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Sanctuary Cities in Switzerland?

Three Cities, Three Local Speakers,
One Question

ETH Zurich – Monday, 28 October 2019

University of Bern – Thursday, 31 October 2019

University of Geneva – Friday, 1 November 2019

Sanctuary Cities in Switzerland?

Monday, 28 October 2019
ETH Zurich
Leonhardstrasse 21
LEE E 101

Thursday, 31 October 2019
University of Berne
UniS, Schanzenneckstrasse 1
Aula A003

Friday, 1 November 2019
University of Geneva
Boulevard du Pont-d'Arve 40
MR 070

The series “Sanctuary Cities in Switzerland?” takes place in three Swiss cities. The speakers in these events outline the developments in urban migration policies in support of irregular migrants in American, European and Swiss cities. The aim is to discuss the formulation and the effects of Sanctuary Cities and related urban migration policies and compare them with practical examples from the cities of Zurich, Berne and Geneva.

Irregular migrants tend to settle in dense urban areas because it's easier to get access to ethnic, social or cultural networks and there are more opportunities to find work or suitable accommodation. Cities also offer a certain degree of anonymity. Irregular migrants thus are a target group for urban policies. These kind of policies make headlines around the world under the term “Sanctuary Cities”. A Sanctuary City tries to promote the political integration of irregular migrants and refuses to cooperate with the national police and customs authorities in checking the residence permits of its residents. Sanctuary Cities have existed in the US since the 1980s, but during Donald Trump's presidency, the issue has received renewed attention.

Organization:

Prof. Loren Collingwood,
University of California, Riverside
Prof. David Kaufmann,
ETH Zurich
Dr. Philipp Lutz,
University of Geneva

The concept of the city as a place of refuge for irregular migrants has also been well received in Europe and Switzerland. Cities in Europe formulate a multitude of measures to support and protect irregular migrants. These cities often take a stance on immigration and integration that contradicts national migration policy. In Switzerland, mainly NGOs have been active in promoting the need for more protection and better support for irregular migrants. Recently there have been interesting urban policy developments in Switzerland. The Geneva “Opération Papyrus”, for example, regularized almost two thousand migrants who did not possess valid residence documents but were well integrated and have been living in the canton of Geneva for many years.

The presentations and the discussions are held in English and German

Program

Policies and Evidence from Sanctuary Cities

Prof. Dr. Loren Collingwood, University of California, Riverside

Urban Policies in Support of Irregular Migrants in European Cities

Prof. Dr. David Kaufmann, ETH Zurich

Insights on the Situation and Policies in Swiss Cities

In Zürich with Bea Schwager, head of the Sans-Papiers counselling center SPAZ in Zurich and board member of the “Züri City Card” Association

In Bern with Dr. Payal Parekh, member of the civil society movement “Wir alle sind Bern”, which is a network that advocates for an “urban citizenship”

In Geneva with Marianne Halle, communications and public relations officer of the “Centre de Contact Suisse-Immigrés” that is involved in the project “Opération Papyrus” in Geneva

Followed by an open discussion moderated by Dr. Philipp Lutz, University of Geneva