



**NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY HIGHER SCHOOL OF
ECONOMICS**

**ACADEMIC REPORT
On Results of Completed Qualification Work (Dissertation)**

**Sociocultural Trauma and Forced Displacement of Refugees
in the Context of the Warfare in Syria (2011- 2024)**

Социокультурная травма и вынужденное переселение сирийских беженцев в
условиях боевых действий 2011-2024

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Abstract in English

This research critically examines the sociocultural trauma experienced by Syrian refugees as they navigate the multifaceted challenges of forced migration due to the ongoing conflict in Syria. With over 6.8 million Syrians displaced since 2011, it has become imperative to understand the profound effects of this mass displacement on individuals' social and cultural well-being in contemporary discourse. The study specifically investigates the experiences of forced migration and subsequent settlement of Syrian refugees in Russia and Germany, aiming to illuminate the realities faced by displaced Syrians within these contexts.

The research employs a comprehensive qualitative methodology, using purposive sampling and conducting in-depth interviews with Syrian forced migrants residing in these two countries. Data analysis involved thematic inductive analysis to identify patterns and themes within the collected data. The interviews capture detailed narratives that reflect the forced migrants' distinct experiences across various migration phases: pre-departure, initial arrival, and post-arrival. The study highlights the psychological distress, cultural and social dislocation, and identity crises as they seek safety and stability in unfamiliar environments.

The findings provide crucial insights into the manifestations of sociocultural trauma among participants, revealing frequent expressions of cultural loss and identity fragmentation. Respondents described psychological distress, including anxiety and depression, which are connected to their traumatic past experiences and the uncertainties of life in a new country. The research emphasizes the resilience of Syrian refugees, demonstrated through coping strategies like forming community networks and participating in cultural practices aimed at preserving their heritage. In Russia, historical ties potentially ease initial entry for Syrians in general, yet many confront a lack of comprehensive legal protections and social services, fostering uncertainty about their long-term prospects. Conversely, Germany provides structured integration policies facilitating access to education and healthcare, although challenges remain in achieving societal acceptance, which can impede the integration process. The choice of final destination is significantly influenced by individual circumstances, including familial connections, economic and professional opportunities, and personal safety considerations.

This study contributes to migration scholarship by exploring the trauma and integration processes unique to the Syrian refugee experience. It offers valuable insights and policy recommendations, advocating for culturally sensitive, trauma-informed approaches that address diverse refugee needs and promote social cohesion, thereby enhancing the well-being of Syrian refugees globally.

Abstract in Russian

Это критически рассматривает социокультурную травму, которую испытывают сирийские беженцы, сталкиваясь с многообразными проблемами вынужденной миграции из-за продолжающегося конфликта в Сирии. После того как с 2011 года более 6,8 миллионов сирийцев были вынуждены покинуть свои дома, стало крайне важно понять глубокие последствия этого массового перемещения для социального и культурного благополучия людей в

современном дискурсе. Исследование конкретно изучает опыт вынужденной миграции и последующего обустройства сирийских беженцев в России и Германии, с целью выявить реалии, с которыми сталкиваются перемещенные популяции в этих условиях.

В исследовании применяется комплексная качественная методология, используется целенаправленный отбор и проводятся углубленные интервью с сирийскими беженцами, проживающими в этих двух странах. Анализ данных включает тематический индуктивный анализ для выявления закономерностей и тем в собранных данных. Интервью отражают подробные нарративы, показывающие уникальный опыт беженцев на различных этапах миграции: до отъезда, при первоначальном прибытии и после прибытия. Исследование подчеркивает психологический дистресс, культурную и социальную дезориентацию, а также кризисы идентичности, с которыми сталкиваются беженцы в поисках безопасности и стабильности в незнакомых условиях. Результаты предоставляют важные инсайты в проявления социокультурной травмы среди участников, выявляя частые выражения культурной утраты и фрагментации идентичности. Многие респонденты описали психологический дистресс, включая тревожность и депрессию, связанные с их травматическим прошлым и неопределенностью жизни в новой стране. Исследование подчеркивает стойкость сирийских беженцев, продемонстрированную благодаря стратегиям преодоления, таким как формирование сетей сообщества и участие в культурных практиках, направленных на сохранение их наследия.

