Governing Social Cohesion & Migration
Civic stratification and control through welfare benefits and ‘integration’

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This study aims to improve our understanding of how, policies and practices govern social cohesion and migration based on integration requirements.

Legal frameworks
How do they address integration vs. right to welfare benefits?
What are the differences and similarities in and between cantons?

LAW - federal level
Swiss Citizenship Act – SCA
- Total revision entered into force in 2018
- First step to ‘integration step model’
  Allocation of welfare benefits become means of migration control and civic stratification

Foreign Nationals and Integration Act – AIG
- Partial revision entered into force in 2019
- Implementing ‘integration step model’
  Welfare benefits become an explicit reason for exclusion through deportation

COURTS - cantonal & federal levels
Jurisprudence and cantonal administrative courts
- Influences, and is influenced by, practices of administration
  Civic stratification through legal system and translation/application of law

Institutional Structures
How are control mechanisms realized through institutional exchanges?
How do these affect respective practices?

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS
- Automatic data exchange about welfare benefits between offices
- Increased communication regarding assessment of integration
- Different professional ethics
- Different interests
- Communication among and between social services and migration offices to establish best practices

CANTONAL MIGRATION OFFICES
- Use of law to discipline foreign nationals
- Deportation Continuum: Bureaucratic practices of menacing and warning
- Pressure from communes to revoke permits, to reduce welfare expenditure
- Migration offices take over the role of social services by actively reducing costs of welfare benefits

COMMUNAL SOCIAL SERVICES
- Obligation to communicate foreign nationals’ reception of welfare benefits to the cantonal migration office
- Border guard proxies: Social services take over the role of migration offices, by monitoring and assessing the integration of foreign nationals
- Disciplinary measures and control mechanisms for Swiss Citizens
- Civic stratification through bureaucratic practices of social workers
- Political economy of administrative organisation

This project contributes to …
1 Debates on integration requirements and exclusionary integration policies (Goodman 2010; Korferweg 2017), by analyzing forms of civic stratification (Morris 2002).
2 Discussions on social cohesion (Midtbøen 2015; Schieler and Neel 2017) through its focus on politics of belonging (Yovel-Davis 2007)

Outputs
- Kühne, A., B. Kati and D. Rosset. (2019). “Re-searching access: What do attempts at studying migration control tell us about the state?”, Social Anthropology

The categorisation as foreign nationals/migrants allows the state to establish conditional access to instruments of the (national) welfare state.