



Public Lecture

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Thursday, 12 December 2019

**How Globalization Has Led to Immigration Restrictions But More
Freedom to Emigrate**

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Prof. Margaret E. Peters, University of California Los Angeles

Discussant: Dr. Philipp Lutz, University of Geneva

18:15 – 19:45 h

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

Abstract

Since the end of World War II, many countries have taken down their barriers to the movements of goods and capital, leading to global supply chains and unprecedented amounts of trade and capital flows. Yet, globalization has had divergent effects on the integration of labor markets. In wealthy nations, globalization has led to increased restrictions on immigration, as business support for immigration has declined. Trade increases with globalization have led to the closure of businesses that rely on low-skill labor. The ability of capital to move has allowed firms to take their capital to labor instead of bringing labor to capital. Together, these changes have led to less business support for immigration, allowing politicians to move to the right on immigration and pass restrictions to appease anti-immigration forces.

However, in developing nations, globalization has led to fewer barriers on emigration, as states try to capitalize on the links that migrants make between economies, increasing capital flows through remittances and FDI and opportunities for trade. These benefits of migration now outweigh the costs of emigration—such as the loss of manpower and transmission of democratic norms—leading most autocracies to at least partially open their borders. Nonetheless, the combination of increased restrictions in wealthy nations and increased openness in developing states leads to undocumented immigration and greater precarity for the migrants themselves.

Curriculum Vitae

Margaret Peters is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at UCLA. Her research focuses broadly on international political economy with a special focus on the politics of migration. Her book, *Trading Barriers: Immigration and the Remaking of Globalization* (2017, Princeton University Press) examines the relationship between trade policy, outsourcing, and immigration policy and received the Lowi award for the best first book from APSA and IPSA, and the Best Book Award from the IPE and Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Migration Sections of the International Studies Associations and the Migration and Citizenship section of APSA.

Selected Publications

- Peters, Margaret E., and Michael K. Miller (2019, forthcoming). Emigration and Political Contestation. *Working paper*.
- Miller, Michael K. and Margaret E. Peters (2018). Restraining the huddled masses: Migration policy and autocratic survival. *British Journal of Political Science*, 1-31.
- Peters, Margaret E. (2017). *Trading barriers: immigration and the remaking of globalization*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Peters, Margaret E. (2015). Open trade, closed borders immigration in the era of globalization. *World Politics* 67/1, 114-154.
- Peters, Margaret E. (2014). Trade, foreign direct investment, and immigration policy making in the United States, *International Organization* 68/4, 811-844.