



Migration History Seminar

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Wednesday, 2 June 2021

Nationalism and Internationalism in Early ILO Norms on Migrant Social Insurance

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Madeleine Dungy, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

**Discussants: Yasmina Zian, Gianni D'Amato and Alexis Lubow,
University of Neuchâtel**

17:30 – 19:00 h

This seminar will be held online on WEBEX: <https://unine.webex.com/meet/robin.stunzi>,
and live-streamed on the nccr – on the move YouTube channel

The Migration History Series is co-organized by the History Department of the University of Neuchâtel and the nccr – on the move.

Abstract

This lecture will trace the formulation of ILO norms governing migrants' access to social insurance in order to highlight the peculiar combination of nationalism and internationalism that shaped policy in this area. In the 1930s, the ILO devised an elaborate scheme in order to provide migrants with a modicum of trans-border social protection without internationalizing their pension rights. As migrants moved from country to country, their pension rights would remain lodged in successive national insurance institutions. Those national institutions would then have to work together to add up their fractional liabilities in order to pay out final benefits. This arrangement simultaneously affirmed national governments' authority over welfare provision on their soil while requiring intensive administrative cooperation between them, with support from a multilateral bureaucracy. This complex formula was later taken over by the EC/EU, where it has continued to provoke debate about the proper balance between national and multilateral normative order.

About the Speaker

Madeleine Dungy is a lecturer and scientific collaborator in the College of Humanities at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. She holds a PhD in History from Harvard University (2017). Her research focuses on the history of international governance in the areas of trade and migration.

Selected Publications

- Madeleine Dungy (2017). The Global Agricultural Crisis and British Diplomacy in the League of Nations in 1931. In: International Organisations, Transnational Networks, and Agriculture, 1905–1945, Niccolò Mignemi and Juan Pan-Montojo (eds.), *Agricultural History Review* 65(2), 297–319.
- Patricia Clavin and Madeleine Dungy (2020). Trade, Law, and the Global Order of 1919, *Diplomatic History* 44(4), 554–579.
- Madeleine Dungy (2021). International Commerce in the Wake of Empire: Central European Economic Integration between National and Imperial Sovereignty. In: *Remaking Central Europe: The League of Nations and the Former Habsburg Lands*, Peter Becker and Natasha Wheatley (eds.) Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Madeleine Dungy (2021). Writing Multilateral Trade Rules in the League of Nations, *Contemporary European History* 30(1), 60–75.

About the Series

The Migration History Series is co-organized by the History Department of the University of Neuchâtel and the nccr – on the move. For any further information regarding the series, please send an email to jean-thomas.arrighi@unine.ch.