В России исторические связи потенциально облегчают первоначальный въезд для беженцев, однако многие сталкиваются с нехваткой комплексной правовой защиты и социальных услуг, создавая неуверенность в их долгосрочных перспективах. Наоборот, Германия предоставляет структурированные интеграционные политики, облегчающие доступ к образованию и здравоохранению, хотя остаются трудности в достижении общественного признания, что может препятствовать процессу интеграции. Выбор конечного пункта назначения значительно зависит от индивидуальных обстоятельств, включая семейные связи, экономические и профессиональные возможности, а также соображения личной безопасности.

Это исследование вносит вклад в изучение миграции, исследуя процессы травмы и интеграции, присущие опыту сирийских беженцев. Оно предлагает ценные инсайты и рекомендации по политике, отстаивая культурно чувствительные, информированные о травмах подходы, которые учитывают разнообразные потребности беженцев и способствуют социальной сплоченности, чем улучшают благополучие сирийских беженцев во всем мире.

Relevance of Research

The ongoing Syrian civil war that began in 2011 has led to significant displacement of Syrians from their homes (Reid 2023). This prolonged conflict, which began in 2011, started as initially peaceful demonstrations against the government. These protests eventually intensified into an armed struggle involving the Syrian regime and opposition groups (Karim and Islam 2017). The conflict has resulted in over 600,000 deaths and forced millions to flee due to persistent violence and instability (Center for Preventive Action 2023).

In the domain of sociology, scholars endeavor to investigate the characteristics, origins, and ramifications of migration and refugee crises from a variety of perspectives, including social, cultural, and economic dimensions. This particular study delves into the sociocultural trauma experienced by Syrian refugees as they navigate through both transit and destination locales, analyzing how such displacement affects collective identities and community dynamics.

By focusing on less-explored contexts like Russia and well-established refugee destinations such as Germany, this research underscores the varied experiences of Syrian refugees, and the adaptive measures employed by host countries. It offers insights into the ways in which different socio-political histories and legal structures shape the integration of refugees, thus contributing to the larger discourse on effective migration theories, migration policy and international collaboration.

The ultimate aim of this study is to advance the understanding of the complexities involved in forced migration, with significant implications for policymakers, social practitioners, and academic discussions. In addressing the sociocultural aspects of the Syrian refugee crisis, the research emphasizes the importance of culturally sensitive and context-specific integration strategies, which aim to build resilience and facilitate sustainable coexistence within host communities and communities of refugees as well.

Research Problem/Question

The Syrian conflict, now in its thirteenth year, continues to pose profound challenges to individuals and host countries managing the fallout from forced migration. This research seeks to understand the sociocultural trauma experienced by Syrian refugees and how differing national policies and environments, such as those of Russia and Germany, affect their integration and adaptation processes.

Primary Research Question:

How do Syrian forced migrants experience sociocultural trauma in the context of the Syrian warfare, and what are the implications for their integration into host societies, particularly in Russia and Germany?

Sub-questions:

- What are the specific sociocultural traumas experienced by Syrian refugees across different stages of migration: pre-departure, initial arrival, and settlement?
- How do the political, social, educational, and health systems in Russia and

Germany affect the integration processes of Syrian refugees?

- What coping mechanisms and strategies do Syrian refugees employ to navigate and mitigate the sociocultural challenges they face in these different national contexts?
- How do various factors influence refugees' choices between considering Russia as a transit country and Germany as a potential final destination?

Object/Subject of Research

In studying the forced migration of Syrian refugees and their subsequent experiences in Russia and Germany, it is crucial to delineate the object and subject of this research to focus on specific analytical dimensions and outcomes.

Object of Research:

The primary object of this research is Syrian forced migrants who have fled their homeland due to the ongoing conflict and violence resulting from the Syrian civil war. This population represents a significant segment of the global refugee crisis, characterized by a diverse array of backgrounds including differences in educational qualifications, economic status, and community ties. By focusing on this specific group, the study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of their experiences and challenges during the migration process in different host environments.

