

REVIEWS:

**MIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP. LEGAL STATUS, RIGHTS AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

**Rainer Bauböck (ed.).  
Amsterdam University Press 2006  
128 pages, ISBN: 978 90 5356 888 0.**

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The book *Migration and Citizenship. Legal status, Rights and Political Participation* provides for an overview of theories on citizenship status and political participation and of empirical research, divided in four chapters written by different authors.

The aim of the study is not to avail research questions to students looking for an interesting subject for a final thesis (although it may come in handy). It rather provides a research agenda for IMISCOE's Research Cluster on Migration and Citizenship: legal status, mobilisation and political participation of which editor Rainer Bauböck is the coordinator. IMISCOE is a Network of Excellence funded by the EU 6th framework programme. The Network has implemented a multidisciplinary and comparative research programme on migration, integration and social cohesion, with Europe as its central focus ([www.imiscoe.com](http://www.imiscoe.com)). Bauböck, who has written the first chapter, holds a chair in social and political theory at the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the European University Institute in Florence (It.) In 2007 he accomplished together with Eva Ersbøll, Kees Groenendijk, Harald Waldrauch and a large team of researchers a large comparative research in 15 EU member states resulting in two thick volumes *Acquisition and Loss of Nationality* (AUP). This research project was in a sense what was called for in the 2006 research agenda *Migration and Citizenship*. The other contributors in *Migration and Citizenship* are Albert Kraler, political scientist at the ICMPD in Vienna with a chapter on the legal status of immigrants and their access to nationality. Bernhard Perchinig, Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna, has a chapter on EU citizenship and the status of third country nationals.

The final chapter deals with political participation, mobilisation and representation of immigrants and their offspring in Europe and is written by Marco Martiniello, Director of the Centre d'Etude de l'Ethnicité et des Migrations at the University of Liège. He is a leading expert in the aspects of integration of migrants into European society. The authors are all high standing political scientists.

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\* LLM-candidate of the VU University Amsterdam I would like to thank Tesseltje de Lange very much for allowing me to use her notes about 'Migration and Citizenship' to write this book review.

Other researchers have contributed by presenting actual research results in text boxes, which are integrated in the theoretical chapters, this gives the book a lively structure.

As said before, *Migration and Citizenship* is presented as an overview of current theories and empirical research on citizenship in European contexts of migration. Bauböck starts with an introduction, where he defines citizenship in a broad political meaning 'that refers to individual membership, rights and participation in a polity'. According to Bauböck, there are three 'conceptual' fields of citizenship which can be distinguished in three dimensions: 'First, citizenship as a political and legal status, legal rights and duties attached to this status, third individual practices, dispositions and identities attributed to or expected from those who hold the status.' After this ascertainment Bauböck discusses these three dimensions in separate paragraphs.

In Kraler's chapter on the legal status of immigrants and their access to nationality, Kraler devotes attention to, among other, the changing status of foreign nationals and the relationship between border control. He also deals with Hammar's 'new' status of 'denizenship' and in which way long-time residents are treated, and if 'naturalization is a moral right for them towards full integration'. Furthermore, Kraler points out that one of the neglected areas of research is the influence of international human rights norms on domestic immigrant policies'. In which way does this paradigm influence policy?

In the third chapter Perchinig takes us to 'the roots of Union citizenship' and European identity'. In the beginning, 'European citizenship practice did not include any political rights'. Later on, Union citizenship became available for everyone (not just for Community workers), except third country nationals, on European Union territory, because the dichotomy between citizen and foreigner had to be overcome. Further attention is given to 'European denizenship', 'civic citizenship' and immigration policies to third country nationals. According to Perchinig, there is still a research gap on European Union citizenship. For example, the role which the European Court of Justice has played in the development of Union citizenship has been underexposed.

In the last chapter, Martiniello gives an overview of the development of political participation of immigrants. 'Migrants had only an economic role in the host society: to work and to produce.' Martiniello starts with explaining the definitions and concepts that are used in this report. The subsequent paragraph is devoted to the 'political quiescence of immigrants', because immigrants 'were considered to be apolitical'. This is, however, not true, according to him. Migrants were never passive if it comes to politics and nowadays their involvement has become much stronger. Before Martiniello finishes with a chapter on further research perspectives to fill in what is missing in literature on immigrant participation, he discusses different forms of immigrant political participation.

The authors of *Migration and Citizenship* have indeed set out an ambitious research agenda and have signaled many gaps in the body of accessible literature. The gap may not be as wide as presented by Bauböck if all empirical studies were published in English. But many national cases studies are probably published in the national language and thus not accessible. Bauböck's complaint of a shortage of such studies proves that one must publish in English if you want your work to exist outside your own country.

The authors call for interdisciplinary research, especially between social and political scientist and lawyers. Apart from Kraler, however, the authors have not presented the research of lawyers, possibly again because of the language barrier badly accessibly. According to Bauböck the 'methodological hurdles' of comparative research are 'formidable but not insurmountable.' With such comparative studies we could test the hypotheses of 'convergence (citizenship policies of different democratic countries moving towards each other) and liberalization' (citizenship policies are moving towards more liberal standards). But there is also another reason for comparing legal systems. States can learn from one other (and maybe converge even more) – possibly the convergence is an effect of comparative research becoming available to states.

To conclude: one of the things I really like about this book is that it provides a large resource of research questions presented in a clear lay out. Another interesting aspect of this book is that it points out that certain areas of research are neglected. Those areas require specific attention. *Migration and Citizenship* gives us plenty of reasons to be alert on future publications by Bauböck, Kraler, Martineello and Perchinig.

