

# Call for Papers

## “Inclusion and Exclusion in the Dialectic of Citizenship. A Comparative View of Germany and other European and North American Immigrant Societies”

University of Siegen, October 15-16, 2015

Globalization and increasing migration flows are rendering citizenship an ever more topical matter in academia. Over the last few years, differing concepts of citizenship have been discussed, both to illustrate the range of exclusion processes and to stimulate inclusion at various levels. Although citizenship in a nation state ought to entail, by definition, inclusion and equal rights, daily practice sees citizens time and again faced with inequalities – the end result being exclusion rather than anticipated inclusion.

Accordingly, some population groups have been, and continue to be, discriminated against based on age, sex, ethnicity, religious affiliation, socioeconomic status, etc., i.e., members of these groups cannot fully exercise the rights their citizenship affords them. Formal citizenship hence does not preclude factual discrimination, legal equality notwithstanding. Exclusion can occur both with regard to access to citizenship (i.e., exclusion of non-citizens) and with regard to the extent to which citizens can partake in society. In either case, exclusion means less societal participation, albeit to varying degrees and in varying forms, as well as limited access to rights and social benefits.

The conference's objective is to identify “gaps” and discrepancies that exist with regard to formal citizenship on the one hand and the exercise thereof on the other, in keeping with James Holston and Arjun Appadurai's pair of opposites (1999). The search for gaps can proceed, for instance, by taking into consideration the various scales of citizenship(s), including the ways in which rights are granted locally as well as in post-national constellations. It may be worthwhile to examine the matter from a macrosocial perspective, i.e., analyze the relations of market, state and civil society. Discrepancies may also become evident in the roles that institutions, the judiciary specifically, play. The search for gaps and discrepancies may be equally in order in circumstances in which formal citizenship lacks factual rights. This diagnosis would be appropriate if the focus was on *digital citizenship*, which, in addition to traditional civic, political and social rights, is likewise subject to redefinition. This may arguably be all the more true given that the means of communication increasingly cut across national borders in this digital day and age and may thereby be observed by government bodies in the long term. The search for “gaps” may also focus on the individual stakeholders who seek to confirm their national belonging through Acts of Citizenship (Isin 2008) and thus practice a more performative type of citizenship.

The conference “Citizenship in Between Inclusion and Exclusion” is concerned with inclusion and exclusion alike and takes a comparative view at Germany as well as European and North American countries of immigration. The focus is on questions such as the following:

- Which types of exclusion and discrimination can be observed with regard to how citizenship rights can be exercised in Germany vis-à-vis other European and North American countries of immigration?
- What are the implications of these types of exclusion and discrimination for participation in society as well as for the procurement of social benefits?
- Which conditions are conducive to participation and a sense of belonging?
- Which measures are being taken to offset these instances of exclusion and to what extent are these measures effective? Which approach(es) can be considered best practice?

The target audience for this Call for Papers includes junior scholars as well as practitioners who work in the sectors of politics, social work, culture, education, administration, etc. We look forward to the submission of any presentations in relation to the aforementioned topics, either on a theoretical or empirical level; contributions that are concerned with the daily practice in local state-run or charitable agencies are equally welcome. A comparative approach is an asset but not a prerequisite. Imaginable presentation formats are both lectures and posters.

Abstracts of no more than 500 words (stating the contribution's format: lecture/poster) are to be sent to Sarah J. Grünendahl (email: [sarah.gruenendahl@student.uni-siegen.de](mailto:sarah.gruenendahl@student.uni-siegen.de)) by August 30, 2015. The selection will occur promptly after the submission deadline. While the conference language will be German, submissions can also be made in English. Child care will be provided during the conference.

Further information concerning the conference program, directions, accommodation etc. will be successively added to the conference website at <http://www.uni-siegen.de/phil/staatsbuergerschaft/>.

### **Team of Organizers**

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### **Bibliography**

Holston, James/ Appadurai, Arjun (1999): Cities and Citizenship. In: Holston, James (Ed.): Cities and Citizenship. Durham NC: Duke University Press, S. 1-18.

Isin, Engin F. (2008): Theorizing Acts of Citizenship. In: Isin, Engin F./ Nielsen, Greg M. (Ed.): Acts of Citizenship. London: Zed Books. S. 15-43.