

Call for Papers - International Symposium

Losing, Retaining, Reclaiming the Citizenship of the Former Colonial Power: Comparative Perspectives from 1945 to the Present



ARCHIVES
NATIONALES



Coordinators: Emilien Fargues (emilien.fargues@uvsq.fr) and Emmanuel Blanchard (blanchard@cesdip.fr)¹

Dates: Tuesday, June 18, and Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Locations: Campus Condorcet, 72 Boulevard Ney, 75018 Paris (Day 1) / French National Archives, 59 Rue Guynemer, 93383 Pierrefitte-sur-Seine (Day 2)

Introduction

The symposium “Losing, Retaining, Reclaiming the Citizenship of the Former Colonial Power” aims to provide an overview of existing studies on citizenship redefinitions undertaken in the aftermath of decolonisation within former colonial powers, as well as to inspire new research. Building on a wide range of disciplines (history, political science, sociology, law...), it will also examine available methods and sources. This event seeks to establish an international network of researchers interested in analysing citizenship

¹ This call for papers is connected to two ongoing research projects initiated by the organisers of the symposium. The first project, “NATIO²: Reintegrations into French Citizenship (1960-2020)”, is coordinated by Emmanuel Blanchard at the *Institut National d'Études Démographiques*, INED (funding: *Institut Convergences Migrations*, ICM). The project explores the procedure of “reintegration” into French citizenship, which allows nationals of former French colonies who lost French citizenship following decolonisation to regain French status. The second project, “POSTCOLCIT”, is led by Emilien Fargues at the *Centre de recherches sociologiques sur le droit et les institutions pénales*, CESDIP (funding: *Agence Nationale de la Recherche*, ANR). It focuses on the reconfigurations of citizenship laws that occurred after decolonisation within former European colonial powers and examines the practices and perceptions of the citizenship of the former metropole within families of postcolonial immigrants.

policies and practices in relation to colonial and postcolonial histories, with a view to future comparative research and international collaborations.

Among the case studies, specific interest will be given to France, the Netherlands, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. These countries have witnessed significant differences in the organisation of relations between metropolises and colonies, as well as the ideologies surrounding the “mission” of colonial authorities. Despite these differences, all four countries have, at various points in time, extended imperial citizenship to populations labelled as “*indigènes*”, “*indigenas*”, “*inlanders*”, or “natives” in their colonies, without necessarily guaranteeing them the full bundle of citizenship rights, except for a selected minority (“*naturalisé-es*”, “*assimilados-as*”...). During decolonisation, the retention or loss of the citizenship of the former metropole was managed in various ways towards formerly colonised subjects. To explore these divergences and similarities, particular attention will be given to presentations addressing British, French, Dutch, or Portuguese contexts. However, proposals focusing on other former colonial powers are also highly welcome. Proposals addressing the reconfiguration of imperial citizenship at the end of the colonial period will also be considered.

Participants are encouraged to align their proposals with one or more of the four main research areas indicated below:

1. Laws

The restructuring of citizenship laws following decolonisation in former metropolises has sparked numerous analyses. These works often delve into specific case studies (for France, see Massicot 1986, Lagarde 1995, Weil 2002, Spire 2005, Bertossi and Hajjat 2010, Saada 2017; for the Netherlands, see Heijns 1995, Vink 2002 and 2005, Van Amersfoort and Van Niekerk 2006, Van Oers, de Hart and Groenendijk 2010, Jones 2012, Bonjour and Westra 2022; for Portugal, see Ramos 1992 and 2001, Gil and Piçarra 2020, Peralta, Delaunay and Góis 2022; for the United Kingdom, see Dummett and Nicol 1990, Paul 1994, Spencer 2002, Karatani 2003, Hansen 2004, El-Enany 2018, Patel 2021; for Italy, see Fusari 2018 and 2020, Ballinger 2020). Comparative research remains less abundant (Horta and White 2008, Jerónimo and Vink 2011, Buettner 2018).

Drawing from these previous investigations, the symposium aims to compile a comprehensive review of post-decolonisation legislations concerning the retention, loss, and (re)acquisition of citizenship for formerly colonised populations and their descendants. Participants may want to examine the adoption of distinct rules for these populations in contrast to “European” populations, and question to what extent these distinctions perpetuate racial discriminations inherited from the colonial era.

