

# The location of refugees in social space – an example from Germany

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Since summer 2015 numerous refugees came to Europe. In Germany alone, an estimated share of 1 million asylum seekers were admitted, most of them from Syria, but also from countries such as Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Eritrea. In respect of this development, a great debate started in Germany on how to deal with this high number of refugees, which amplified an increasing polarisation in public attitudes. In this presentation, I like to explain the socio-political lines of tension between the different social classes by drawing on the theoretical work of Pierre Bourdieu. Refugees migrate into an already existing social space. Thereby, their social status is ascribed through the fundamental categories of economic, cultural and social capital, as well as symbolic characteristics such as origin and causes of migration. The class specific attitudes of the native population result from relational positions in the social space towards different classes of refugees. By assessing Multiple Correspondence Analysis, I will show the social structure of these attitudes in their relational context, using data from an ongoing Refugee Project ( $N = 1751$ ) in three German cities, namely Hamburg, Cologne, and Mulheim an der Ruhr.