Subject of Research:

The object of this research is the multifaceted phenomenon of forced migration as experienced by Syrian refugees due to the ongoing conflict in Syria. The study focuses on the processes and impacts of this displacement, particularly examining how sociocultural trauma affects these individuals across different stages of their migratory journey. This includes their experiences in navigating and integrating into diverse geopolitical contexts, characterized by diverse social, political, and cultural settings. And examining both the transition challenges and the resilience they exhibit in navigating these new cultural landscapes. The study specifically focuses on understanding how sociocultural trauma manifests in these migrant communities and explores the psychological, social, and cultural factors that affect their adaptation processes.

Objectives and Goals of Research

This research is aimed at critically exploring the experiences of Syrian refugees in the contexts of forced migration and subsequent integration into host countries, specifically Russia and Germany. By employing qualitative methods to gather detailed narratives from displaced individuals, the study endeavors to achieve a comprehensive understanding of their sociocultural trauma and coping mechanisms.

Primary Objectives:

- ***Investigate Sociocultural Trauma:*** To meticulously examine the nature and manifestations of sociocultural trauma experienced by Syrian refugees due to

their forced migration. This includes analyzing how these traumas affect their mental health and overall community cohesion in both host countries.

- **Analyze Integration Processes:** To conduct a thorough analysis of the socio-political and legal frameworks of Russia and Germany, assessing how these contexts facilitate or obstruct the integration of refugees. This objective seeks to identify barriers to social acceptance, access to services, and legal recognition.
- **Examine Coping Mechanisms:** To explore the coping strategies utilized by Syrian refugees as they navigate their new environments in Russia and Germany. This involves identifying how they manage trauma, maintain cultural identity, and create new social networks to adapt to life in a foreign country.
- **Analyze Forced Migration Dynamics:** Explore the decision-making processes and impacting factors that distinguish transit countries from final destinations, focusing on geopolitical, social, and institutional influences.

Secondary Objectives:

- **Enhancing Theoretical Insights:** By integrating the findings with existing theories on sociocultural trauma and forced migration, this research aims to enhance scholarly discourse and contribute new perspectives on these critical issues.
- **Providing Evidence-based Recommendations:** Upon identifying and analyzing key challenges and coping strategies, this study will propose evidence-based recommendations for improving support mechanisms for Syrian refugees in host countries, ultimately influencing policy formulation and implementation. And advocating for culturally sensitive and trauma-informed approaches to support refugee integration programs in both transit and destination countries .
- **Broaden Understanding of Migration Journeys:** Illuminate the full spectrum of refugee experiences by detailing the three critical stages of their migration journey: pre-departure, initial arrival, and settlement challenges, and long-term resilience strategies.
- **Fostering Future Research Directions:** To chart out new avenues for future research that can build on the findings of this study, encouraging further inquiry into the long-term impacts of forced migration and sociocultural trauma on refugee communities.

Depth of Research on the Topic

The exploration of the Syrian refugee crisis, particularly through the lenses of sociocultural trauma and forced migration, necessitates a thorough examination of existing scholarship, emphasizing both theoretical frameworks and empirical findings.

Engagement with Existing Literature and Gaps:

Sociocultural Trauma:

Theories surrounding cultural trauma, notably advanced by Jeffrey C. Alexander,

Piotr Sztompka, Ron Eyerman, Neil Smelser, and Bernhard Giesen., underscore the cultural dimension of trauma that reshapes group identity and social bonds (Alexander et al. 2004; Alexander 2013). Furthermore social trauma is characterized by the disintegration of established systems, organizations, and traditional lifestyles, as well as the degradation of cultural and social rules, ethics, and social capital (Somasundaram 2014). These frameworks provide a critical lens through which to examine the cultural disruptions faced by Syrian refugees. However, specific case studies exploring cultural trauma in diverse geopolitical contexts, such as Russia and Germany, remain sparse. This study contributes to filling this gap by contextualizing the theoretical insights within the lived experiences of refugees.

