



We Citizens – Participation of Migrant Women in Switzerland

4 December 2015, 14:00 – 16:45 h

University of Neuchâtel, Rue Abraham Louis Breguet 1, Lecture Hall 301

Film Screening “Wir Mitbürgerinnen” (We Citizens)

15:15 h, in German and French

What is a citizen? What is a Swiss citizen? What is a migrant? Who makes decisions in a democracy? And how can migrants participate in Swiss democracy without being Swiss citizens?

The right to vote is one of the most important elements of participation in politics and society. Most migrants, however, use different ways to articulate their interests and to influence political decision-making in Switzerland. This session combines different perspectives to explore alternative forms of active political participation. Academic contributions from legal and social sciences will be complemented by first-hand accounts of a group of migrant women who share their experiences of participating in Switzerland's democratic system. Based on these different perspectives on the subject, we will engage in a discussion on the importance and complexities of democratic participation.

Languages: German, French and English. Translation during the discussions is provided if necessary.

- 14:00 Introduction, Stefanie Kurt, “Participation from a Legal Perspective”
- 14:20 Input, Carolin Fischer, “Gender as a Category in Migrant Inclusion and Exclusion: Historical Snapshots from Switzerland”
Discussion
- 15:00 Coffee break
- 15:15 Film screening followed by a discussion with some of the actors (Dögg Simarsdóttir, Lora Slovak, Isabel Zubieta, Daniela Baigorri, Lamya Hennache, Theodora Leite Stampfli) and the project coordinator, Mithra Akhbari of the ‘Feminist Peace Organization (cfd)’.
- 16:45 Aperçu @ Cafeteria, Main Building, Avenue du 1er-Mars 26

For further information about the film and the ‘Feminist Peace Organization’ see:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7Z81aHzB4k> and <http://www.cfd-ch.org/e/>

This session is jointly organized by IP14_COHESION and IP16_GENDER.