Participants may also explore the introduction of specific legal arrangements depending on the formerly colonised territories. Former colonial powers have, at times, entered specific citizenship agreements with the newly independent states or even adapted general laws by creating specific conditions for certain population categories. These

distinctions have often resulted in a highly complex legal architecture that the symposium aims to discuss.

2. Controversies and Mobilisations

The symposium also seeks to revisit the controversies and political mobilisations accompanying the restructuring of citizenship laws within former metropolises.

While numerous works on the United Kingdom explore political elites' discussions on postcolonial citizenship legislation (see Paul 1994, Spencer 2002, Karatani 2003, Hansen 2004), comparable studies on France, the Netherlands, or Portugal do not always delve into these discussions in detail.

We particularly encourage contributions aiming to reassess the politicisation, or lack thereof, of citizenship redefinitions in the postcolonial era. Depending on the context, rules governing the retention or loss of the citizenship of the former colonial power may have triggered political controversies involving various actors or remained the exclusive domain of official negotiators determining the fate of formerly colonised populations behind the scenes. In this perspective, proposals could re-examine the link between citizenship legislation and the construction of postcolonial mobilities within former metropolises as a “public problem”.

We also welcome proposals focusing on contemporary mobilisations on citizenship legislations inherited from decolonisation. In the United Kingdom, immigrants from the “Windrush generation”, who settled in the country as “Commonwealth citizens” in the 1950s and 1960s, were recently threatened with deportation and have since initiated a legal and political struggle to reaffirm their rights to British citizenship (Gentleman 2019 and Slaven 2022). In Portugal, between 2017 and 2018, various anti-racist movements, including individuals of Afro-descendant backgrounds, launched a campaign named “For Another Citizenship Law”. This campaign denounced the legal provisions enacted after decolonisation due to the difficulties they pose to the descendants of postcolonial immigrants (Peralta, Delaunay, and Góis 2022). Participants are invited to draw on these examples to consider the extent to which citizenship redefinitions in the postcolonial era continue to generate controversies and political mobilisations.

3. Administrative Casework

The exploration of bureaucratic casework in the field of citizenship policies has spawned numerous studies in former European colonial powers (see Hajjat 2012, Guerry 2013, Byrne 2014, Van Cers 2012, Badenhoop 2017, Mazouz 2017, Fargues 2020, Fortier 2021, Sredanovic 2022, Trucco 2023). These works rely on diverse sources, ranging from administrative archives (guidelines or case papers) to quantitative studies, as well as interviews with civil servants or observations within the relevant administrations.

More specific research has focused on the implementation of citizenship policies in the context of colonisations/decolonisations. Scholars, for example, have examined the processing of applications for “naturalisation” or full citizenship rights made by

colonised subjects during the colonial era. These studies appear more developed in the case of the French empire (Saada 2003, Blévis 2004, Ben Salah 2022), compared to other European colonial powers (for the British Empire, see notably Chesterman and Gallighan 1999 and Chesterman 2005 on pre-independence Australia; on Portugal, see Neto 2010).

In the postcolonial era, although changes to citizenship laws in former metropolises are well documented, how they were concretely applied in the case of populations originating from former colonies is less known. Indeed, few studies have focused on their implementation (on the French case, see notably Spire 2005; in the Netherlands, see Ringeling 1978).

The third objective of the symposium is to take stock of extant research on administrative casework and to reflect on future avenues that could be further explored. Attention will be paid to how gender, age, and family configurations affect the administrative processing of citizenship applications. We also encourage participants to discuss the access to administrative sources on the implementation of citizenship policies (archives, statistics), as well as the evolution of administrative practices in the colonial and postcolonial eras.

4. Narratives and Trajectories

The fourth research area concerns the very own perspectives of immigrants originating from the former colonies and those of their descendants.

Many studies exist on the narratives and settlement trajectories of post-colonial immigrants in former European colonial powers (see notably Cross and Entzinger 1988, Batalha 2004, Chamberlain 2004, Van Amersfoort and Van Niekerk 2006, Mügge 2010, Bosma, Lucassen, and Oostindie 2012, Dublet and Simon 2014, André 2016, Santelli 2016, Beaud 2018, E. Blanchard 2018, Grant 2019, Meslin 2020). However, the issue of access to citizenship is not always addressed.

