



## **Public Lecture Series Spring 2017**

### **Crossing Borders – and Then?**

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**Thursday, 23 March 2017**

**Measuring Immigration Policies and their Effects**

**Prof. Marc Helbling**

**Department of Political Science, University of Bamberg**

**Discussants: Salomon Bennour, Swiss Forum for Migration and  
Population Studies (SFM), University of Neuchatel**

18:15 – 19:45 h

University of Neuchatel, Rue Abram-Louis-Breguet 1, Moyen Auditoire (Lecture Hall 301)

#### **Abstract**

Despite a growing interest in migration questions, it has not been possible for a long time to systematically analyze immigration policies across time and a large number of countries. Most studies in this field have heretofore focused on individual cases or comparisons of a small number of countries. The aim of this talk is to present the Immigration Policies in Comparison (IMPIC) dataset, which proposes a new and comprehensive way to measure immigration regulations. The data set covers all major fields and dimensions of immigration policies for thirty-three OECD countries between 1980 and 2010. For

the first time it will be possible to systematically investigate causes and effects of migration policies. Besides a presentation of how immigration policies have been conceptualized and measured, initial analyses will be presented in the talk. First, it will be shown how policies evolved across time, to what extent regulations became more restrictive or liberal, and whether or not they converged. Second, it will be shown how effective policies are, to what extent more restrictive policies lead to lower immigration rates, and how important the effect is compared to socio-economic aspects that might attract or deter migrants.

### Curriculum Vitae

Marc Helbling is full professor in Political Sociology at the University of Bamberg and a Research Fellow at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center where he has previously been head of the Emmy-Noether research group “Immigration Policies in Comparison” (IMPIC). He was a visiting lecturer or scholar, among others, at the Universities of Princeton, Harvard, Oxford, Sydney, New York, and the European University Institute. He studied political science at the University of Lausanne and holds a PhD from the University of Zurich. His research fields include immigration and citizenship policies, xenophobia/islamophobia, and right-wing populism. His work has appeared in political science journals (e.g., *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *European Journal of Political Research*) and sociology journals (e.g., *European Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*). He was an elected member of The Young Academy at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. He is the Newsletter Editor of the American Political Science Association Organized Section on Migration and Citizenship and serves on the Editorial Boards of *Social Science Research* and the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

### Selected Publications

- Conrad Ziller, and Marc Helbling (2017): “Antidiscrimination Laws, Policy Knowledge, and Political Support”, *British Journal of Political Science* (forthcoming).
- Marc Helbling, and Richard Traunmüller (2016): “How State Support of Religion Shapes Attitudes Toward Muslim Immigrants. New Evidence from a Subnational Comparison”, *Comparative Political Studies* 49(3): 391–424.
- Sarah Carol, Marc Helbling, and Ines Michalowski (2015): “A Struggle over Religious Rights? How Muslim Minorities and Natives View the Accommodation of Religious Rights in Six European Countries”, *Social Forces* 94(2): 647–671.
- Marc Helbling (2014): “Opposing Muslims and the Muslim Headscarf in Western Europe”, *European Sociological Review* 30(2): 242–257.
- Hanspeter Kriesi, Edgar Grande, Martin Dolezal, Marc Helbling, Dominic Hoeglenger, Swen Hutter and Bruno Wüest (2012): *Political Conflict in Western Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Marc Helbling (2008): *Practising Citizenship and Heterogeneous Nationhood. Naturalisations in Swiss Municipalities*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press (IMISCOE Series).