



Vereniging voor

Wijsbegeerte van het Recht

The Netherlands Association

for Philosophy of Law

VWR annual winter meeting – call for papers

University of Amsterdam

Amsterdam, 7 February 2020

Exploring immigrant and refugee inclusion beyond citizenship

For scholars across the disciplines migration is a fundamental problem worthy of academic reflection. The VWR Annual Winter Meeting aims to bring together philosophical and critical approaches to the legal, political, social and moral challenges that arise from migration. The meeting seeks to contribute to a better understanding of the (mis)conceptions of law, democracy, citizenship, justice and equality that emerges from legislation, political discourse and institutional practices on inclusion and exclusion. Specifically, the meeting encourages explorations of different theories on migrant inclusion and integration that do not rely on (full) legal membership and equality.

The meeting foregrounds two areas of research:

First, with respect to refugee protection two opposing trajectories of law and policies can be noted. On the one hand, European and other Western States increasingly outsource their responsibilities to partner states in the region of origin or transit. The aim is to control the movement of asylum seekers upstream and/or to keep refugees safe in their region of origin or transit. On the other hand, we can witness an increasing involvement of cities and urban actors in the reception of asylum seekers, refugees and undocumented immigrants. Regional protection on the one hand and cities of refuge on the other have different conceptions of shared responsibility, asylum, solidarity, global justice, membership and refugee agency. Plausibly, they also differently shape legal, political and cultural narratives on refugees, human rights, freedom of movement, democracy and the rule of law. We welcome papers that trace the differences and/or tensions between these concepts and questions.

Second, it can be noted that the inclusion and integration of immigrants, refugees, and displaced persons raises questions over the democratic identity of the political community. Immigrants are not part of the demos yet, hence don't have a say in the legislation and policy

on inclusion and exclusion. Numerous scholars have already noted that courts better serve the interests of immigrants and refugees than governments. Questions of admission, membership and belonging therefore offer a new point of entry to discuss the relation between law and politics. For instance, it can be doubted whether democratic legitimacy and democratic practice is still grounded in national identity. Likewise, the question arises whether nationality is still the paradigmatic form of legal membership and the privileged ground of rights. What makes membership thinkable beyond nationality? How should 'integration' be conceptualized beyond national citizenship? How to think differently about the (legal) governance of the relationships between citizens and (different types of) non-citizens? We welcome papers on topics such as (the history of) nation-states, nationalism, civic education, immigrant integration, democratic inclusivity and the role of courts in matters of migration, membership and integration.

If you are interested in presenting a paper on 7 February 2020, please send your abstract of max. 400 words to Nanda Oudejans (n.oudejans@uva.nl) and Tamar de Waal (t.m.dewaal@uva.nl) before 9 December 2019. You will hear as soon as possible after this date whether your abstract has been selected. The organizers will assess the quality of abstract as well as their possible clustering with other contributions at the conference.