Far from constituting a homogeneous group, postcolonial immigrants may develop a complex relationship with the citizenship of the former colonial power, depending on the political history of their country of origin, as well as their personal and family trajectories. The symposium aims to clarify this aspect by situating individual “naturalisation careers” (Masure 2014) within the broader history of the transformations of citizenship law that occurred during colonisations/decolonisations. Participants are also invited to reflect on the various uses of citizenship law, whether emotional (Yanasmayan 2015) or strategic (Bauböck 2019), that may coexist within families of postcolonial immigrants, and to explore the question of dual citizenship (Perrin 2017, M. Blanchard and Lamarche 2023).

Roundtable

In addition to the presentations related to the four research areas outlined, we also aim to organise a roundtable discussion on access to administrative sources regarding citizenship acquisition within former European colonial powers.

Application Procedure

Proposals (maximum 500 words) accompanied by a brief CV (1 page) should be sent to the coordinators before **March 15** in either English or French. Discussions during the symposium will be conducted in both languages, and simultaneous translation will be offered. Feedback to applicants will be sent by **April 5**.

A limited budget is available to cover travel and accommodation costs for researchers who cannot otherwise be financially supported. We invite applicants to inform us of their professional situation by email and specify if they would require funding. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

References

- ANDRÉ, Marc. (2016). *Femmes dévoilées: Des Algériennes en France à l'heure de la décolonisation*. Lyon: ENS Éditions.
- BADENHOOP, Elisabeth. (2023). *Calling for the Super Citizen: Naturalisation Procedures in the United Kingdom and Germany*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- BALLINGER, Pamela. (2020). *The World Refugees Made: Decolonization and the Foundations of Postwar Italy*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- BATALHA, Luís. (2004). *The Cape Verdean Diaspora in Portugal: Colonial Subjects in a Postcolonial World*. Lanham: Lexington Books.
- BAUBÖCK, Rainer. (2019). "Genuine links and useful passports: evaluating strategic uses of citizenship." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 45(6), 1015-1026.
- BEAUD, Stéphane. (2018). *La France des Belhoumi: portraits de famille (1977-2017)*. Paris: La Découverte.
- BEN SALAH, Jihane. (2022). "Naturaliser dans l'Empire colonial: La loi du 20 décembre 1923 et le protectorat de Tunisie durant l'entre-deux-guerres." *Revue d'histoire*, 152(4), 73-86.
- BERTOSSI, Christophe, & HAJJAT, Abdellali. (2010). *Report on Citizenship Law: France*. Florence: European University Institute.
- BLANCHARD, Emmanuel. (2018). *Histoire de l'immigration algérienne en France*. Paris: La Découverte.
- BLANCHARD, Mélissa, & LAMARCHE, Karine. (2023). "Nationalités multiples: la mobilité en héritage et comme horizon." *Revue européenne des migrations internationales*, 39(2-3), 7-19.
- BLÉVIS, Laure. (2004). *Sociologie d'un droit colonial: citoyenneté et nationalité en Algérie (1865-1947): une exception républicaine?*. Marseille: PhD Dissertation in Political Science from Université Aix-Marseille 2.
- BOSMA, Ulbe, LUCASSEN, Johannes Mathias Wilhelmus Gerardus, & OOSTINDIE, Gert J. (Eds.). (2012). *Postcolonial Migrants and Identity Politics: Europe, Russia, Japan and the United States in Comparison*. New York: Berghahn Books.
- BUETTNER, Elizabeth. (2018). "Postcolonial Migrations to Europe." In Thomas Martin & Andrew S. Thompson (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Ends of Empire* (pp. 600-620). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- BYRNE, Bridget. (2014). *Making Citizens: Public Rituals and Personal Journeys to Citizenship*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

