

Citizenship and Democracy within (Migration) Society (Summary)

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The proposed book project, *Citizenship and Democracy within (Migration) Society*, will explore and bring together lines of argument from various research fields, including political science, sociology, and the history of migration and gender. At heart is a targeted examination of the ways in which social and gender inequalities are institutionalized by the structures underpinning modern citizenship – including its civil/legal, political and social dimensions (Thomas H. Marshall) – and liberal democracy, and what kinds of agency are available to groups and individuals for subverting and thus transforming these state and social institutionalizations. The proposed book project focuses on the Federal Republic of Germany as one of the largest immigration countries and “migration societies” (from the German “Migrationsgesellschaft”) in the so-called “Western world”. Drawing upon international and comparative research, it will identify the features that typically characterize the concept of citizenship, as well as the features that generally characterize liberal democracies. The German-language categorization of “Migrationshintergrund” (“migrational background”), in which members of society are assigned to migrational groups, will be critically analyzed to test its tenability for scholarly (and political) discourse. In other words, the goal is to evaluate whether such discourses are being shaped by “bureaucratic definitions of reality” (Ulrich Beck) that are empirically not tenable or only conditionally so. This is why the proposed book title puts the word “Migration” in parentheses.

The analytical perspective of *Citizenship and Democracy within (Migration) Society* is founded first and foremost on democracy research. The project’s conceptual, empirical and theoretical approach will draw upon my own circa twenty-five years of research into democracy and migration, consolidating these insights and findings into a political sociology of democracy (in Germany).

This publication, provisionally to be published by Verlag Barbara Budrich, will have three parts. Firstly, a social history will reconstruct the conceptual evolution of citizenship as well as broader democratic transformation processes, including various countermovements, up to the present day. Secondly, circumstantial opportunities derived from “life situation” (“Lebenslage” as described by Ingeborg Nahnsen) will be empirically analyzed, while drawing upon early cultural studies research as well as Pierre Bourdieu’s structured structure theory, along with my own research expanding on forms of agency in the context of citizenship. Finally, the insights drawn from the sociohistorical reconstruction and the empirical analysis will be interpreted through a deconstructive lens, to be ultimately consolidated into a political sociology of democracy.