I participated in the Summer School on Forced Migration, organized by Laimomo and Africa e mediterraneo, from 03.07.17–08.07.17 in Bologna, Italy. Since I study Sociology MA, especially migration studies, I was highly motivated to take part in this summer school. My MA thesis is about "The similarities between perceptions of immigration according to experts: a study based on expert interviews from Germany and South Korea (2015-16)." Forced migration is highly related to the topic of my MA thesis and the Lehrforschung project "New trends in immigration to Germany: Characteristics, actors and policies" that I attended in 2015. Also, my colleague attended the same summer school in 2016, and she mentioned that all seminars including field visits to reception centers for asylum seekers in Bologna area were highly recommendable. The participation in the seminar is basically for my MA thesis, in that it can give me extra knowledge for forced migration in Africa and Europe, from diverse aspects, economic, political, and humanitarian perspectives. I expected that seminars have a high quality and field visits will help me to understand the daily life of asylum seekers. I learned a lot of migration theories at the university. However, I did not see the daily life of asylum seekers. Theories have macro perspective that focuses on broad mechanisms of migration processes. However, it is criticized that it is far from the daily life of asylum seekers.

I organized accommodation and transportation by myself. I took Eurowings from the Düsseldorf airport to the Milano airport. I took a train from the Milano airport to the Bologna central train station. I contacted Claudia Marà <c.mara@africaemediterraneo.it> and Flore Thoreau La Salle <f.thoreau@africaemediterraneo.it> who work at Africa e Mediterraneo to get informed about specific programs and the arrival time. They helped me a lot in that they answered my questions about programs and my presentation in project arena.

During the summer school, we took various seminars, mainly based on lectures and discussions afterward. On the first day, we took two seminars, "Bangladesh: a nation on the move by Francesco Della Puppa" and "Nigeria: political, economic structures and their effects on migration and migrant subjectivities by Irene Peano." From a lecture about Bangladesh, I could broaden my understandings about refugees from Bangladesh. The lecturer said that apart
from Syria and Afghanistan, Bangladesh sends a high number of asylum seekers due to social polarization and political instability. On Tuesday, we took seminars, "Evidence of integration into the labor market of refugees: a win-win situation?" by Alessio J.G. Brown and "Labour market integration policies for refugees in Europe" by Yvonne Giesing. Both lectures explained positive effects of labor market integration of refugees, instead of negative impacts, such as increasing employment rates and negative wage effects. In the afternoon, we had a city tour with summer school participants. During the tour and get together time, I could get to know many participants from all over Europe. Most of the participants were from Italy, and there are people from Germany, Netherlands, America, Spain and New Zealand. On Wednesday, we had two seminars in the morning, "Addressing the many faces of contemporary cross-border mobility: Policies for temporary, circular and return migration in Europe" by Bernd Parusel and "Return migrations: European and Italian legislative framework and strategies" by Giulia Falzoi. The voluntary return program, which helps asylum seekers to go back to countries of origin, when they are about to be deported, supported by International Organization for Migration(IOM) gave a new perspective about migration organization. However, I was skeptical about possible causes of the policy. When a country of origin is not safe, why they are asked to go back to a dangerous place? This policy can be reasonable from management perspectives. However, it does not pay enough attention to humanitarian points of view. In the afternoon, in the project arena, I presented my MA thesis. I explained the motivation for my topic, methodology, comparative research with Korean and German cases, qualitative data and conclusion. I was nervous, before doing a presentation, however, owing to supports from the audience, the atmosphere was relaxing, and I could finish my presentation successfully. Many people said the comparative research introduced them new perspectives. On Thursday, we had two seminars about the mental health of asylum seekers, and then we visited two reception centers where asylum seekers stay for two years in Bologna area. We visited a big center, Villa Angeli, and the small one in Bentivoglio, which consists of around 15 people. In the big center, we could not talk to asylum seekers, but we only observed people. It gave me uncomfortable feelings that I invaded their private home. In the second center, a few asylum seekers did small presentations for visitors. They showed their kitchen, living room and bed rooms. They said, they are eager to learn Italian to find a job. Having a contact with asylum seekers enlarged my understanding and empathy for forced migration. On Friday, we had a seminar, "Providing clarity or distorting the picture, media’s role in telling the migration story" by Tom Law. The concept of journalism ethics attracted my attention. I thought this is what we need, as wrong
information in media creates antagonism against foreigners. After the seminar, we shared our thoughts during the first visit. Many people mentioned that ethics of field visits, since we visited their private home. However, social workers said, some asylum seekers want to show their homes and have contacts with people from outside. From this perspective, it sounded positive. On Saturday, we visited Laimomo, which is a co-organizer of this summer school. They are a social enterprise, which aimed at making profits thinking about minorities and sustainable development. Organizers of Laimomo said, they give migrants an opportunity for traineeships in the textile company, which can be linked to the future job opportunity in Italy. We had lunch in Lama di reno in Bologna area. I said good bye to everybody and departed to Milano.

My experience in the summer school was very fruitful, in that I met many people from different countries who engage in migration. Since we had same interests, it was fun to talk with them. Also, talking with them enlarged my knowledge about asylum situations in other countries. I believe that networking with people in the same field will be very fruitful for the future. The quality of seminars was very high, and discussions afterward had the expertise, as many participants have work experience in this field. Diverse aspects, which is not only confined to one aspect, gave me new insights. Field visits in Bologna area were very impressive. Due to this experience, I am emotionally more attached to my major. I highly recommend students in migration studies to attend this summer school. Finally, I would like to say thank you to the International office at Bielefeld University, for giving me a financial support for this amazing experience.

If you have any questions please contact: sohee.shin@uni-bielefeld.de