- CHAMBERLAIN, Mary. (2017). *Narratives of Exile and Return*. London: Routledge.
- CHESTERMAN, John. (2005). "Natural-Born Subjects? Race and British Subjecthood in Australia." *Australian Journal of Politics and History*, 51(1), 30-39.
- CHESTERMAN, John, & GALLIGAN, Brian (Eds.). (1999). *Defining Australian citizenship: selected documents*. Melbourne: Melbourne University Press.
- CROSS, Malcolm, & ENTZINGER, Hans B. (Eds.). (1988). *Lost Illusions: Caribbean Minorities in Britain and the Netherlands*. London: Routledge.
- DUMMETT, Ann, & NICOL, Andrew G. (1990). *Subjects, Citizens, Aliens and Others: Nationality and Immigration Law*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson.
- EL-ENANY, Nadine. (2020). *(B)ordering Britain: Law, Race and Empire*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- ESCAFRÉ-DUBLET, Angéline, & SIMON, Patrick. (2014). "Une citoyenneté controversée: descendants d'immigrés et imaginaire national." In Marie Poinot & Serge Weber (Eds.), *Migrations et mutations de la société française. L'état des savoirs* (pp. 248-256). Paris: La Découverte.
- FARGUES, Émilien. (2019). *Exclu-es de la naturalisation. Analyse des frontières de la « communauté nationale » en France et au Royaume-Uni*. Paris: PhD Dissertation in Political Science from Sciences Po Paris.
- FORTIER, Anne-Marie. (2021). *Uncertain citizenship: Life in the waiting room*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- FUSARI, Valentina. (2018). "La cittadinanza come lascito coloniale: gli italoeritrei." *Altreitalia*, 2018, 34-51.
- FUSARI, Valentina. (2020). "Between Legacy and Agency: Italo-Eritreans Raised in Orphanages and Their Access to Italian Citizenship." *Northeast African Studies*, 20(1-2), 59-90.
- GENTLEMAN, Amelia. (2019). *The Windrush Betrayal: Exposing the Hostile Environment*. London: Guardian Faber.
- GIL, Ana Rita, & PIÇARRA, Nuno. (2020). *Report on citizenship law: Portugal*. Florence: European University Institute.
- GRANT, Colin. (2019). *Homecoming: Voices of the Windrush Generation*. London: Jonathan Cape.
- GUERRY, Linda. (2013). *Le Genre de l'immigration et de la naturalisation: l'exemple de Marseille (1918-1940)*. Lyon: ENS éditions.
- HAIJAT, Abdellali. (2012). *Les frontières de l'« identité nationale »: L'injonction à l'assimilation en France métropolitaine et coloniale*. Paris: La Découverte.
- HANSEN, Randall. (2000). *Citizenship and Immigration in Post-war Britain: The Institutional Origins of a Multicultural Nation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- HEIJS, Eric. (1995). *Van Vreemdeling tot Nederlander*. Amsterdam: Het Spinhuis.
- HORTA, Ana Paula Beja, & WHITE, Paul. (2009). "Post-colonial migration and citizenship regimes: a comparison of Portugal and the United Kingdom." *Revista Migrações*, 4, 33-57.
- JERÓNIMO, Patrícia, & VINK, Maarten. (2011). "Citizenship in a Post-Colonial Context: Comparing Portugal and Netherlands." *Perspectivas - Journal of Political Science*, 6, 109-129.
- JONES, Guno. (2012). "Dutch politicians, the Dutch nation and the dynamics of post-colonial citizenship." In Ulbe Bosma (Ed.), *Post-colonial Immigrants and Identity*

