

Rethinking Naturalization & Citizenship in Times of Societal Disintegration

Workshop at the University of Konstanz/ Kulturwissenschaftliches Kolleg

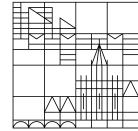
10-12 July 2019

In the context of violent conflicts around the globe, aging populations in affluent societies, and increasingly knowledge-based economies, it has become accepted wisdom – in both academic and political debates – that the arrival, settlement, and naturalization of both immigrants and refugees in Western societies are phenomena that are unlikely to disappear in the near future. At the same time, however, Western nation-states have been implementing new ways of tightening the access to citizenship, and there is mounting opposition by native populations in Europe and North America to what they see as the undermining of their social and cultural citizenship rights by alleged global elites and undeserving newcomers.

This workshop asks how, why and with what effects citizenship is granted, claimed, and lived in times of new nationalisms and societies that are increasingly divided along lines of class and culture. Citizenship is usually seen as comprising three dimensions: legal status, some form of social and political participation, and shared identity/belonging. Speakers are invited to address any of the them. Specifically, they may speak to the nature and effects of policies, as well as to the strategies, counter-representations, and negotiations of aspiring, new and born citizens “with a migration background”. Potential questions include:

- Do the new civic integration policies (at the level of immigration and/or naturalization) facilitate inclusion or exacerbate exclusion, and for whom?
- Class or culture, how are the boundaries of the nation redefined in civic integration policies and political discourse?
- Citizenization (*Einbürgerung*) or Naturalization? What is at stake in granting/obtaining membership in the nation-state and how does this vary across contexts and countries?
- Why do individuals delay or refuse naturalization? With what consequences for themselves and the country they live in?
- What is the role of legal status for daily-life experiences and expressions of citizenship?
- How do newcomers relate to integration and naturalization policies? How do they redefine citizenship?
- How do racialized migrants and (new) citizens negotiate the new “claims of culture” made by native populations?
- What are the effects of the “lightening” of (social) citizenship upon the way with think about immigrant incorporation and naturalization?

The aim of the workshop is to identify promising approaches to the study of citizenship in the context of civic integration programmes for immigrants, claims of culture by native populations, and increasing economic disparities even within affluent Western societies. In order to achieve this, the workshop wants to foster discussion, take stock of current research, debates and trends, both theoretical and methodological, as well as uncover gaps and oversights in the literature.



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Conference Programme

Wednesday, 10 July

16:00-16:30 Welcome & Introduction

16:30-18:00 Panel 1: (Re-)Conceptualizing Citizenship: Perspectives from the Margins

Chair: Claudia Diehl

- **Leah Bassel:** “Decolonising 'Deservingness': Gender and the Politics of Citizenship”
- **Eva Mey:** “Citizenship concepts of second-generation migrants and the Swiss integration policy – findings from a qualitative longitudinal study”

18:30: Conference Dinner

Thursday, 11 July

8:30-10:30 Panel 2: Questions of Social Citizenship

Chair: Mathias Bös

- **Thomas Faist:** “The Transnationalized Social Question: How Class is Shaping Conflicts around Culture”
- **Sebastian Koos:** “‘You do everything for refugees, but nothing for us’? The long summer of migration and welfare chauvinism in Germany”
- **Robin Vandevoordt (with Gert Verschraegen):** “Citizenship as a gift: how Syrian refugees in Belgium make sense of their social rights”

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 -12:15 Panel 3: The Governance of Citizenship

Chair: Eva Mey

- **Gerald Schneider & Christina Zuber:** “Sixteen ways of becoming German? Regional politics, bureaucratic discretion and naturalization rates in the German Länder”
- **Harald Bauder:** “Cities and Rescaling Citizenship, Migration, and Belonging”

12:15-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:45 Panel 4: Cultural Citizenship. Or: When Does the Cultural become Social?

Chair: Sebastian Koos

- **Mathias Bös:** “Cultural Heritage, or the unavoidable production of cultural citizenship: The Dutch, Portuguese, and Frisian minorities in northern Germany”
- **Cuneyt Gürer:** “Forced Displacement, Identity Re-Construction and Nationalities: An Examination of Refugee Perceptions”
- **Sabine Trittler (with Claudia Diehl & Elke Winter):** “Language as a boundary of belonging in Europe and North America – comparing popular support for language boundaries and integration policies over time”

15:45-16:15 Coffee Break

16:15-18:00 Panel 5: The Weight of Citizenship

Chair: Thomas Faist

- **Gianni D’Amato:** “Citizenship and the Weight of Attitudes: Reflections from a Swiss Perspective”
- **Discussion & Closing Remarks**

End of Conference: 18:00

19:30: Collective Dinner (for those interested)