

 Released **Citizenship and immigration in Western Europe: National trajectories under postnational conditions? A qualitative comparative analysis of selected countries**  Paper

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
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Abstract 

Citizenship rights for immigrants have emerged as a major point of reference in public and academic debates surrounding the regulation of ethnic and cultural diversity across Western European states. In this regard, the modern institution of citizenship can be described as an effective mechanism of social closure that is based on legal criteria of national membership. This Working Paper investigates under which conditions Western European countries of immigration have added liberal elements to their citizenship laws in the post-war era while others have maintained rather restrictive configurations. Employing a historical-comparative research design, the study brings together concepts of national path dependency, the role played by political actors as well as postnational approaches focusing on multilateral treaties. Here, the method of fuzzy-set QCA is particularly suited to reveal modes of causal interaction and equifinality that basically shape contingent policy developments across states. Looking at a diverse sample of seven European countries between 1980 and 2010, the empirical results point to the importance of specific legal traditions in explaining the direction and timing of liberalizing change. Yet, they only serve as the context for ongoing political contestations over access to citizenship for immigrants which in turn inhibit convergent or even postnational patterns of policy change. Rather, preexisting cross-national differences are continuously reproduced in nationally specific ways.

Wide-ranging policy adaptations have been taking shape in Western European countries, which collectively surpass all other regions with 64 million migrants within their borders in 2005. New migrants to Western Europe today are more likely to hail from African, Latin American and Asian countries, and are being supplemented by workers from new European Union member states, or from adjoining countries such as the Ukraine or the Russian Federation. See profile on Eastern Europe/Russia. Most countries in the region state a preference to maintain current levels of immigration and to increase the influx of skilled workers, despite anxiety about the migrants to selected Western European countries. Citizenship and Immigration: Multiculturalism, Assimilation, and Challenges. analysis of empirical conditions. Finally, some caveats. We focus on immigrants in industrialized states, in particular in North America and Western Europe, leaving citizenship and immigration within the global South outside our purview. We use the words.