

One-day Symposium

'The Zero-sum game of economic migration: Integration through Rights?'

Date: 12th September 2022 (Monday)

Venue: John Henry Brookes building, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford OX3 0BP

Organisers: Oxford Brookes University - Fundamental Rights, Equality and Diversity (FRED)
Research Group -School of Law- and Migration & Refugees Network



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Call for Papers

Confirmed Speakers: Teresa Albano, OSCE Economic Affairs Officer and Suzanne Hoff, La Strada International, ILO to be confirmed

We are delighted to invite you to the 'Zero-sum game of economic migration: Integration through Rights?' Symposium, organized in the era of increasingly restrictive border regimes as responses to 'global crises'

Background

Migrant workers admitted for employment can often be exempt from broader social 'integration' obligations and support as economic integration is seen as the dominant objective. Yet resilient societies are based on participative inclusion which includes integration into a wide range of societal areas, the achievement and maintenance of which has become increasingly complex due to mobility across national borders. Yet, migration scholars are still debating on an agreed definition of 'integration' (Castles et al., 2002). At the European level, integration has been defined as 'a two-way process based on mutual rights and corresponding obligations of legally resident third country nationals and the host society, which provides for full participation of the immigrant' (EC COM (2003) 336 final, 17). It has been conceived as a 'balance of rights and obligations' (Morano-Foadi & Malena, 2012, 45). Distinct national paradigms or models of integration are present in migration studies (Thränhardt & Bommers 2010) to the point that they are described as "methodological nationalism" (Wimmer & Glick Schiller, 2002, 301). Scholars argue that nation-based approaches to integration 'reduce complexity and [...] introduce a historical-institutionalist bias in explaining and inadvertently reifying national differences' and arguably restrict 'the urge of migration scholars to look for more generalizable theoretical accounts of differences as well as [identifying] similarities between countries' (Scholten & Pennink, 2016, 92). This model of integration has been increasingly criticised in relation to economic migration. This aspect underlines the zero-sum game of economic migration - receiving societies benefit from economic migrants, while migrants themselves stand to gain nothing in terms of integration. It can apply to both low-skilled and highly-skilled migrant workers alike, especially affecting agricultural, construction, domestic workers and also intra-corporate transferees who only have a temporary status.

The 'Zero-sum game of economic migration: Integration through Rights?' symposium aims to explore the wide-ranging micro and macro structures that feed into perceived tensions between mobility, social and labour rights and legal guarantees of full integration.

We invite perspectives from established and early career scholars in the disciplines of law, sociology, politics, geography, anthropology, organization, work and employment to reflect on these issues of economic migration and integration. We strongly welcome practitioners and representatives of business, civil society organizations and third sector associations to join and contribute to the discussions. The symposium welcomes a combination of empirical, theoretical and more practice-based papers in order to facilitate an exploration of macro and micro level issues. It aims at exploring the following areas, focusing on the issue of economic migration and integration:

1. Migrant strategies - including the role of migrant /migrant agency in offering solutions to overcoming barriers to 'integration'
2. Policy interventions – the success and failures of application of policy and laws
3. Role of state and non-state actors in facilitating or preventing integration
4. Low-skilled and highly skilled migration – and the relationship between social class/socio-economic status and migration status and integration policies
5. The impact of restrictive economic immigration policies upon increased labour exploitation; undocumented migrants and victims of trafficking
6. Comparative perspectives on migration policies across different EU national contexts

In discussing these areas we aim to collectively develop insight into how prioritizing a 'rights guarantees' approach may offer a medium through which institutional change can be achieved; consider ways in which integration processes can be facilitated and/or limited for different groups (including low-skilled and highly skilled) according to the various rights accorded to them; explore how social class/socio-economic status distinctions which are exacerbated by migration status and integration policies and practices (de Lange et al., 2021).

Papers are encouraged to reflect upon either: 1) processes of participative inclusion which draw attention to the connections between micro and macro-level processes to reveal the ways in which organizations and migrants already possess solutions to the barriers to integration through their everyday practices and expressions of agency, or; 2) Suggest how practices can be adopted as part of the policy solutions to facilitate integration and harness the valuable contributions being made by migrants who currently fall outside of social, economic incorporation and inclusion and yet contribute to economies through their labour.

All participants are welcome to join us for a special tour at the Ashmolean Museum, which is the University of Oxford's museum of art and archaeology, founded in 1683. Its world-famous collections tell human stories across cultures and across time. After the visit, a pre-conference dinner will follow (details below).

How to apply: Applicants are invited to submit an abstract of no more than 250 words and a short biography of no more than 250 words (in English). Abstracts should be sent to the attention of Professor Sonia Morano-Foadi and Dr Tamsin Barber at: IntegrationAndMigration@gmail.com The symposium is free of charge, but we need attendees and presenters to register by sending an email to the same email address with the word 'registration' in the subject and please also identify which of the six areas you are interested in.

Pre-conference dinner and Ashmolean Museum visit: If you wish to join us for the visit to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and the pre-conference dinner a small fee of £20 for PhD students or £30 for salaried participants.

Registration timeline:

Abstract submission deadline: 30th June 2022

Notification of accepted papers: 15th July 2022

Details about accommodation and travel will be released in due course.

A selection of papers will be published in the special issue 'The Zero-sum game of economic migration: Integration through Rights?' by the **Journal of Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Law**; <https://www.bloomsburyprofessional.com/uk/journals-looseleaves/journals/journal-of-immigration-asylum-nationality-law/>