Forced Migration Dynamics:

literature discusses the driving forces behind forced migration, including political, economic, and social factors, and emphasizes the resultant psychological impacts on displaced populations (Hein 1993; Zolberg, Suhrke, and Aguayo 1989). The concept of forced migration, as described by FitzGerald & Arar (2018), categorizes refugees based not only on legal definitions but also on the experiences that lead to their discontinuation of residence in their home countries (FitzGerald and Arar 2018).

However, less attention has been given to the nuanced experiences of refugees as they transition through various countries, especially in non-traditional contexts. This research aims to bridge that gap by focusing on the implications of transit versus final destination experiences, distinguishing between legal frameworks, social encounters, and varying policy environments in places like Russia and Germany.

Integration and Adaptation Processes:

The integration and adaptation processes of Syrian refugees are multifaceted and shaped by various socio-political contexts, cultural practices, and individual experiences. These processes encompass not only the legal and structural frameworks governing refugee support but also the social dynamics influencing how refugees build new lives in foreign environments.

The legal environment in both Russia and Germany significantly shapes the experiences of Syrian refugees as they work to adapt and integrate. In Germany, structured integration policies are aimed at facilitating access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, thereby promoting successful adaptation (Welfens 2022). As these policies provide language courses and cultural orientation programs, they empower refugees to engage more fully with society and contribute to the local economy. Conversely, refugees in Russia face a complex legal landscape that often fails to provide adequate support. While historical ties to Syria may facilitate initial entry, the lack of comprehensive legal protections leaves many refugees vulnerable and uncertain about their future. The bureaucratic challenges inherent in Russia's asylum system hinder access to vital social services, thus exacerbating feelings of isolation and anxiety (Kubal 2016; Malinkin 2015; Ginat 2000).

Theoretical and Methodological Foundations

The study of Syrian forced migration through the lens of sociocultural trauma necessitates a robust theoretical and methodological approach. This dissertation harnesses well-established theories and employs qualitative methodologies to deeply explore the nuanced experiences of Syrian refugees in both transit and final destination contexts.

Theoretical Foundations

Cultural Trauma Theory: The work of Jeffrey C. Alexander and his colleagues serve as a cornerstone of this research, especially his exploration of Cultural trauma which is defined as the collective experience of having endured a horrendous event that leaves indelible marks on group consciousness, permanently altering memories and future identities (Alexander et al. 2004). By applying the concept of cultural trauma, the study investigates how Syrian refugees construct and reconstruct their identities amidst the sociopolitical upheavals induced by conflict and displacement.

Social Trauma Theory: Social trauma indicates the collective psychological pain and emotional wounds that a group of individuals endure as a result of a common traumatic event or experience (Hirschberger, 2018). According to Hamburger et al. (2021), social trauma is both a ‘clinical’ and ‘sociopsychological’ category. As a clinical category, it designates a group of posttraumatic disorders brought on by planned persecution of a social group, which affects not only those who suffer but also the community in which they live. The concept of social trauma also refers to how the original concept of trauma has an impact on continued social processes in different social groups (Hamburger et al., 2021).

Forced Migration Theory: This study draws upon various theoretical frameworks and international definitions related to different asylum cases within the context of international law and government policy. For instance, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) defines forced migration as ‘a migratory movement which, although the drivers can be diverse, involves force, compulsion, or coercion.’ (Anon 2019). The term refugee is defined as individuals who are outside their country of nationality due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on factors such as race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. These individuals are either unable to return to their home country or, due to such fear, are unwilling to seek the protection of that country. Additionally, this definition also applies to those who lack nationality and are outside their former habitual residence as a result of such circumstances, rendering them unable or unwilling to return (Anon 1951). Moreover, Concerning individuals that are not recognized as refugees, legislative groups that provide additional protection for quasi-refugees, such as subsidiary protection in the EU and temporary protected status in the United States, have emerged (Goodwin-Gill and McAdam 2007). Theories of forced migration, as discussed by scholars like Stephen Castles, Stephen FitzGerald, and Rawan Arar, provide insights into the sociopolitical and economic dynamics driving mass migration, as well as the impact of international definitions and legal frameworks on refugee experiences (Castles 2003; FitzGerald and Arar 2018). This theoretical backdrop aids in understanding the multifaceted

migration journeys and settlement challenges faced by Syrian refugees in countries like Russia and Germany.

