

CALL FOR PAPERS

Migration, Rights and Democracy: Conceptual Reappraisals

19–20 March 2020

Università del Piemonte Orientale
Vercelli, Italy

The Workshop “Migration, Rights and Democracy: Conceptual Reappraisals” is the second of a series of three workshops to be organized by Working Group 3: Concepts of COST Action CA 16211 *Reappraising Intellectual Debates on Civic Rights and Democracy in Europe* (RECAST). This workshop focuses on the concepts and the theoretical frames at work when issues revolving around migration in Europe are concerned.

Our departure point is that not only is migration a key issue in European politics but also that discussions about it have implications for re-conceptualizing rights and democracy. The analysis of this topic is of the utmost importance and urgency in Europe, calling for the participation not only of academics, but also policy-makers, as well as political and civil society actors (NGOs, activists). This is clearly shown by the recent refugee crisis and the ethico-political impacts it had in several European Union countries. It spawned not only a self-reflection on Europe as either upholding human rights and hospitality or becoming a closed “fortress”, but also a political polarization, fueling in some countries rightwing, exclusionary populism. Indeed, those recent developments have shown how international obligations of states to respect the rights of migrants and refugees have become increasingly contested and challenged in domestic as well as European level politics.

While migration, democracy and rights are all political and contested concepts, with different histories, meanings and usages, we are particularly interested in examining the political, legal, institutional layouts and relations of these concepts and the understandings they can imply. The workshop invites conceptual investigations and theoretical (and or practical) explorations on the question. Migration is considered as a locus for conceptual debates and unraveling the tensions between claims, norms, policies and practices related to democracy and rights.

Thus we propose a critical reflection on the concepts that are used when migration, democracy and rights are studied or discussed (by scholars, politicians or other social actors) as well as on the historical transformations of these debates – assessing the way we think of migration and aiming to determine whether we are still using today the same conceptual tools and theories as we did in the past, or if significant conceptual and theoretical changes have happened in the last decades.



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Against this backdrop the Working Group 3: Concepts sets out to analyze the topic of migration, in its connection with rights and democracy. We invite contributions from different disciplines, including political, philosophical, historical, legal, sociological and public policy perspectives. The submissions should focus on the European framework, and they might explore (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- The concepts and implications of borders and boundaries, including their history, political framing (from the standpoint of “ideal” or “non-ideal” theory) and the possibility to challenge them in the context of theories of (global, cosmopolitan or transnational) justice in a “Post-Westphalian” framework.
- The concept of hospitality in its several (ethical, legal or political) dimensions.
- Concepts related to the European Union asylum policy and politics; the role of the Council of Europe in protecting and debating the rights of migrants and refugees.
- The concept of human rights in the locus of migration.
- Migration and populism.
- Citizenship, political agency and participation of migrants.

Please submit a paper proposal of ca. 300 words with a brief CV (up to 150 words) and contact details (name, position, affiliation, e-mail address) no later than **15 January 2020** to:

goncalomarcelo@gmail.com, hanna-mari.kivisto@jyu.fi, and gabriella.silvestrini@unipo.it

Organizers

This event is jointly organized by COST Action CA 16211 *Reappraising Intellectual Debates on Civic Rights and Democracy in Europe* (RECAST), the Department of Humanities and the Centro Interdipartimentale di Diritto e Storia Costituzionale, Università del Piemonte Orientale, and the Centro Interateneo di Studi per la Pace

Conveners

Gonçalo Marcelo, CECH, University of Coimbra & Católica Porto Business School, Leader of Working Group 3: Concepts

Hanna-Mari Kivistö, University of Jyväskylä, Vice-Leader of Working Group 3: Concepts

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