**Birgit Glorius (Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany) “Integrate us first!”: Integration, Societal Cohesion and Diversity Development in Re-Unified Germany**

The book title "Integrate us first", written by an East German integration minister, points to a still ongoing feeling of neglect and despise articulated by large parts of the East German society with regard to three decades of reunification. The book gives voice to East German struggles during the transformation period and points to the still existent alienation between East and West Germans. The debate about public disregard of East German biographies specifically gained ground in the aftermath of the “long summer of migration” in 2015, when more than 800,000 asylum seeking migrants arrived in Germany and were given an overwhelmingly warm welcome by the German society.

While in the following years, challenges of integration and societal cohesion showed up all over the country, debates about the goals of integration, questions of belonging and collective identity or articulations of racism were specifically visible in East Germany. This presentation aims to reflect recent developments in the integration of asylum seeking migrants and of integration and diversity politics in the context of a ‘society in transformation’ ad discusses further challenges on the way to societal cohesion.

Short Bio: Birgit Glorius is a human geographer and full professor for human geography with focus on European migration research at Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany. /…/ She is involved in a number of research projects on European asylum politics and on the integration of refugees in small towns and rural regions. She has a number of scientific and advisory functions, such as board member of the German Network on Refugee Research and head of the advisory board to the research department of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees in Germany.