

Crossing borders and boundaries

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

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‘Migration Across the Disciplines’, University of Queen Mary,
30 June – 1 July 2011, London

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