- Formations in the Netherlands* (pp. 27-48). Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.
- KARATANI, Rieko. (2003). *Defining British citizenship: empire, commonwealth, and modern Britain*. London: Routledge.
- LAGARDE, Paul. (1995). "Décolonisation et nationalité." *Plein Droit*, 29-30, 84-85.
- MASSICOT, Simone. (1986). "Effets sur la nationalité française de l'accession à l'indépendance de territoires ayant été sous la souveraineté française." *Population*, 41(3), 533-546.
- MASURE, François. (2014). *Devenir Français? Approche anthropologique de la naturalisation*. Toulouse: Presses universitaires du Mirail.
- MAZOUZ, Sarah. (2017). *La République et ses autres: politiques de l'altérité dans la France des années 2000*. Lyon: ENS éditions.
- MÜGGE, Liza. (2010). *Beyond Dutch Borders: Transnational Politics among Colonial Migrants, Guest Workers and the Second Generation*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.
- NETO, Maria Da Conceição. (2010). "A República no seu estado colonial: combater a escravatura, estabelecer o 'indigenato'." *Ler História*, 59, 205-225.
- PATEL, Ian Sanjay. (2021). *We're Here Because You Were There: Immigration and the End of Empire*. London/New York: Verso.
- PAUL, Kathleen. (1997). *Whitewashing Britain: race and citizenship in the postwar era*. Ithaca/New York: Cornell University Press.
- PERALTA, Elsa, DELAUNAY, Morgane, & GÓIS, Bruno. (2022). "Portuguese (Post-)Imperial Migrations: Race, Citizenship, and Labour." *Journal of Migration History*, 8(3), 404-431.
- PERRIN, Delphine (Ed.). (2016). *La plurinationalité en Méditerranée occidentale: Politiques, pratiques et vécus*. Aix-en-Provence: IREMAM.
- RAMOS, Rui Manuel Moura. (1992). *Do Direito Português da Nacionalidade*. Coimbra: Coimbra Editora.
- RAMOS, Rui Manuel Moura. (2001). "Migratory Movements and Citizenship Law in Portugal." In Randall Hansen & Patrick Weil (Eds.), *Towards a European Citizenship. Citizenship, Immigration and Citizenship Law in the EU* (pp. 214-229). Hampshire: Palgrave Publisher.
- RINGELING, Arthur Bernard. (1978). *Beleidsvrijheid van ambtenaren: het spijtoptantenprobleem als illustratie van de activiteiten van ambtenaren bij de uitvoering van beleid*. Alphen aan den Rijn: Samsom.
- SAADA, Emmanuelle. (2003). "Citoyens et sujets de l'Empire français: Les usages du droit en situation coloniale." *Genèses*, 53(4), 4-24.
- SAADA, Emmanuelle. (2017). "Nationalité et citoyenneté en situation coloniale et post-coloniale." *Pouvoirs*, 160(1), 113-124.
- SANTELLI, Emmanuelle. (2016). *Les descendants d'immigrés*. Paris: La Découverte.
- SLAVEN, Mike. (2022). "The Windrush Scandal and the individualization of postcolonial immigration control in Britain." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 45(16), 49-71.
- SPENCER, Ian R. G. (2002). *British Immigration Policy since 1939: The Making of Multi-Racial Britain*. London: Routledge.
- SPIRE, Alexis. (2005). *Étrangers à la carte: l'administration de l'immigration en France, 1945-1975*. Paris: Grasset.

- SREDANOVIC, Djordje. (2022). *Implementing Citizenship, Nationality and Integration Policies: The UK and Belgium in Comparative Perspective*. Bristol: Bristol University Press.
- TRUCCO, Daniela. (2023). “‘Faire les Italiens’, sans l’Italie? Sociologie des intermédiaires non étatiques d’une nationalité externe.” *Revue européenne des migrations internationales*, 39(2-3), 21-42.
- VAN AMERSFOORT, Hans, & VAN NIEKERK, Mies. (2006). “Immigration as a Colonial Inheritance: Post-Colonial Immigrants in the Netherlands, 1945–2002.” *Journal of Ethnic & Migration Studies*, 32(3), 323-346.
- VAN OERS, Ricky. (2014). *Deserving Citizenship: Citizenship Tests in Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom*. Leiden: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers.
- VAN OERS, Ricky, DE HART, Betty, & GROENENDIJK, Kees. (2010). *Report on citizenship law: Netherlands*. Florence: European University Institute.
- VINK, Maarten. (2002). “The History of the Concept of Citizenship. Membership and Rights in The Netherlands.” *Acta Politica*, 37(4), 400-418.
- VINK, Maarten. (2005). *Limits of European citizenship: European integration and domestic immigration policies*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- WEIL, Patrick. (2002). *Qu’est-ce qu’un Français? Histoire de la nationalité française depuis la révolution*. Paris: Grasset.
- WESTRA, Eline, & BONJOUR, Saskia. (2022). “Postcolonial Migration and Citizenship in the Netherlands.” *Verfassungsblog: On Matters Constitutional*. [Online]. Retrieved from https://intr2dok.vifa-recht.de/receive/mir_mods_00011859.
- YANASMAYAN, Zeynep. (2015). “Citizenship on paper or at heart? A closer look into the dual citizenship debate in Europe.” *Citizenship Studies*, 19(6-7), 785-801.