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The Regional Dynamics of Integration and Citizenship Regulation: An International Comparative Perspective

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What role do regions play in the regulation of immigrant integration and citizenship policy? Under what conditions do they enhance or constrain the rights of immigrants, and how does this impact on immigrant integration? How do ongoing territorial tensions in the multilevel European order affect the status and rights of autochthonous and immigrant minorities? Moving below and beyond the state, this subproject places the focus on *regions* and expands the comparative scope of the project “Unity and Diversity in Cohesion: Immigration, Citizenship and Federalism” from the Helvetic Confederation to other decentralized states in Europe, North America, and Oceania.

The research carried out within the project “Unity and Diversity in Cohesion” systematically examines and compares immigrant integration and citizenship policy in the 26 cantons of the Helvetic Confederation. This subproject enhances its international validity, relevance and visibility by broadening the comparative scope to other federal and decentralized states across the globe. It does so along two strands. On the one hand, Anita Manatschal places the focus on regional integration policy variations in relatively stable democratic countries, studying subnational policy variation within and across states in Europe, North America and Australia. On the other hand, Jean-Thomas Arrighi examines how the resurgence of territorial tensions in Europe has affected the citizenship status and rights of vulnerable populations in a broad comparative perspective spanning the continent from East to West.

Making Regional Citizens? A Global Comparison of Subnational Immigrant Integration Policies (Anita Manatschal, Verena Wisthaler, Christina Zuber)

Immigrant integration into the host society affects a range of policy areas that fall within the jurisdiction of, or are implemented by authorities at the regional or local level. In spite of striking regional policy variations, integration

policies made by subnational regions have received scarce systematic attention so far. Our project addresses this research gap and studies regional integration policies in a systematic sub- and international comparative perspective. It brings together the expertise of political scientists working on regional integration policies in federations and decentralized countries across the globe including Germany, Switzerland, Spain, UK, Italy, USA, Canada, and Australia.

Research Questions and Methodology

- Why do regions within the same state regulate immigrant integration in different ways?
- How can we explain similarities in regional integration policies across different national settings?
- Do differences in regional integration policies affect immigrant integration?

Based on the insights emerging from these regional policy analyses within and across countries, the project as a whole aims at drawing more general conclusions, by seeking answers to the following questions: Are there typical characteristics of regional integration policies, independent of the national context? Do these policies

rather reflect symbolic politics of nation states, local pragmatism of cities, or both? How do regional identities, path dependency, regional dynamics of party competition (the strength of right-wing populist parties, for example), the vertical distribution of power (federalism, for example), or the larger continental immigration context shape the nature of regional integration policies?

We foresee a mix of qualitative case studies on individual regions and quasi-experimental quantitative analyses comparing regional policies within the same state and in different countries. Our research draws on novel databases on regional integration policy. A shared concept of integration policy informs both qualitative and quantitative studies, with scholars analyzing policies aiming at immigrant and refugee integration in the political-legal, economic, social, or cultural domain.

An “Ever Looser Union”? – Citizenship and Territorial Rescaling in the Emerging European Order (Jean-Thomas Arrighi and Dejan Stjepanovic)

Over the past thirty years, the scholarship on migration and citizenship in Western Europe has developed in a context of *deepening European integration and territorially stable nation-states*. However, in the past few years a series of seemingly unrelated yet simultaneous crises have reawakened fears of a profound reconfiguration of political space on the continent. The decision of the British people to leave the European Union (in 2016) and successive independence referendums in Crimea, Scotland and Catalonia (in 2014) are but the most spectacular symptoms of ongoing processes of territorial rescaling that have in common to actually or potentially lead to the *migration of political borders over people*. In turn, the phenomenon produces new *majorities* as well as *minorities*, the latter facing a far greater risk of seeing their status and rights negatively affected as a result.

The ubiquity of territorial tensions throughout the continent signal an epochal shift – the paradigm of an “Ever Closer Union” now co-existing and perhaps being superseded by that of an “Ever Looser Union”, with some Member States seeking to “take back control” over key policy areas, if not outright independence. Likewise, the territorial integrity of established states can no longer be taken for granted, as sub-state nationalist movements increasingly advocate independent statehood, within or outside the European Union. The consequences have not been fully acknowledged, let alone comprehensively examined in an academic scholarship still largely driven by the twin assumption of a steady march towards further supranational integration and stable territorial borders.

Objectives

Against this background, the main goal of the project is to examine from a theoretical and empirical perspective how those very processes of territorial rescaling affect the citizenship status and citizenship rights of “vulnerable” populations, in a broad comparative perspective.

The focus will be placed on the usual suspects of *non-citizen residents* and *non-resident citizens* (i.e. immigrant and emigrant populations), as well as *national minorities* and *majorities* on either sides of shifting borders (i.e. autochthonous populations). Besides its innovative character, a major strength of the project lies in the breadth of the comparative scope, which transcends the deeply entrenched and yet largely artificial geographic divide in European studies between East and West. Through contributions of distinguished and more junior scholars, the project aims to advance our theoretical and empirical understanding of a fast evolving continental landscape and its implications on the (vulnerable) populations who happen to inhabit it.

Publications

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- Krasniqi, Gizem, and Dejan Stjepanovic. “Uneven Citizenship: Minorities and Migrants in the Post-Yugoslav Space.” *Ethnopolitics*, 14:2 (2015): 113–120.
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