Nation-State and Citizenship: Inclusions and Exclusions

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Objectives

This seminar is an introduction to major theoretical approaches and substantive issues in current sociological thinking on citizenship, with a view on the postwar reconfigurations of the nation-state and citizenship via globalization and the expansion of transnational framework of human rights. Substantively, the seminar explores the contemporary processes that underline the inclusions and exclusions in the body of citizenry: territorial and cultural closure of the nation, expansion of individual (human) rights and privileges, immigration and incorporation of diversity, European citizenship, globalization of economy and markets, and the transnationalization of normativity, actors, and claims for citizenship.

The seminar aims to orient students to recent conceptualizations, and theoretical and research issues in the field. Thereby it hopes to stimulate further research on the topics to be covered in the course.

Seminar Outline

Week 1: Introduction and the Foundations of the Nation-State and Citizenship: Sovereignty as Territorial Closure

On the growing popularity of the topic, general perspectives and conceptual clarifications. Sovereignty and territory as definers of the boundaries of citizenship.


Week 2: Collective Nation as Cultural Closure

National culture and identity as definers of the boundaries of citizenship. Alternative perspectives on rethinking the boundaries of citizenship.


Week 3: From Subjects to Equal Citizens

Where do citizenship rights come from? Historical trajectories and sociological explanations.


Week 4: Markets, Welfare and Citizenship

What is the relationship between formal rights and substantive equality? Changing foundations of ‘good citizenship’ and social justice.


Week 5: Immigration and Citizenship

What immigration reveals about the principles and modes of membership and belonging.


Week 6: Citizenship and Diversity

How does citizenship’s claim to universal inclusion and equal rights and duties stand vis-à-vis societal and cultural diversity?
• Benhabib, Seyla. 2002. The Claims of Culture: Equality and Diversity in the Global Era, Princeton University Press. (chps 3, 4 and 5)

Week 7: Participation and Civicness
Public sphere and associational life as sites for citizenship practices.


Week 8: Cosmopolitization of Citizenship
How global or Eurocentric is the cosmopolitization project?


Week 9: Citizenship and Human Rights
What is the relationship between citizenship and human rights?