

# Crossing borders and boundaries

- The politics of marriage migration, mobility and citizenship  
in an inter-disciplinary perspective

Rikke Wagner, PhD Candidate, LSE

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# Marriage migration

- Important immigration route
- Goes to the heart of citizenship
- A field of contentious politics in Europe

# Need for a cross-disciplinary approach

- Throws us into an empirical socio-political terrain which is inherently normative
- Who should be a member, why, with what rights and duties, is migration a problem, threat, possibility, exercise of freedom?
- Political theory meets political sociology

# Denmark as restrictive ‘frontrunner’

- Marriage migration policy
  - The 24-years rule
  - The affiliation requirement
  - Economic conditions
- ‘Exit’ to Sweden
  - Free mobility in the EU
  - Circumventing Danish law

# How to make sense of this 'exit'?

- Activating EU citizenship or bypassing national law?
- Surveying political theory of citizenship, migration and mobility

# Liberal answers

- A renunciation of citizenship
- A private strategy for improvement (voting with your feet)
- Minimal rights of the 'refugee'?

# Republican answers

- An unpatriotic leaving of the community
- Troubling 'instrumentalization' of citizenship
- Resignation and defeat

# Radical answers

- Civil disobedience (Mezzadra)
- An act of 'taking'? (Honig)
- State export of an unwanted group (Hughes)



# Brining in political sociology

- A 'verstehen' approach – how do actors themselves make sense of their actions?
- Narrative interviews with 20-30 couples
- Situated and contextualized analysis

# A dialectic of theory and practice

- Self-understandings can be ambiguous, conflicting, partial or misguided
- Requires further theoretically informed interpretation
- Hence iterative process between normative political theory and empirical sociology

# Aims and objectives

- Throw light on the interplay between migration, mobility and citizenship in today's Europe
  - Empirically, make better sense of the practices involved
  - Theoretically, contribute to a conceptualization of citizenship and border crossing