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# Social Cohesion and Open Borders: A Zero-Sum Game?

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AN ARTICLE-BASED PH.D PROJECT:
A NORMATIVE THEORY OF SOCIAL COHESION IN A CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: DEMOCRATIC INTERCULTURALITY
RESEARCH QUESTION: What are the existing normative ideals of social cohesion according to different approaches in Normative Theory; and which one is justified to generate the necessary bonds in a context of migrant-receiving, culturally diverse societies?

**1. Paper (Normative)** | 2. Paper (Normative) | 3. Paper (Contextual) | 4. Paper (Methodological)

## Introduction

- The **conventional argument (CA):** migrant residents inside of borders should be naturalized, receive equal treatment and rights as any other members of the society, whereas those who are outside should be excluded *(Walzer 1983; Carens 2013).*
- According to **CA**, an intrinsic **incompatibility** exists between social cohesion and open border policies.

## Research Question

- Can a state exclude the potential immigrants, while including the resident immigrants?
- Or do culturally diverse societies need restrictive border policies? *(Kymlicka 2016, EUI)*

## Argument

- **CA** is not plausible, if the aim is to promote equal citizenship within the state borders understood as equal treatment *(Anderson 1999).*

## Reasoning

- **Normative political philosophy:** 2 Objections:
  (1) Permenant Alienage;
  *(Oberman 2016)*
  (2) Shared national identity;
- **Mobility / Migration:** the differential allocation of mobility according to the groups (desired /undesired → e.g. World Passport Index)

## Concept

- **Social Cohesion:** A normative ideal for which residents trust the institutions' capacity to channel and resolve arising political conflicts due to cultural differences in a fair way.

*A cohesive bird migration – Erica Sodos' Blog*

**References**
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EUROPEAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM

SFM Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies