

11th Global Migration Lecture

Golden Passports and Global Inequalities

Prof. Dr. Kristin Surak

Monday, 17th November 2025 (16:00-17:45, CET)

Centre for Global Cooperation Research (CGCR)
Horst-Schimanski-Saal (SW 130), Schifferstraße 44, 47059 Duisburg
and online via Zoom:

<https://uni-due.zoom-x.de/j/62628741127?pwd=uD3icFVr7rQbeDE8E6Eop7moFvJLrq.1>

Citizenship has become a hot commodity. Now over a dozen countries allow wealthy individuals to naturalize in exchange for a financial contribution, and more than 50,000 people use such citizenship by investment programs to acquire “golden passports” each year. Through six years of fieldwork on four continents, Kristin Surak discovered how the initially dubious sale of passports has transformed into a full-blown citizenship industry that thrives on global inequalities. A groundbreaking study of a contentious practice that has become popular among the Nouveaux Riches, *The Golden Passport* takes readers from the details of the application process to the geopolitical hydraulics of the citizenship industry. It’s a business that thrives on uncertainty and imbalances of power between big, globalized economies and tiny states desperate for investment. In between are the fascinating stories of buyers, brokers, and sellers, all ready to profit from the citizenship trade.

Prof. Dr. Kristin Surak is an Associate Professor of Political Sociology at the London School of Economics. She is a leading expert on elite mobility, international migration, nationalism, and Japanese politics.

Programme

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| 16:00-16:10 | Welcome and introduction
<i>Prof. Dr. Anja Weiß</i>
Professor of Macrosociology and Transnational Processes,
CGCR, InZentIM, RTG 2951 at the University of Duisburg-Essen |
| 16:10-16:40 | 11th Global Migration Lecture: Golden Passports and Global Inequalities
Prof. Dr. Kristin Surak (LSE) |
| 16:40-17:00: | Interdisciplinary Discussion
<i>Prof. Dr. Florian Freitag (CGCR)</i>
Professor for American Studies - American Literary and Media Studies at the
University of Duisburg-Essen
<i>Prof. Dr. Minh Nguyen (RTG 2951)</i>
Professor of Social Anthropology at Bielefeld University
<i>Prof. Dr. Andreas Blätte (InZentIM)</i>
Professor of Public Policy and Regional Politics at the University of Duisburg-Essen |
| 17:00-17:45 | Q&A with the audience (<i>moderator</i> : Prof. Dr. Anja Weiß) |
| 17:45 | End |