



## **Migration History Talk**

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**Wednesday, 18 May 2022**

**Culturalization of Migration: Exclusionary Politics of Precarity  
in an Entangled World**

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**Prof. Shalini Randeria, Central European University**

17:30 – 19:00 h

This talk will be held online on WEBEX (<https://unine.webex.com/meet/robin.stunzi>) and will be live-streamed on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrO6vbL75Hw>).

The Migration History Talks are co-organized by the History Department of the University of Neuchâtel and the nccr – on the move. For any further information regarding our talks, please send an email to [jean-thomas.arrighi@unine.ch](mailto:jean-thomas.arrighi@unine.ch).

### **Abstract**

By placing the question of ‘undesirability’ at the center of so-called liberal border politics, Shalini Randeria highlights the dynamics of deeply entrenched post-colonial asymmetries of power and privilege that manifest themselves in classifying some people as being unacceptably out of place. The migrant is thus marked not by virtue of her mobility but by a position of political and legal precarity, rightlessness and exclusion. Moreover, the current European framing of migration as a problem of radical cultural alterity mistakenly assumes the territorial boundedness of mutually exclusive and incompatible cultures in putatively homogeneous societies as the natural order of things. The liberal European citizen is pitted in such an understanding as in opposition to an illiberal non-European migrant, whose very presence poses a threat to European “host” societies and cultures. Liberal values thus function as a new register of Othering that redirects our attention to exclusionary practices in strengthening the citizen/migrant divide.

### **About the Speaker**

Shalini Randeria is President and Rector of the Central European University. An American-born Indian social anthropologist/sociologist, Shalini Randeria has had a distinguished academic career at institutions of higher education across Europe. She was Rector of the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) in Vienna and Professor of Social Anthropology and Sociology at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) in Geneva, where she was also Director of the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy. She holds the Excellence Chair at the University of Bremen, where she leads a research group on “soft authoritarianisms”.

### **Selected Publications**

- Wolfgang Kaschuba & Shalini Randeria (2019). *Grenzenlose (Un-)Ordnungen, Mobilität und Grenzen im Wandel? [Boundless (Dis)Order – Mobility and Borders in Transition]*. Berliner Korrespondenzen. Berlin: Nicolai Publishing.
- Ravi Palat & Shalini Randeria (2017). Migration and Borders of Citizenship. Special issue, *Refugee Watch. A South Asian Journal on Forced Migration* 49, June 2017.
- Shalini Randeria (Ed.) (2016). *Border Crossings. Grenzverschiebungen und Grenzüberschreitungen in einer globalisierten Welt*. Zürich: Hochschulverlag.
- Veena Das & Shalini Randeria (2015). Politics of the Urban Poor, *Special issue, Current Anthropology* 56(S11), October 2015.
- Gianni D’Amato, Francesco Panese, Didier Ruedin, Shalini Randeria & Ola Söderström, eds. (2013). *Critical Mobilities*. London: Routledge.
- Jonathan Friedman & Shalini Randeria (Eds.) (2004). *Worlds on the Move: Globalisation, Migration and Cultural Security*. Toda Institute book series on Global Peace and Policy Research 6. London: I.B. Tauris.