Public Lecture Series

Thursday, 11 May 2023
The Three Moments of Citizenship: Reflections

Yasemin Nuhoglu Soysal, Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)

Discussant: Jean-Thomas Arrighi, University of Neuchâtel, nccr – on the move

18:00 – 19:30 h
This talk will be held in person at the University of Neuchâtel, 1er Mars 26, room C46, on WEBEX (link), as well as live-streamed on the nccr – on the move YouTube channel (link).
Abstract
In this talk I review the turning moments in the career of citizenship in the postwar era that came
to define its contemporary legacy: its national embeddedness, universality, and increasingly agentic
demands. Although roughly corresponding to distinct periods, these moments have had continuity in
interaction with nation-state-building and decolonization, international human rights movement, and
neoliberal cultural transformations. The current condition of citizenship reflects the imprint of all three
moments. I further reflect on whether the concept of citizenship has reached the limits of its capacity
to address the questions of belonging, equality, and recognition, which are commonly associated with
it.

Short Biography
Yasemin Soysal is research professor for Global Sociology at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center
and Professor of Sociology at the Free University of Berlin. In her research, she brings global and
sociological-institutional perspectives into the investigation of historical developments and current
reconfigurations of nation-states, citizenship, and human rights. Her current projects focus on the
challenges to the liberal world order and its cultural script, with empirical studies in science denialism
and meritocracy and diversity.

Selected Publications
  of Chicago Press.
– Soysal, Y. N. (2002). Changing citizenship in Europe : Remarks on postnational membership and the
  Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology, 383-393.
– Soysal, Y. N. (2020). Citizenship’s double-edged sword : Locating liberalism and illiberalism in
  British Journal of Sociology, 72(2), 174-180.