



Public Lecture Series

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Thursday, 11 May 2023

The Three Moments of Citizenship: Reflections

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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

- Soysal, Y. N. (1994). Limits of citizenship : Migrants and postnational membership in Europe. University of Chicago Press.
- Soysal, Y. N. (2002). Changing citizenship in Europe : Remarks on postnational membership and the national state. In Citizenship, nationality and migration in Europe (p. 27-39). Routledge.
- Soysal, Y. N. (2012). Post-national Citizenship : Rights and Obligations of Individuality. The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology, 383-393.
- Soysal, Y. N. (2020). Citizenship's double-edged sword : Locating liberalism and illiberalism in citizenship. International Journal of Constitutional Law, 18(4), 1519-1522.
- Soysal, Y. N. (2021). Institutional underpinnings, global reach, and the future of ordinal citizenship. The British Journal of Sociology, 72(2), 174-180.