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)

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)

2. Paper (Normative)

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) Permanent 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)

3. Paper (Contextual)

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.