



BCE Conference 2026 – Full Programme

Belongingness, Connectedness, and Embeddedness in Migrant and Refugee Entrepreneurship

Location: Bremen, Haus der Wissenschaft, Sandstr. 4/5, 29-30 January 2026

Day 1 – 29 January 2026

11:30 – 12:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee
12:00 – 12:30	Welcome & Introduction into the Conference Theme Prof. Jörg Freiling & Dr. Alexandra David
12:30 – 13:30	Keynote: Prof. Monder Ram, Aston University, UK
13:30 – 14:00	Coffee Break & Socialising
14:00 – 15:30	Parallel Track Sessions (see list for details)
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break & Socialising
16:00 – 17:30	Parallel Track Sessions (see list for details)
19:00	Joint Conference Dinner at Schlachte 1a, Sailer “Alexander von Humboldt”

Day 2 – 30 January 2026

08:30 – 09:30	Panel Discussion “Migrant Entrepreneurship & Ecosystem Inclusion” with • Jan Rath, Professor Emeritus of Sociology in the University of Amsterdam • Beata Glinka, Professor at Jagiellonian University of Krakau, Polen • Giacomo Solano, Assistant Professor at Radboud University Nijmegen • Irene Ateneye, CEO of AiDiA – The Afro-German Startup Pitch moderated by Dr. Judith Terstriep, Westphalian University of Applied Sciences
09:30 – 09:45	Coffee to go
09:45 – 11:15	Parallel Track Sessions (see list for details)
11:15 – 11:45	Energy Break & Socialising
11:45 – 13:15	Parallel Track Sessions (see list for details)

13:15 – 13:30	Coffee to go
13:30 – 15:00	Final Track Session (see list for details)
15:00 – 15:15	Wrap up & Farewell

Parallel Sessions – Day 1

Room	Room	Room	Room
Track 1: Am I in the Right Place?	Track 2: Three decades following the collapse	Track 3: Ecosystems of Belonging	Track 5: Diversity & Intersectionality
14:00 – 15:30		16:00 – 17.30	
Chairs: Sabina Kubiciel-Lozinska, Jan Brzozowski & Jolanta Maj	Chairs: Maria Ivanova-Gongne, Maria Elo, Raushan Aman & Mukhammadyusuf Shaimardanov	Chairs: Tabish Zaman, Rani Shahwan, Deepica Sachdeva, Lynn Martin & Rasem Suwan	Chairs: Yamamura, Sakura & Lassalle, Paul
1: Kowalska, K. et al. – What's the point of this business?	1: Jan Brzozowski et al. – Entrepreneurs as Agents of Change	1: Florian Koehne – Refugees Welcome	1. Natalia Vershinina – Vulnerability and Precarity: Migrant Women's Entrepreneurial Work
2: Ghazal Zalkat & Henrik Barth – Belonging Through Enterprise	2: Raushan Aman et al. – Deskillling and labor exploitation	2: Khalil Bougambouz – Building Inclusive Startup Ecosystems	2. Geoffrey Bwireh & Aki Harima – Beyond Survival: Refugee Identity Work
3: Ahmed Trabelsi & Zakariae Benchrif – Entrepreneurship as a Catalyst of Reterritorialization	3: Ekaterina Vorobeva – Migrant Entrepreneurs and Class Hierarchies	3: Christian de Kraker – Entrepreneurial Journeys in Homemaking Processes	3. Sarah De Smet – Bridging businesses and intersectional identities
4. Florian Täube & Lakshmi Ramarajan – Longing to belong or pieces of ourselves all over the world?	4: Agnieszka Głodowska et al. – Poland's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem & Startup Intentions	4: Tamina Steppe – Negotiating Livelihood and Belonging	4: Micaela Lois & Heike Mayer – Intersectional Experiences of Inclusion and Exclusion

Parallel Sessions – Day 2

Room	Room	Room	Room	Room
Track 1 Session II: Am I in the Right Place?	Track 3 Session II: Ecosystems of Belonging	Track 4: Connected or Confined?	Track 5 Session II: Diversity & Intersectionality	Track 6: Open Track
09:45 – 11:15		11.45 – 13:15		13:30 – 15:00
Chairs: Sabina Kubiciel-Lozinska, Jan Brzozowski & Jolanta Maj	Chairs: Tabish Zaman, Rani Shahwan, Deepica Sachdeva, Lynn Martin & Rasem Suwan	Chairs: Judith Terstriep, Alexandra David & Lukas Zaghow	Chairs: Yamamura, Sakura & Lassalle, Paul	Chairs: Jörg Freiling & Judith Terstriep
5: Farzana Adeel – Conceptualising Migration Motivations and Post-Arrival Embeddedness	5: Jaanika Kingumets – Role of Institutions and Support Programs	1: Baris Ülker & Hasan Koc – Visualizing Berlin’s Migrant Economy	5: Ana, Cruz García – Silencing the Other: a decolonial approach to in migrant/refugee women entrepreneurship	1: Kaiser et al. – Belongingness as a Relational Dimension
6: Faisal Shahzad et al. – Navigating Entrepreneurial Phases Through Social Capital	6: Buket Özdemir Dal & İtir Aladağ Görentaş – Migration Policy as a Determinant of Social Positioning	2: Timilehin Olubiyi – Role of African Diasporas	6: Aleksandra Gawet & Bartosz Marcinkowski – Unequal belonging	2: Vanessa Cotterell et al. – Unlocking Potential, Fostering Resilience
7: Deepica Sachdeva – Entrepreneurial support programs in Germany: Are they effective for migrant women and their motivation.	7: Sibylle Heilbrunn & Caren Weinberg – Beyond Inclusion	3: Johan Sjölund – Entrepreneurship and migration in small island contexts	7: Daniela Bolzani et al. – Decolonizing Entrepreneurial Training	3: Lela Griebbach – Fieldwork Challenges in Women’s Entrepreneurship
	8: Rudo Femuko – Proactive Strategies of Migrant Ventures: Anticipating and Redesigning Ecosystem Constraints in Germany	4: Carina Hartmann et al. – Discursive tensions in refugee entrepreneurship ecosystem	8: Muhammad Mudassar Hussain – Barriers Faced by Refugee women entrepreneur’s well-being while creating New Ventures	4: Ralf Sängner – Local start-up ecosystems for migrant and refugee entrepreneurs

Practicalities – Your way around

Conference Venue

From Bremen Central Station to the Haus der Wissenschaft

Address: Sandstraße 4/5, 28195 Bremen

Walking (approx. 10–12 minutes):

- Exit the station through the main entrance (city side).
- Walk straight along Bahnhofplatz and continue onto Herdentorsteinweg.
- Follow the street until you reach Am Wall and turn left.
- Continue along Am Wall for about 500 meters, then turn right onto Sandstraße.
- The Haus der Wissenschaft will be on your right-hand side (Sandstraße 4/5).

By tram (approx. 5 minutes):

- From the tram stop directly in front of the station, take Tram Line 4 (direction Arsten) or Line 6 (direction Flughafen).
- Get off at the stop Domsheide.
- From there, it's a short 3-4 minute walk: head northwest along Schlüsselkorb, then turn left onto Sandstraße.

From Bremen Airport (Flughafen Bremen) to the Haus der Wissenschaft

Address: Sandstraße 4/5, 28195 Bremen

By tram (approx. 15 minutes):

- From the airport tram stop (right outside the terminal), take Tram Line 6 (direction Universität).
- Get off at Domsheide.
- Walk about 300 meters northwest along Schlüsselkorb, then turn left onto Sandstraße.
- The Haus der Wissenschaft is located at Sandstraße 4/5 on your right.

By taxi:

- A taxi ride takes about 10 minutes (depending on traffic).
- Cost: approximately €15–18.

Joint Dinner

From Bremen Market Square (Marktplatz) to the Ship “Alexander von Humboldt” (Schlachte 1a)

Walking (approx. 5–7 minutes):

- Start at Bremen Market Square (Marktplatz), in front of the Town Hall (Rathaus) and Roland statue.
- Walk west toward the Weser River along Langenstraße.
- After about 300 meters, you will reach the promenade called Schlachte.
- Turn left and walk along the riverbank.
- You'll see the green-sailed ship “Alexander von Humboldt” moored at Schlachte 1a, just opposite the restaurant and café area.

By tram:

- Tram Line 2 or 3 from Domsheide (1 stop) to Am Brill, then walk 3 minutes toward the river.