



History Lecture Series: Mobility, Migration and Borders

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Wednesday, 25 September 2019

**Postcolonial Migration Meets European Integration:
Britain in Comparative Perspective**

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Prof. Elizabeth Buettner, University of Amsterdam

Discussant: Prof. Kristina Schulz, 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

How exceptional has Britain's history of inward migration after 1945 been compared to that of other Western European countries? Like other former imperial powers, Britain became home to many peoples from its former colonies and Commonwealth, many of whom were not of European descent; moreover, like many of its continental neighbours Britain too attracted migrants from other European countries. How did common responses to newcomers from outside Europe resemble or differ from attitudes towards foreign Europeans, particularly those from within the European Economic Community/European Union? In the limited time available, this paper will sketch out general issues and discuss changes over time, not least by comparing earlier decades to developments occurring after the EU's eastward enlargement since 2004 that have culminated in Brexit.

Curriculum Vitae

Elizabeth Buettner has been Professor of Modern History at the University of Amsterdam since 2014. Her publications encompass earlier work on Britain and late imperial India and memories of the 'Raj' in postcolonial Britain, particularly *Empire Families: Britons and Late Imperial India* (Oxford University Press 2004); her more recent research focuses on postcolonial migration, multiculturalism, and memories of empire in Britain and other Western European countries. Since her book *Europe after Empire: Decolonization, Society, and Culture* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2016, her research has extended further into the overlapping histories of postcolonial Europe and European integration. This counts among the topics covered within the European Commission-funded Horizon 2020 consortium project she is now part of that explores 'European Colonial Heritage Modalities in Entangled Cities' (ECHOES).

Selected Publications

- Buettner, Elizabeth (2016). *Europe after Empire: Decolonization, Society, and Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Buettner, Elizabeth (2018). Postcolonial Migrations to Europe, in: *The Oxford Handbook of the Ends of Empire*, ed. Martin Thomas and Andrew Thompson. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 601-20.
- Buettner, Elizabeth (2018). What—and Who—is “European” in the Postcolonial EU? Inclusions and Exclusions in the European Parliament's House of European History, *BMGN—Low Countries Historical Review* 133 (4), 132-48.
- Buettner, Elizabeth (2008). “Going for an Indian”: South Asian Restaurants and the Limits of Multiculturalism in Britain, *Journal of Modern History* 80 (4), 865-901.
- Buettner, Elizabeth (2004). *Empire Families: Britons and Late Imperial India*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Paperback edition 2005)