



## **Public Lecture**

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**Thursday, 11 April 2019**

**Immigrant Naturalization in Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden: Origin, Destination and Life Course in Longitudinal Perspective (1994-2016)**

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**Prof. Pieter Bevelander, Department of Global Political Studies, Malmö University**

**Discussant: Philippe Wanner, University of Geneva**

18:15 – 19:45 h

Location: University of Neuchâtel, Avenue du 1er-Mars 26, Room B32

### **Abstract**

What are the long-term consequences of citizenship policy change on immigrant naturalization propensity? This presentation draws on a unique combination of micro-level longitudinal data from administrative registers in Denmark, the Netherlands, and Sweden – three countries with widely different and changing requirements for the acquisition of citizenship – to track the naturalization propensity of eight migrant cohorts (1994-2001) up to fifteen years after migration. The finding is that after fifteen years, three-quarters of the migrants have acquired Swedish citizenship, whereas just over half of migrants naturalized in the Netherlands and only a quarter in Denmark. The introduction of formal language requirements and integration tests in Denmark (2002, further restricted 2006) and the Netherlands (2003) pushed these rates further down, especially among migrants with lower levels of education. Dual citizenship acceptance increases naturalization rates for, especially, EU migrants in the Netherlands and Sweden, but provides a window of opportunity also for non-EU migrants in Denmark. More generally, these findings suggest that theorizing about the influence of micro-level and macro-level factors on migrants' naturalization propensity needs to be contextualized by the institutional conditions under which citizenship can be acquired.

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Pieter Bevelander is professor of International Migration and Ethnic Relations at the Department of Global Political Studies and Director of MIM, Malmö Institute of Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare, Malmö University, Sweden. His main research field is international migration and different aspects of immigrant integration as well as the reactions of natives towards immigrants and minorities. He has a doctorate in economic history and wrote his thesis (2000) on the employment integration of immigrants in Sweden in the period 1970–1995. His latest research contains the socioeconomic and political impacts of citizenship ascension of immigrants and minorities in host societies and the attitudes of the native population on immigrants and other minority groups. He is a member of the Swedish government commission on Migration DELM, a member of the Executive Board of the IMISCOE network, a board member of the Metropolis network and Head of the international advisory Board of the nccr – on the move.

### **Selected Publications**

- Careja, Romana, and Pieter Bevelander (2018). Using population registers for migration and integration research: Examples from Denmark and Sweden. *Comparative migration studies*, 6(19): 1-27.
- Luik, Marc-André, Henrik Emilsson, and Pieter Bevelander (2018). The male immigrant–native employment gap in Sweden: migrant admission categories and human capital. *Journal of Population Research*, 35(4): 363-398.
- Helgertz, Jonas, Pieter Bevelander, and Anna Tegunimataka (2014). Naturalization and earnings: A Denmark–Sweden comparison. *European Journal of Population* 30(3): 337-359.