



Immigrant Political Incorporation in Europe

Workshop at the University of Amsterdam, 10 and 11 June 2010

Thursday, 10 June

14:00-15:00 Welcome and Introduction (Karen Schönwälder, Irene Bloemraad)

Opening Debate: Political Representation in Diverse Societies
Irene Bloemraad & Jan Willem Duyvendak

Does increasing diversity, and the potential of conflicting claims across a range of groups, change how we think about representation? Does statistical representation, of immigrant and minority groups, matter for substantive outcomes? If some mirror representation is normatively desirable, beyond substantive outcomes, how should we accomplish this?

15:30-18:30 **Panel 1: Empirical evidence from selected European countries:
Immigrant political incorporation on the national and local level**

What is the level of representation of immigrants and ethnic minority members in parliaments? How does immigrant political incorporation vary by the arena of politics (local, state/provincial, national, international/transnational)? How does political incorporation (or a lack thereof) at one level of politics affect dynamics at other levels? Do political parties integrate engagement and representation across political levels, or is there significant disjuncture? Is it true that participation evolves from the bottom up? Are cities a particularly favourable context of incorporation?

- Vincent Tiberj (France)
- Maria Sobolewska (United Kingdom)
- Laure Michon (Netherlands and France)
- Andreas Wüst as commentator

19:30

group dinner
Kantjil & de Tijger (<http://www.kantjil.nl/restaurant.htm>).

Friday, 11 June:

8:30 *coffee etc.*

9:00-10:45 **Panel 2: Driving forces and barriers: Immigrant Political Incorporation in Comparative Perspective**

How should researchers compare countries in order to generalize about immigrant political incorporation? Should we try to do so? To get at these questions, we ask participants to discuss, in the country(ies) they study, the most important factors driving immigrants' political incorporation (or lack of incorporation). How have these factors changed over the last 30 years?

- Jean Tillie (Netherlands)
- Camille Hamidi (France)
- Karen Schönwälder (Germany)
- Michael Jones-Correa (USA and differences Europe-US)

11:15-13:30 **Panel 3: Ethnicity, ethnic mobilization and political incorporation: (How) do groups matter?**

How important are national origins to understanding immigrants' political incorporation? Do we need to move beyond an 'ethnic group' approach and instead focus on class, socio-economic position, or something else? If ethnic groups are still relevant, why? How does immigrant group organisation relate to other areas/arenas of political engagement (socialization agents, elite development, ethnic mobilization etc.) ?

- Taeku Lee (USA)
- Rahsaan Maxwell (UK and France)
- Zeynep Sezgin (Germany)
- Floris Vermeulen (Netherlands & Germany)
- Marco Martiniello (culture, music)

13:30-14:30 *lunch*

14:30-16:00 Concluding debate – “Lessons Learned, Next Steps”

How relevant are findings on immigrants’ political incorporation based on North America for understanding dynamics in Europe? What can North Americans learn from Europeans? Is it even useful to distinguish “North American” from “European” studies? If so, on what basis? If not, what are alternative comparisons? Can we identify general models or new frameworks? Do existing models of immigrants’ socio-economic and cultural incorporation apply to political incorporation? Where should we go from here?

Inputs:

- Dirk Jacobs
- Michael Jones-Correa
- Taeku Lee
- Karen Schönwälder
- Irene Bloemraad

Please note: participation is by invitation only. Places are limited.