

EUROPE'S MIGRATION AND REFUGEE CRISIS

October 13, 2015 | 12:00 – 1:00pm

Moot Court Room, King Hall

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The 28 EU member countries are expected to receive over 1.5 million migrants in 2015, double 2014 migration levels. Migrants drowning in the Mediterranean, trying to slip onto trucks headed to Britain via the Eurotunnel, and boarding trains for Germany have dominated recent headlines.

The EU's migration management system has been tested by the influx. The Dublin convention, which requires foreigners to request asylum in the first EU country they reach, was lifted by Germany for Syrians. The Schengen agreement, which allows movement between EU countries without checks, was suspended by many EU countries. Within countries, some welcomed asylum seekers while others burned migrant housing, and some political parties called on citizens to welcome the migrants while others called for closing borders.

Europe is the continent of international migration, with 10 percent of the world's people and a third of the world's international migrants. Many European countries are aging and shrinking, raising the question of whether European nations should welcome the migrants to stabilize their populations and labor forces.

This panel will address three major questions:

1. What happened in summer 2015, and why did the influx of migrants lead to the failure of the Dublin and Schengen agreements?
2. EU leaders say that immigrants are needed, and want EU countries to select immigrants rather than having migrants select the European country to which they want to move. Why is Germany likely to accept over 2,000 migrants a day who applied for asylum in 2015, versus two a day who receive Blue Cards as desired immigrants?
3. What are the lessons of summer 2015 for EU and US migration and refugee policies?

This discussion is supported by the Gifford Center, IFHA Temporary Migration Cluster, and the UC Davis School of Law.

To RSVP for this event, go to migrationcluster.ucdavis.edu