Methodological Approach

Selection of Study Area: The selection of Russia and Germany as study areas is strategically aligned with the research objectives, focusing on the distinct experiences of Syrian refugees within diverse geopolitical contexts. Russia represents a less-explored destination for traditional asylum-seeking routes. Russian courts prioritize immigration laws over humanitarian concerns for Syrian migrants, often denying asylum despite ongoing conflict in Syria (Kubal 2016; Lobanov and Kasprzyk 2018; Troitskiy 2019). Challenges faced by Syrian refugees in Russia, including confrontations with officials, cultural and language barriers, negative societal attitudes, and a lack of awareness about their plight, resulting in limited asylum prospects and discouragement from migration officials (Malinkin 2015)

Conversely, Germany is chosen for its prominent role as a major host country within Europe. Germany stood out by accepting about a million refugees, unlike other European countries that were largely silent or hostile (Shaffer and Stewart 2021). Over one-third of all asylum requests in the EU in the past decade, including those from Syrians, were made in Germany (Christ and Etzold 2022), with 96% of recent refugees intending to stay permanently (Damelang and Kosyakova 2021). Brücker et al. (2016) argue that migrants choose Germany for its respect for human rights, robust educational system, and welcoming culture (Brücker et al. 2016).

Sampling: Participants were selected using purposive sampling to ensure diverse representation in terms of age, gender, socio-economic background, and timing of migration. This approach enabled the study to capture various perspectives and experiences related to the migration journey.

Data Collection Techniques: In-depth interviews were conducted with Syrian refugees to gather comprehensive narratives about their experiences, challenges, and coping mechanisms across the three migration stages: the pre-departure phase, the initial arrival phase, and the post-arrival phase (i.e., the settlement/residence stage), as well as participants' future plans. Interviews were conducted in Arabic, recorded, and subsequently transcribed and translated into English for analysis. A research guide with open-ended questions was prepared and administered to structure the interviews, covering themes relevant to each migration stage and participants' future plans.

Data Processing and Analysis: Thematic inductive analysis, as described by Braun and Clarke (2006), was utilized to uncover patterns and themes within the collected data (Braun and Clarke 2006). Following verbatim transcription of the interviews, line-by-line coding was performed to identify meaningful units of analysis. These initial codes were organized into potential themes aligning with the research questions. Through an iterative process of revising and refining, a final set of themes emerged, providing a detailed account of participants' experiences and insights into the impacts of forced migration.

Ethical considerations: Ethical considerations played a critical role throughout the research process. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, ensuring a

clear understanding of the study's purpose, voluntary participation without financial benefit, and the confidentiality of their personal information. Participants were well-informed of their right to withdraw from the study at any point without facing any adverse consequences. Acknowledging the increased susceptibility of forced migrants to mental health disorders and psychological challenges, I prioritized obtaining explicit consent from participants to affirm that they were in a suitable mental and emotional condition to share their experiences without experiencing undue distress. During the interview process, I remained attentive to any indications of emotional discomfort, and I was prepared to pause or terminate the conversation if a participant seemed overwhelmed. The structure of the interviews was deliberately flexible, allowing participants to share their narratives at their own comfort level and pace, thereby mitigating the risk of re-traumatization.

Scientific Novelty of Research

While numerous studies delve into the experiences of Syrian refugees displaced by the Syrian conflict, there exists a significant gap in research focusing on the theoretical dimensions of sociocultural trauma within specific geopolitical contexts. This dissertation aims to address this gap by providing novel insights into the theory of sociocultural trauma, identity interactions, and the processes of trauma construction and integration among Syrian refugees. By integrating theoretical concepts with empirical data, the research offers a comprehensive and sophisticated approach that enriches academic discourse.

