Guest Lecture

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Tuesday, 30 April 2019

Immigration, Integration and Nation-Building: The Sources of Global Inequalities

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Prof. Adrian Favell, Chair in Sociology and Social Theory, University of Leeds, UK

10:15 – 12:00 h
Location: University of Neuchâtel, Rue Abram-Louis-Breguet 1, Room 301

This guest lecture is co-organised by the Laboratory of the Analysis of Social Processes (LAPS / MAPS) and the nccr – on the move.
Abstract
Conventional policy and academic thinking on immigration has it that multiculturalism, cosmopolitanism and post-national thinking in general has been defeated politically in Europe. There has been a return to a default position on “immigrant integration” as the best way forward for diversity in Europe. My talk will explain how and why integrationist thinking both (obviously) reproduces methodological nationalism, but also anchors a colonial order of global inequalities premised on the index value of nationality and the birthright lottery. Most often this is defended in the language of “sovereignty”, “democracy”, and the “welfare state”. Drawing on recent contributions to critical migration studies, my talk sketches the theoretical foundations for rethinking the study of migration and mobilities as the study of political demography, a subject that must necessarily lie at the core of the social sciences.

Curriculum Vitae
Adrian Favell’s work in migration and urban studies reflects an interdisciplinary background which spans sociology, political science, human geography, philosophy and literature. An advocate of highly reflexive modes of comparative research, using multiple methods of inquiry, he is the author of various works on migration, multiculturalism, cosmopolitanism and cities. Most recently, he has launched a large scale programme of research at Leeds (“Northern Exposure”) on the impact of Brexit on race, diversity and community relations in “left behind” post-industrial towns in the North of England. He has also done research on urban development and politics in Turkey and China, and on Japan as the model of the “post-growth” society, a country where he has a long standing engagement as a writer on Japanese contemporary art.

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Selected Publications