THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES PROVIDED ASYLUM TO 4.2 MILLION REFUGEES OR ABOUT 26 PER CENT OF THE GLOBAL TOTAL.

UNHCR, Global Trends, Forced Displacement in 2015, p.2

Yeshi fled from Sudan with her husband Ifaa. She is one of only two women in the camp. And she is pregnant; AWO reception center, Nuremberg 04/2016

On the parking lot of a former department store two large halls are assembled with sanitary containers and a makeshift dining room. At peak times, more than 420 people have lived here, most of them awaiting asylum status. AWO reception center, Nuremberg 04/2016



In mid-September 2015, the Interior Ministers of the states declared that the absorption capacity was largely exhausted. On 13 September, the temporary, partial reintroduction of border controls and the suspension of the Schengen Agreement were announced. With at least 135,000 the number of refugees who crossed the border into Germany in Bavaria during September exceeded the sum of the refugees who arrived there in the previous eight months. The German Federal Government changed its position at the end of September and began again to suspend the Dublin agreement with Austria. With the aim of relieving the border region, Germany used up to eight special trains every day in September 2015, in addition to the transports that Austria had already carried out itself, in order to bring refugees from the Austrian city of Salzburg directly into German initial reception facilities. The introduction of border controls did not reduce the number of newcomers, that continued to increase to as many as 10,000 people a day. The persons in the special trains were no longer controlled.

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flüchtlingskrise_in_Europa_ab_2015#Deutschland

The terms 'refugee' and 'migrant' are frequently used interchangeably in media and public discourse. [...] The two terms have distinct and different meanings, and confusing them leads to problems for both populations. [...] Unlike refugees who cannot safely return home, migrants face no such impediment to return. [...] Blurring the two terms takes attention away from the specific legal protections refugees require. It can undermine public support for refugees and the institution of asylum at a time when more refugees need such protection than ever before.

Adrian Edwards, UNHCR, Geneva, <https://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2016/7/55df0e556/unhcr-viewpoint-refugee-migrant-right.html>



The hall is about the size of a soccer field with hundreds of camp beds. The arrivals are assigned to different waiting areas and might stay for a couple of days. From there, a bus will take them further - either to another reception center in Lower Bavaria or to the train station for further transfers to other German federal states; Paul-Hallen, Passau 10/2015

Arriving bus transfer with unaccompanied minors that will enter special legal attendance under German law according to UN-regulations; Paul-Hallen, Passau 10/2015

Groups of migrants and refugees are conveyed by federal police for onward journeys with special trains to other German federal states; central train station, Passau 10/2015



BASED ON FORMER RESEARCH, WE ASSUME THAT THE ACCURACY OF MEDIA COVERAGE CAN BEST BE DETERMINED BY A COMPARISON OF MEDIA COVERAGE AND EXTERNAL INDICATORS OF REALITY LIKE OFFICIAL STATISTICS. THE BALANCE OF MEDIA COVERAGE CAN BE DEFINED AS THE FACT THAT IN THE MEDIA COVERAGE DIFFERENT ACTORS, TOPICS AND VIEWPOINTS ARE REPRESENTED APPROXIMATELY EQUALLY OR EQUALLY TO THEIR DISTRIBUTION IN REAL LIFE. IN GENERAL, FORMER RESEARCH SHOWS THAT MEDIA COVERAGE ABOUT MIGRANTS IS USUALLY NEITHER ACCURATE NOR BALANCED.

In the New Year's Eve 2015/2016, there were numerous sexual assaults on women around the Central Station and Cathedral in Cologne by groups of young men, mainly from North Africa and the Arab world.

The fact that suspects were assigned to the group of refugees and migrants aggravated the debate about limited capacities for reception and integration as well as the lack of opportunities to effectively deport persons from this group from Germany. In addition, this event strengthened the narrative of "non-European" "strangeness" and "ontological otherness" in relation to the refugees.

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flüchtlingskrise_in_Europa_ab_2015#Deutschland

Since 2015, 55 percent of the population have supported refugees in Germany in any way, either by donations in kind or by money, by public advocacy in readers' letters and petitions or through active assistance. Of these, 36 percent have helped in the past years; Currently there are still 19 percent of the population involved in any supportive manner. Among the current supporters are 11 percent active helpers. These activists support refugees when dealing with authorities, accompany them to doctor visits, teach German or spend free time with the fled people. Some of the helpers also have taken sponsorships for Refugees or let them live with them.

