



Public Lecture Series

Thursday 30 October 2025

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The Precariat: How Migration is Shaping the Dangerous Class

Guy Standing, SOAS University of London

Discussant: Eric Crettaz, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, nccr – on the move

18:00 – 19:30 CET

This talk will be held at the University of Neuchâtel, Av. du Premier-Mars 26, Room D63 and on [Webex](#).

Abstract

The global economy has become a system of *rentier capitalism*, in which more and more of the income, wealth and power is flowing to the owners of property, financial, physical and 'intellectual'. Correspondingly, less is going to those who rely on labour and work for their income. In that context, a new global class structure has taken shape, in which the mass 'working class' is the precariat.

In all parts of the world, the precariat is being shaped by an upsurge in numerous forms of migration, including labour circulation, ecological movements, diverse forms of refugees and new forms of nomadic activity. Migrants constitute a large part of the precariat in all types of economy, and are integral to a relatively new phenomenon, the growth of various shades of *denizen*, those losing or not gaining rights of citizenship.

This presentation will define the concepts underlying this narrative and the social, economic and political implications of the growth of the precariat.

Bio

Guy Standing is Professorial Research Associate, SOAS University of London. He has been a Professor at SOAS and at the Universities of Bath and Monash. Before that, he was Director of Socio-Economic Security in the International Labour Organization, and has been a consultant for many UN bodies. He is a founder and now co-president of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), an international NGO promoting basic income as a right, and has designed and conducted several basic income pilots.

His books include, *The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class* (fourth edition 2021), *Plunder of the Commons: A Manifesto for Sharing Public Wealth* (2019), *The Corruption of Capitalism: Why Rentiers Thrive and Work Does Not Pay* (third edition 2021), *The Blue Commons: Rescuing the Economy of the Sea* (2022) and *The Politics of Time: Gaining Control in the Age of Uncertainty* (2023). *The Precariat* has been translated into 25 languages. The book intended to complete the cycle on the commons, *Human Capital: The Tragedy of the Education Commons*, is due to be published at the end of this year.