



History Lecture Series: Mobility, Migration and Borders

—

Wednesday, 11 March 2020

**Migrating Borders: Territorial Rescaling and Citizenship
Realignments in Europe**

—

Dr. Jean-Thomas Arrighi, University of Neuchâtel

12:15 – 14:00 h

Location: University of Neuchâtel, Rue Abram-Louis Breguet 2, Room 2.310

The History Lecture Series is a collaboration of the History Department of the University of Neuchâtel and the nccr – on the move.

Abstract

From the decision of the British people to leave the European Union to the Russian annexation of Crimea or Catalonia's attempt to secede from Spain, the past decade has been marked by the resurgence of territorial conflicts spanning the European continent from East to West. While much has been written on the causes of territorial conflicts, we know little about their (profound and often negative) effects on the citizenship status and rights of individuals and communities on either side of the *Migrating Border*.

This talk will explore the relationship between territory and citizenship at a time when the very boundaries of the political community come into question. It will bring a fresh eye to the age-old *question of nationalities* as it unfolds in a particular context – the European multilevel federation – where polities are linked to each other through a complex web of vertical and horizontal relations. It will proceed in two steps. The first part will examine the European integration project in a *longue durée* perspective to show that the *migration of borders* is neither an anomaly nor the Swann song of the European Union. Instead, it is an inherent feature of concomitant processes of territorial integration and disintegration which can be traced back to its institutional origins in the 1950s. The second part will contrast several cases of past and ongoing territorial conflicts across the continent through a citizenship lens. Drawing from cases of independence *from* Europe (Brexit), aspiring independence *in* Europe (Scotland, Catalonia), and *de facto* independence *at the margins* of Europe (Kosovo, North Cyprus), it will show how they produce various forms of 'liminal citizenship'.

Curriculum Vitae

Jean-Thomas Arrighi is Senior Lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Neuchâtel and Associate Researcher at the nccr – on the move. He holds a PhD in Social and Political Sciences from the European University Institute (Florence 2012). His research mainly focuses on the twin challenge of migration and minority nationalism to the theory and practice of citizenship, in a historical and comparative perspective.

Selected Publications

- Jean-Thomas Arrighi and Dejan Stjepanovic (Eds.) (2019). *Migrating Borders: Territorial Rescaling and Citizenship Realignment in Europe*. London: Routledge.
- Jean-Thomas Arrighi (2019). 'The people, year zero': Secessionism and citizenship in Scotland and Catalonia. *Ethnopolitics* 18(3), 278 – 297.
- Jean-Thomas Arrighi and Jean-Michel Lafleur (2019). Where and why can expatriates vote in regional elections? A comparative analysis of regional electoral practices in Europe and North America. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 45(4), 517-538.
- Jean-Thomas Arrighi and Rainer Bauböck (2017). A multilevel puzzle: Migrants' voting rights in national and local elections. *European Journal of Political Research* 56(3), 619-639.