



## Public Lecture

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**Tuesday, 24 May 2022**

**Social Reproduction Gone Wrong? The Citizenship Revocation  
and Rehabilitation of Young European Women Who Joined ISIS**

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**Anna Korteweg, University of Toronto**

**Discussant: Matteo Gianni, University of Geneva**

18:45 – 20:15 h

This talk will be held in person at the University of Neuchâtel, Avenue du 1er-Mars 26, Room C49 and online on WEBEX (<https://unine.webex.com/meet/robin.stunzi>) as well as live-streamed on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnpG8X62PB0>).

### **Abstract**

Some European women who joined the Islamic State during the 2010s have had their citizenship revoked, which leaves them in a liminal state in camps at the Syrian border. Others are able to return home, where they face prosecution and potential pathways to “rehabilitation”. This paper turns to media discussions of Shamima Begum, a British national, whose citizenship was revoked, and Laura Hansen, a Dutch national, who was rehabilitated. Centering the concept of social reproduction, and disaggregating it into symbolic, material, and affective components, the paper shows how each plays a critical role in public responses to women’s rights claims. Media discourses create a gendered, racialized, and class-based conceptualization of citizenship unattainable to those whose social reproductive labor as mothers and wives, as well as their own social reproduction as daughters, is deemed a threat to the nation-state. Seeing the revocation-rehabilitation continuum through the lens of social reproduction clarifies how citizenship revocation can potentially be understood as a contemporary articulation of a form of eugenics in European migration societies.

### **About the Speaker**

Anna Korteweg is Professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto Mississauga. Her research focuses on the ways in which the perceived problems of immigrant integration are constructed in the intersections of gender, religion, ethnicity and national origin. From this critical vantage point, she has published extensively on debates surrounding the wearing of the headscarf, so-called “honour-based” violence, and Sharia law. Her current projects look at the return of women who joined IS to their European home countries, the construction of LGBTQ+/gender rights in refugee politics, and the citizenship implications of refugee sponsorship in Canada. Her research has been funded by multiple SSHRC grants and funding from the DAAD and CERIS.

### **Selected Publications**

- Yurdakul, Gökçe & Anna Korteweg (2021). Boundary Regimes and the Gendered Racialized Production of Muslim Masculinities: Cases from Canada and Germany, *Journal of Immigration and Refugee Studies*, 19(1) 39–54.
- Korteweg, Anna & Gökçe Yurdakul (2020). Liberal Feminism and Postcolonial Difference: Headscarf Debates in France, the Netherlands and Germany, *Social Compass* (published online December 10).
- Abji, Salina, Anna Korteweg & Lawrence Williams (2019). Culture Talk and the Politics of the New Right: Navigating Gendered Racism in Attempts to Address Violence against Women in Immigrant Communities, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 44(3), (Spring), 797–822.
- Korteweg, Anna C (2017). The Failures of ‘Immigrant Integration:’ The Gendered Racialized Production of Non-Belonging, *Migration Studies* 5(3), (November 2017), 428–444.
- Korteweg, Anna C. & Gökçe Yurdakul (2014). *The Headscarf Debates: Conflicts of National Belonging*. Stanford University Press.