

12th Global Migration Lecture

Non-Sovereignty and the Coloniality of Citizenship in the Caribbean

Prof. Dr. Manuela Boatcă (University of Freiburg)

Monday, 6th July 2026 (16:00-17:45, CET)

Venue: Bielefeld University, X Building, X-B2-105 (BGHS), Universitätsstr 25, 33615 Bielefeld
and Online via Zoom (Please register for the GML using the following link):

https://uni-bielefeld.zoom-x.de/meeting/register/-z0c4homQbe_My7fE0vKyA

The administrative decolonization of Asia, Africa and parts of the Caribbean in the decades following World War II has given rise to a range of disconnected and unequal citizenships in discrete polities. While the citizenships of former colonial powers guaranteed access to higher incomes, security, infrastructure, and welfare systems, as well as a high degree of international mobility, citizenships of newly independent states scored much lower on all these counts. As the rights accruing from citizenships of wealthy states increasingly became a scarce good on a global capitalist market with highly unequal negotiating positions, an emergent industry self-designating as “citizenship by investment” (CBI) resorted to the commodification of scarce citizenship rights. The paper focuses on how the five former British colonies in the Caribbean that currently have CBI programs – Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts, and St. Lucia – have turned their former colonial citizenships into bargaining currency in an unequal worldwide distribution of goods and rights, among which mobility rights necessary to legally migrate to better economic prospects rank very high.

Prof. Dr. Manuela Boatcă is Professor of Sociology and Head of School of the Global Studies Programme at the University of Freiburg, Germany. She has published widely on world-systems analysis, decolonial perspectives on global inequalities, gender and citizenship in modernity/coloniality, and the geopolitics of knowledge in Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Programme

16.00-16.10 Welcome and Introduction

Prof. Dr. Ursula Mense Petermann (Speaker RTG 2951)

Professor of Economic Sociology and the Sociology of Work, Bielefeld University

16.10-16.40 12th Global Migration Lecture: Non-Sovereignty and the Coloniality of Citizenship in the Caribbean

Prof. Dr. Manuela Boatcă (University of Freiburg)

16.40-17.00 Interdisciplinary Discussion

Dr. Eva Weiler (CGCR)

Lecturer for Political Philosophy, University of Duisburg-Essen

Prof. Dr. Tobias Werron (RTG 2951)

Professor of Sociological Theory and General Sociology, Bielefeld University

Prof. Dr. Nicolle Pfaff (InZentIM)

Professor for Migration and Inequality Research, University of Duisburg-Essen

17.00-17.45 Q&A with the audience

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Ursula Mense-Petermann

17.45 End