



Public Lecture Series Fall 2015
Exclusion – Discrimination – Borders.
Dynamics of Inequalities in Migration Regimes

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Integrating Immigrants – How Does Switzerland Compare?
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Discussant: Prof. Etienne Piguet, University of Neuchatel and
nccr – on the move

18:15–19:45 h, University of Neuchatel, Rue Abraham Louis Breguet 1, Lecture Hall 301

Abstract

The issue of immigration and the integration of immigrants and their children are high on the policy agenda of EU and OECD countries, both from an economic and a social standpoint. The active participation of immigrants and their children in the market and, more generally, in public life is vital for ensuring social cohesion in the host country and the ability of migrants to function as autonomous, productive and successful, self-realized citizens. This is also critical for facilitating their acceptance by the host-country population. Immigration and the integration of immigrants are also repeatedly mentioned as one of the main issues of concern in public opinion surveys in many countries. At the same time, there are many preconceptions about the actual integration outcomes

of immigrants and their children. Against this backdrop, having reliable facts is a prerequisite for a better-informed public debate and for better-targeted policy making. The talk presents the first broad international comparison across all EU and OECD countries of the integration outcomes for immigrants and their children, comparing Switzerland with other countries. It covers all main areas of integration and includes a special focus on young people with an immigrant background, whose outcomes are often seen as the benchmark for the success or failure of integration. Indeed, with growing numbers of young people with immigrant parents in virtually all countries, it is essential to better understand their economic and social integration, including the degree to which their outcomes may be attributable to the foreign origin of their parents.

Curriculum Vitae

Thomas Liebig is Senior Migration Specialist in the International Migration Division of the OECD's Directorate for Employment, Labor and Social Affairs in Paris. Since joining the division in 2004, he has notably been in charge of the OECD work on the integration of immigrants and their children. Among other projects, he led in-depth country studies on labor market integration in 12 OECD countries as well as international comparative work on the children of immigrants, the socio-economic impact of naturalization and the fiscal impact of immigration. He has also been the project manager in charge of the joint EC-OECD indicators of immigrant integration, which were published in July 2015. Thomas Liebig holds a doctorate and an MSc in Economics from the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland). His dissertation, published in 2004, dealt with the international competition for highly-skilled migrants. He also holds an MSc in International Affairs and, following studies at the ESADE (Barcelona, Spain), a CEMS Master in International Business Management.

Selected Publications

- “Labour Market Integration of Immigrants and Their Children: Developing, Activating and Using Skills.” In: *OECD: International Migration Outlook 2014*. 35–132. Paris: OECD, 2014 (with T. Huddleston).
- *Migration as an Adjustment Mechanism in the Crisis? A Comparison of Europe and the United States*. OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers No. 155. Paris: OECD, 2014 (with J. Jauer, J. Martin and P. Puhani).
- “The Fiscal Impact of Immigration in OECD Countries.” In: *International Migration Outlook 2013* edited by OECD. 125–89. Paris: OECD, 2013 (with J. Mo).
- “Free Labour Mobility and Economic Shocks: The Experience of the Crisis.” In: *Free Movement of Workers and Labour Market Adjustment: Recent Experiences from OECD Countries and the European Union*, edited by OECD. 71–104. Paris: OECD, 2012 (with J. Chaloff, J. Jauer and P. Puhani).
- *The Labour Market Integration of Immigrants and Their Children in Switzerland*. OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers No. 128. Paris: OECD, 2012 (with S. Kohl and K. Krause).
- “Citizenship and the Socio-Economic Integration of Immigrants and Their Children - an Overview across European Union and OECD Countries.” In: *Naturalisation: A Passport for the Better Integration of Immigrants?*, edited by OECD. Paris: OECD, 2012 (with F. Von Haaren).
- “Migration Policy and Industrial Structure: The Case of Switzerland.” *International Migration* 46, no. 2 (2008): 81–107(27) (with L. Becker und A. Sousa-Poza).
- “The Influence of the Tax Burden on Migration: Evidence from Switzerland.” *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 30, no. 2 (2006): 235–52 (with A. Sousa-Poza).
- *A New Phenomenon: The International Competition for Highly-Skilled Migrants and Its Consequences for Germany*. Bern/Stuttgart/Vienna: Haupt, 2005.
- “Migration, Self-Selection and Income Inequality: An International Analysis.” *Kyklos* 57, no. 1 (2004): 125–46 (with A. Sousa-Poza).