



## **Academic Conversation**

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**Thursday, 9 December 2021**

**Too Soft, or Too Tough? The Truth About Migration Policies in Europe**

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**Hein de Haas, University of Amsterdam**

**Anita Manatschal, University of Neuchâtel**

**Moderation: Jean-Thomas Arrighi, University of Neuchâtel**

18:15 – 19:45 h

Location: Av. Abram-Louis Breguet 2, Room 2.310. The Public Lecture will also be held online on Webex and on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeD56TwtCAA>

Webex link: <https://unine.webex.com/unine-fr/j.php?MTID=m59295e2fa0acdb7fb4dcb8dc980b8193>  
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## **Abstract**

Much of the public debate rests upon the assumption that migration policies in Europe have undergone a restrictive turn. Recent empirical studies challenge this assumption on various fronts. At the national level, research that systematically evaluates the long-term evolution of immigration policies steering immigrant inflows across a large number of countries provides a more nuanced picture (de Haas et al. 2016; Helbling et al. 2017). In fact, the evolution of immigration policies is not so much characterized by its growing restriction, but its increasing focus on migrant selection. Meanwhile, research on immigrant integration policies reveals that subnational regions increasingly set their own distinctive policy priorities. Studies on the substance and drivers of this impressive regional integration policy-making activity over the last decades defy claims of increasing policy restriction and confirm regions' intermediary position between pragmatic local social inclusion and symbolic national narratives of identity and belonging (Manatschal et al. 2020; Zuber 2020). Against this background, the academic conversation will present the empirical facts and address questions such as: Have migration policies become more restrictive or more liberal? Which differences do we see between countries, periods, types of policies, levels of government, and categories of migrants? To what extent policies in this field have become similar to one another over time?

## **About the Speakers**

Hein de Haas is a sociologist and geographer who has taught and worked in the Netherlands, Morocco and the United Kingdom. He is currently Professor of Sociology at the University of Amsterdam (UvA). Between 2006 and 2015, he was a founding member and co-director of the International Migration Institute (IMI) at the University of Oxford. From 2017, he has been directing IMI from its current home at UvA. He is also Professor of Migration and Development at the University of Maastricht. In his work, De Haas has advanced a long-term view of migration as an integral part of global change, development and social transformation. De Haas is lead author of *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World*, a text book in the field of migration studies. He also maintains a blog on migration-related topics. His research focuses on long-term trends, causes and impacts of international migration in origin and destination societies. De Haas did extensive fieldwork in the Middle East and Africa and, particularly, in Morocco. His publications cover a wide range of issues including migration theory, migration and development, migration policy, rural-urban transformations and the political ecology of climate change, environmental change and migration.

For more information and a publication list, see: <https://heindehaas.org/>

Anita Manatschal is Assistant Professor in Migration Policy Analysis at the Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies (SFM) at the University of Neuchâtel, where she also serves as deputy director (since 2019). Before joining the SFM, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Berkeley, researcher and lecturer at Bern University, and visiting scholar at the European University Institute in Florence. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science, General Linguistics, and Islamic Studies from the University of Zurich (2007), and a PhD in Political Science from the University of Bern (2012). Located at the intersection of political sociology and comparative politics, her research interests include comparative migration policy research, immigrant civic and political engagement, and societal norms of inclusion and exclusion. Her research on the political drivers and outcomes of subnational integration policies in Europe and North America was published as a collaborative special issue in *Regional Studies* (2020). Further recent publications appeared in the *Journal of European Public Policy*, *Political Psychology*, *European Union Politics*, or *Comparative Migration Studies*, and in various edited volumes and monographs.

For more information and a publication list, see: <https://www.anitamanatschal.com/>

### **Selected Publications Hein de Haas**

- de Haas, Hein (2021). A theory of migration: the aspirations-capabilities framework, *Comparative Migration Studies* 9(1), 1–35.
- Castles, Stephen, Hein de Haas and Mark J Miller (2020). *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World*, (fully revised) 6th edition. Red Globe Press.
- de Haas, Hein, Mathias Czaika, Marie-Laurence Flahaux, Edo Mahendra, Katharina Natter, Simona Vezzoli and María Villares-Varela (2019). International Migration: Trends, Determinants, and Policy Effects, *Population and Development Review* 45(4), 885–922.
- de Haas, Hein, Katharina Natter and Simona Vezzoli. (2018). Growing Restrictiveness or Changing Selection? The Nature and Evolution of Migration Policies, *International Migration Review* 52(2), 324–367.
- Flahaux, Marie-Laurence and Hein de Haas (2015). African Migrations: Trends, Patterns, Drivers, *Comparative Migration Studies* 4(1), 1-25.
- de Haas, Hein (2010). The Internal Dynamics of Migration Processes: A Theoretical Enquiry, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 36(10), 1587–617.
- de Haas, Hein (2010). Migration and Development: A Theoretical Perspective, *International Migration Review* 44(1), 1–38.

### **Selected Publications Anita Manatschal**

- Filindra, Alexandra and Anita Manatschal (2020). Coping with a Changing Integration Policy Context: American State Policies and their Effects on Immigrant Political Engagement, *Regional Studies* 54(11), 1546–1557.
- Gundelach, Birte and Anita Manatschal (2017). Ethnic Diversity, Social Trust and the Moderating Role of Subnational Integration Policy, *Political Studies* 65(2), 413–431.
- Kende, Judit, Oriane Sarrasin, Anita Manatschal, Karen Phalet and Eva G. T. Green (in press). Policies and Prejudice: Integration Policies Moderate the Link Between Immigrant Presence and Anti-Immigrant prejudice, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.
- Manatschal, Anita and Julian Bernauer (2016). Consenting to Exclude? Empirical Patterns of Democracy and Immigrant Integration Policy. *West European Politics* 39(2), 183–204.
- Manatschal, Anita, Verena Wisthaler and Christina Zuber (2020). Making regional citizens? The political drivers and effects of subnational immigrant integration policies in Europe and North America, *Regional Studies* 54(11), 1475–1485.
- Manatschal, Anita (2015). Switzerland – Really Europe's Heart of Darkness?, *Swiss Political Science Review* 21(1), 23–35.