Furthermore, despite the extensive body of literature on Syrian refugees in conventional asylum countries, such as Germany, there is a scarcity of research examining their experiences in non-traditional asylum environments, such as Russia. This study distinguishes itself by incorporating theoretical frameworks with empirical investigations across these disparate contexts, thereby offering nuanced narratives about the experiences of Syrian refugees and the implications of their asylum journey.

The research employs a qualitative methodological approach to explore the phenomenon of sociocultural trauma throughout the three critical phases of migration: pre-departure, initial arrival, and settlement. This analytical framework elucidates the sequential processes of stigma, identity construction, integration, and assimilation into host societies, contributing a unique perspective to the understanding of refugee experiences.

Significantly, the results of this study provide valuable insights into the factors influencing refugees' decisions to designate a country as either a transit or a final destination. By examining these factors, the research offers an in-depth understanding of the complex motivations and considerations that shape migration choices, thus informing both policy development and sociological theory.

Core Research Findings and Provisions Presented for Defense Process

The findings of this dissertation offer deep insights into the experiences of Syrian forced migrants, revealing significant nuances in how sociocultural trauma and integration challenges manifest across different environments and migration stages. These insights are pivotal for both academic discourse and practical policy-making.

Chapter 1: The Sociocultural Trauma of Forced Migration and Displacement

This chapter seeks to elucidate the theories of cultural trauma and collective identity in conjunction with social trauma as they pertain to forced migration, forming the foundational basis for my research on sociocultural trauma. I commence with an examination of principal cultural trauma theories, subsequently transitioning to an analysis of the social trauma associated with forced migration, focusing on the threats to identity and the roles of both communities of origin and host communities in the construction or amelioration of the trauma process. In addition to examining forced migration theories and studies, the study explores international definitions of different refugee cases and situations. The examination extends to refugee communities and investigates the role of carrier groups in the trauma process. Consequently, I employ theories of sociocultural trauma and extend these frameworks within the context of forced migration to explore the impacts on the identities of forced migrants and the contributions of host communities and carrier groups. This theoretical inquiry aims to provide a comprehensive framework for understanding the complexities involved.

Chapter 2: Sociocultural Trauma of Syrian Forced Migration in Transit Countries.

This chapter commences with an exposition of the theoretical framework addressing the sociocultural trauma inherent in forced migration, particularly focusing on the circumstances of Syrian forced migrants in Russia, an atypical asylum destination in the contemporary landscape. The analysis delves into the social, historical, governmental, educational, and professional factors motivating this migratory movement, posited on the fundamental premise that Russia functions predominantly as a transit country. The chapter interrogates the international dynamics of forced migration alongside Russian migration policy. Following the theoretical exposition, the study advances to an empirical investigation involving qualitative interviews with ten Syrian forced migrants in Russia, who represent a spectrum of backgrounds and ages, exploring their experiences across the tripartite stages of migration. This research yields several insightful conclusions:

- **Complex Migration Drivers:** The decision to migrate to Russia is primarily influenced by factors such as relatively uncomplicated legal entry procedures, historical affiliations, and access to educational opportunities, even though Russia is not typically regarded as a primary asylum destination.
- **Cultural and Legal Barriers:** Migrants face substantial impediments, including societal inconsistencies, bureaucratic hurdles, and a paucity of organized support systems, which significantly complicate their integration process.
- **Trauma Manifestations:** The study identifies persistent sociocultural traumas that are exacerbated by family separation, tenuous legal statuses, and the challenges associated with cultural adaptation.

- **Resilience and Adaptation Strategies:** Despite these adversities, migrants display considerable resilience, utilizing cultural networks, safeguarding their heritage, and adopting strategic adaptations to manage socioeconomic instability in Russia.
- **Russia as a Transit or Destination:** The analysis reveals diverse perceptions of Russia, with some migrants viewing the country as a mere transit point, while others aspire to secure long-term residence, contingent upon overcoming social and legal challenges to enhance their living conditions and economic stability.

