

Dual Citizenship: Political and Social Integration in an Era of Global Mobility

Thursday, 19 December 2019; 09h00–19h00

Aula of the Campus, University of Vienna, Spitalgasse/Alser Straße, 1090 Vienna

Concern and aim of the symposium

Being in possession of state citizenship today is an essential precondition for enjoying effective protection of nearly all rights (Marshall 1950; Arendt 1972; Bauböck 1994). As a result of globalisation and global migration, a growing number of people live and work in countries of which they do not hold citizenship. They therefore have to depend on rights granted to foreign residents (Soysal 1994). Countries and local communities hosting immigrants are often faced with the problem that the interests of considerable shares of their population are not counted politically if they cannot participate in elections. Austria, and especially Vienna, with a share of 30% of non-citizens in its population, provide strong illustrations for this phenomenon. Because of the restrictive Austrian citizenship law, which does not even partially acknowledge the *ius soli*, 19 000 children are born annually as ‘foreigners’ (Valchars 2018).

In contrast to Austrian practice, a growing acceptance of dual citizenships can be observed globally. Among 175 nation states, 64% allow immigrants to retain their previous nationality when acquiring their host country citizenship. Switzerland, which had followed a similar pattern of guestworker recruitment and refugee admission, adopted general toleration of dual citizenship already in 1990 and many other European countries have adopted similar reforms since (Blatter et al. 2018). These countries thus make provision for the fact that people’s identities have become more complex and that lasting feelings of belonging to two or more political communities are possible (Faist 2008; Spiro 2016; Haller/Müller 2009). Citizenship is of high symbolical value. It is a core expression of connectedness to a country (Haller et al. 2009; Valchars 2018) and there is no reason why such links should be singular and exclusionary ones.

The collective granting of citizenship to nationally and ethnically related minority populations residing in neighbouring countries (such as the German language group in South Tyrol) poses yet another, albeit somewhat different, problem to nation states. Such citizenship grants are legally permitted in principle (Obwexer 2011), but may result in difficulties (Denicolò/Pallaver 2018).

Demand for dual citizenship is also strong among expatriate Austrians who currently automatically lose their Austrian citizenship when voluntarily acquiring that of their host country. On account of their high number (around 400 000) and their right to vote in national elections, the interests of this group, which is sometimes called the ‘tenth federal state of Austria’, in dual citizenship have not yet been taken into account.

The symposium will investigate these concerns from an interdisciplinary perspective, considering constitutional, political, and sociological views. Contributions will include theoretical discussions as well as case studies and the first results of surveys in South Tyrol and among expatriate Austrians. The day will conclude with a discussion of the Austrian situation by a panel including experts and policy makers, which might provide some suggestions for political reform.

Programme

09h00 – 11h00

I. Citizenship as a basic human right

Peter Spiro (Temple Law School, PA, USA): International law and dual citizenship

Rainer Bauböck (European University Institute, Florence and Commission for

Migration and Integration Research, Vienna): From Singular Loyalty to Multiple Membership: global trends toward toleration of dual citizenship

Yossi Harpaz (Dept. of Sociology, Tel Aviv University): Global inequality and extraterritorial citizenship

Yasemin Soysal (Dept. of Sociology, University of Essex): National, European and Global citizenship

11h30 – 13h00

II. The implementation of dual citizenship in different countries: case studies

Eva Ersbøll (Danish Institute for Human Rights, Copenhagen): The Danish Turn Towards Dual Citizenship

Günther Pallaver (Institute for Political Science, University of Innsbruck): The situation in Italy

Szabolcs Pogonyi (Nationalism Studies Program, Central European University, Vienna): Kin-based citizenships in Eastern Europe

Irmgard Helperstorfer (General Secretary, World Association of Expatriate Austrians, Vienna): What Austrians abroad think about double citizenship

14h30 – 16h30

III. Citizenship and social integration

Max Haller (Institute of Sociology, University of Graz and Commission for Migration and Integration Research, Vienna): Citizenship as the foundation for political and social identity

Floris Peters (Department of Political Science, Maastricht University): Does the renunciation requirement condition the citizenship premium? Dual citizenship in the Dutch integration debate

Raimund Haindorfer (Institute of Sociology, University of Vienna) and Max Haller (Institute of Sociology, University of Graz and Commission for Migration and Integration Research, Vienna): Does the attainment of citizenship promote integration? An Austrian case study

Hermann Atz (apollis - Institute of Social Research and Opinion Polling, Bolzano/Bozen): Does dual citizenship endanger ethnic peace? How the South Tyrolean population views the additional granting of Austrian citizenship

17h00 – 19h00

IV. Die Situation in Österreich – Podiumsdiskussion (To be conducted in German)

Einführung in die Problematik, Gerd Valchars (Universität Wien)

DiskutantInnen:

- Heinrich Neisser (em. Prof. für Politikwissenschaft, Universität Innsbruck; ehemaliger Bundesminister und Nationalratspräsident)
- Magdalena Pöschl (Institut für Staats- und Verwaltungsrecht, Universität Wien und Mitglied der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften)
- Dietmar Hudsky (Abteilungsleiter, Aufenthalts- und Staatsbürgerschaftswesen, Bundesministerium für Inneres)
- Stefanie Krisper (Abgeordnete zum Nationalrat der NEOS)
- Joachim Blatter (Politikwissenschaftliches Seminar, Universität Luzern)
- Jürgen Em (Präsident, Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund, Bonn)

Moderation: Sieglinde Rosenberger (Institut für Politikwissenschaft, Universität Wien und Kommission für Migrations- und Integrationsforschung, Wien)

This conference is a joint project of the Commission for Migration and Integration Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, and the Department of Political Science, University of Vienna.