

GRITIM-UPF Research in Progress Session

December 9, 2013

17.00-18.30

Room 40S03

First presentation:

A citizenship-framework for analysing local integration policies

Dirk Gebhardt

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Abstract

This paper is work-in-progress to develop a framework for analysing the role of cities in immigrant integration. Finding that integration policies are a hard to grasp (transversal) policy field and that existing concepts for comparisons are too biased towards the state and/or culture, I attempt to draw on the concept of citizenship. I suggest to adapt the classical conception of state-centred liberal citizenship to encompass the wider set of status differences and rights that are relevant for immigrants in particular and the specific role politics above and in particular below the state can play in the inclusion and exclusion of immigrants.

Second presentation:

Migration, identity change, and justice – is there a right to identity and belonging for settled immigrants?

Darian Heim

PhD candidate in the Department of Law and GRITIM member

Abstract

At least since Joseph M. Carens' (1987) plea for open borders has immigration become an issue for contemporary theories of justice. However, most political philosophers have only dealt with the justifiability of either national borders or the political and legal status of immigrants in comparison to natural born citizens. In the present project, I aim at complementing such accounts which address the criterion of national self-determination. I will do so by focusing on the long-term impact of migration on the culture, identity, and especially language of permanently settled – and potentially

naturalised – immigrants. It is explored to what extent immigrants, as a group, have a right to “belonging” and cultural self-determination in order to withstand pressure for acculturation. The analysis is based on three inter-related observations and premises inspired by an interdisciplinary political science, sociology and psychology approach. First, a (host) polity is based on a communitarian social contract which instantiates the principle of political self-determination of its members. The exclusivity of the membership implied by the contract exerts an illegitimate pressure for the adaptation and acculturation of non-members. Second, immigrants experience an unavoidable cost in reacting to this pressure – they typically either isolate (“separation”) or abandon (“assimilation”) their original identity. Third, migration is not fully voluntary because it is significantly determined by the push-factor of economic hardship.