German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ), engagement-in-der-fluechtlingshilfe-data.pdf, p.8ff

28 percent of the helpers have experienced open refusal in the municipality. 24 percent say they already have been attacked or insulted for their commitment. About half of those involved have not experienced such thing in their surroundings and do not expect it for the future. [*Ibid.*, p.10]

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11616-018-00466-y>



Mohammed from Iraq washing his face and hair in the Osterbach (creek). About 62,000 refugees and migrants walk across the Germany-Austria border at a hilly forest area in Lower Bavaria while the place becomes a focus of the media within German and international coverage; Wegscheid border area 10/2015



Austrian authorities send up to 50 busses per day to a green border where German authorities try to regain control of the administrative and humanitarian situation. Camps are installed and space blankets provided on the Austrian side as autumn already brings freezing nights; Wegscheid border camp 10/2015

German federal police floodlight; Wegscheid border crossing 10/2015

Yassir from Syria travels with a group of young men from different origins, Wegscheid border area 10/2015





A border sign of the federal state of Bavaria near a small bridge that separates German and Austrian territories. Police and special forces from both countries block the road with vehicles on each side; Wegscheid border crossing 10/2015

Regarding receiving countries, in 2018, most applications for asylum were lodged in Germany, France, Greece, Italy, and Spain. Together, these five countries accounted for almost three quarters of all applications lodged in the EU+. Germany received the most applications (184 180) for the seventh consecutive year

European Asylum Support Office (EASO), easo-annual-report-2018.pdf, p.12

isations. Projects include production of videos and radio spots that target potential migrants and refugees and aim at informing them about risks of irregular migration, legal pathways, and voluntary and forced return. Spots also aim to inform about Germany's commitment to protect refugees and to fight against root causes of forced displacement and migration. Objectives of the campaign, also target organisations and multipliers medi-

ARTICLE 17(1) OF THE DUBLIN REGULATION, KNOWN AS THE DISCRETIONARY OR SOVEREIGNTY CLAUSE, WAS INVOKED OVER 12.300 TIMES IN 2018; IN ALMOST TWO THIRDS OF ALL CASES, THE DISCRETIONARY CLAUSE WAS APPLIED IN GERMANY.

European Asylum Support Office (EASO), easo-annual-report-2018.pdf, p.16

Despite decreasing applications overall, Germany received no less than six of the ten largest influxes from specific citizenships: Syrians, Iraqi, Afghans, Iranians, Nigerians, and Turks. *[Ibid., p.13]*

At the end of 2018, Germany continued to be the country with the largest stock of pending cases at all instances, despite a minor reduction compared to a year earlier. *[Ibid., p.14]*

The Federal Ministry of Interior launched a pilot project in May 2019 called NesT – Neustart im Team (New Start within a Team) for a community sponsorship program for up to 500 vulnerable persons. *[Ibid p.36]*

The German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) started using four comprehensive tools to assist decisionmakers to establish the identity of applicants: information from electronic information carriers (extraction from mobile devices), biometric language analysis, a technical system for the transcription of names and a system for facial recognition. *[Ibid p.101]*

The BAMF was allocated additional 1632 posts. *[Ibid p.104]*

The BAMF has conducted a pilot for a new search engine finding more rapidly the applicants' files planned to integrate this engine in MARiS (BAMF asylum information system) *[Ibid p.104]* Nearly 50 additional communication projects also initiated by Germany in third countries, in cooperation with NGOs and International Organ-

ing in conflicts in order to effectively disseminate messages and contribute to the fight against root causes of forced displacement and migration. *[Ibid p.121]*

In regards to raising awareness on risks of irregular migration, Germany launched a campaign with video spots, which were aired during Premier League Football Games and further disseminated on African SDTV and Ethiopian TV channels. Finally, the Federal Foreign Office in Germany, completed the translation of the website content ›Rumours about Germany‹ in Arabic, English, French, Dari, Farsi, Tigrinya and Urdu, including production and dissemination of relevant infomercials on web and social media. *[Ibid p.123]*

So called Wegweiserkurse [orientation course] were piloted in the AnKER Centres in Germany, including 15 hours of instruction provided by a cultural mediator in the participants' native language. *[Ibid p.129]*

A new law in Germany ends the temporary suspension of family reunification for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection that was in force since 2016 and allows now them again to reunite with their immediate family members. The number of family members allowed to join their beneficiary sponsor is limited to 1000 a month. *[Ibid p.186]*

Damages at a cabin partition panel due to residents' lack of privacy protection; AWO reception center, Nuremberg 04/2016



Jens Schwarz
Displaced – Migration into Germany

On the occasion of the exhibition at Contemporary Arts Center,
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Jens Schwarz

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www.jensschwarz.com
www.martinsteiner.net



Ifaa fled from Sudan together with Yesi, his pregnant wife; AWO reception center, Nuremberg 04/2016