Chapter 3: Sociocultural Trauma of Syrian Forced Migration in Final Destination Countries.

This chapter examines the dynamics of forced migration routes, border controls, and humanitarian admissions, highlighting the political cooperation and policy shifts in Europe post-2015. Particular emphasis is placed on the refugee crisis, including the movement of Syrian refugees. The chapter focuses on the humanitarian admission programs implemented in Germany, analyzing how changes in German policy and border controls have influenced these processes.

The chapter then transitions into an empirical qualitative study involving ten Syrian forced migrants residing in various parts of Germany. It explores their experiences, and the traumatic challenges encountered during the different stages of forced migration, including their journey along the asylum route, whether through legal or illegal channels, culminating in Germany as their intended final destination. The research elucidates several key findings:

- **Impact of Sociocultural Trauma:** Migrants endure significant trauma related to cultural adaptation, societal prejudice, and the pressure to maintain cultural identities in an unfamiliar environment.
- **Successful Integration Tactics:** The acquisition of language skills, access to educational resources, and active engagement in the labor market emerge as critical components for successful integration into German society.
- **Community and Institutional Support:** Migrants benefit substantially from both informal community networks and formal governmental programs, which are designed to ease transitions and foster social cohesion.
- **Persistent Challenges:** Despite available structured support systems, migrants continue to face challenges such as xenophobia, intricate legal complexities, and socioeconomic pressures, highlighting ongoing obstacles to full integration.
- **Identity Negotiation:** Migrants continuously engage in identity negotiation, balancing their Syrian cultural heritage with their new German social context, fostering both personal growth and community enrichment.

Provisions Presented for Defense Process

The dissertation's findings and accompanying analyses present several key provisions for academic defense, highlighting the robustness and contributions of the study in both theoretical and practical contexts.

Integration of Cultural and Social Trauma Theories: The dissertation effectively

integrates theories of cultural and social trauma, offering a novel framework that extends these concepts specifically to forced migration contexts.

Empirical Insights:

Qualitative Methodology: The methodological use of qualitative interviews conducted in Russia and Germany furnishes profound, first-person insights into the migrations' multifaceted nature, enriching the narrative of Syrian forced migration and capturing the essence of migrant experiences across diverse geopolitical landscapes.

Policy Implications: Recommendations focus on streamlining legal processes and enhancing integration programs, with an emphasis on cultural exchange to improve host-migrant relations. The study suggests policies that leverage the natural resilience of refugees, promoting recovery and socio-economic participation.

Presentation of Research Results

The research findings of this dissertation have gained significant attention in the academic community and have been disseminated through various esteemed journals, contributing to the broader discourse on migration and integration.

Published Articles:

- **The Sociocultural Trauma of Forced Migration and Displacement**
 - Published in the *Russian Sociological Review* in 2022, this literature review article explores the complex dynamics, theories, and studies of sociocultural trauma and forced migration, providing foundational insights into the overarching themes addressed in this dissertation.
 - Link: [Russian Sociological Review](#)
- **Forced Migration and Integration Challenges of Syrian Refugees in Germany: A Literature Review**
 - Published in the *Journal of Social Policy Studies* in 2024, this article provides an extensive review of existing literature, reinforcing the dissertation's findings regarding forced migration processes, refugees situation, integration processes, and policy impacts in Germany.
 - Link: [Journal of Social Policy Studies](#)

Articles in Process:

- **The Sociocultural Trauma of Syrian Forced Migrants in Russia During the Syrian Warfare**
 - This article has been accepted for publication in *Transitions: Journal of Transient Migration*. It is undergoing final revisions, following comprehensive reviewer feedback. This work delves into the unique experiences of Syrian forced migrants in Russia.
- **Embracing New Horizons: The Multifaceted Journey of Syrian Forced Migrants in Germany**
 - Submitted to *Population and Economics*, this manuscript interrogates the diverse trajectories of Syrian migrants in Germany, focusing on identity reconstruction and community integration. It explores the

interplay between structured policies and personal agency in the integration process.

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