

The First Symposium

Citizenship After Orientalism

European Research Council (ERC) funded OECUMENE Project,
Faculty of Social Sciences, The Open University

6–11 February 2012

Faculty of Social Sciences
The Open University
Milton Keynes

The Open University is pleased to invite you to the first six-day symposium 'Citizenship After Orientalism' that will include the **Conference** 'Opening the Boundaries of Citizenship', an **International PhD School** 'Tracing Colonialism and Orientalism in Social and Political Thought', and a series of **Workshops** addressing specific topics on critical new ways of conceptualizing citizenship.

The symposium will explore what it means to open up the boundaries of the concept of citizenship, engaging with the tensions that put both the exclusionary features and the democratic potential of citizenship at the centre of debates. How are people imagining and enacting citizenship across boundaries? How can we give an account of other ways of being political? Which political practices have been rendered inarticulate as political by exclusionary ideas of citizenship? Understanding citizenship not merely as a status, but as a practice that asserts different modes of belonging and appeal to the right to claim rights, the symposium aims to trace contesting political subjectivities and to discuss what are deemed appropriate political forms of struggles. This question seems most relevant today, in light of the contemporary re-articulation of orientalist and colonial projects, the increasing popular discontent towards renewed exclusionary logics, and the contested meaning of democratic politics beyond territorial and territorialising states and nations.

Keynote Speakers: Judith Butler (University of California, Berkeley); Paul Gilroy (LSE); Bryan Turner (CUNY); Engin Isin (The Open University)

International PhD School Conveners: Ian Almond (Georgia State University); Roberto Dainotto (Duke University)

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citizenship after orientalism

www.oecumene.eu

General information

6–7 February: Conference ‘Opening the Boundaries of Citizenship’

8 February: International PhD School ‘Tracing Colonialism and Orientalism in Social and Political Thought’

9–11 February: Workshop Series (mainly by invitation)

Workshop 1: Sexual democracy, imperialism and cultural translation

Workshop 2: Performance and political subjectivity

Workshop 3: Local instances, global claims: acts of writing and social movements

Workshop 4: Religious organisations and their political articulations of citizenship

Workshop 5: Subjects of migration: citizenship, law and orientalism

Call for papers open now; see document attached. Application procedure and programme: find further information on the project website www.oecumene.eu

Registration

Participants can join the whole symposium or take part in one or more events of the symposium separately.

Conference: £50

Students concession: £30

PhD school seminar: £20

Workshops: mainly by invitation. Only a small number of places will be available for advanced students and scholars participating in the symposium. Please contact the workshop conveners for admission.

The registration fees cover lunch and refreshments during the breaks.

Further information for admission requirements and registration procedure for participating in the different activities are available on the project website: www.oecumene.eu

All the activities will be held at Walton Hall campus of The Open University

Walton Hall,
Milton Keynes
MK7 6AA
United Kingdom

Symposium in detail

International Conference 'Opening the Boundaries of Citizenship'

The conference addresses the performative and creative side of social movements, practices of identity negotiation and political participation questioning the meaning of citizenship. Which actors, sites and rights are constituted in contemporary power struggles redefining 'the political'? Which neo-colonial or neo-imperial nodes emerge from the analysis of issues such as democracy or secularism? Under this light, how is the language of law challenged and remoulded?

The call for papers for the conference is now open. Abstracts of 500 words and a short CV (max. 2 pages) should be submitted no later than 12th September 2011 through the online application form at <http://www.oecumene.eu/events/1st-symposium/abstracts-and-application>.

Registration and payment will open on 9th October 2011.

International PhD School 'Tracing Colonialism and Orientalism in Social and Political Thought'

The course will be based on two seminars taught by Professors Ian Almond and Roberto Dainotto. The first seminar will be based on *The New Orientalists: Postmodern Representations of Islam from Foucault to Baudrillard* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2007) and will focus on traces of orientalism in social and political thinkers such as Nietzsche, Kristeva, Foucault, Derrida, and Žižek. The second seminar will be based on *Europe (in Theory)* (Duke University Press, 2007) and will focus on the persistence of Eurocentrism within European thought and how it divides itself. Professor Engin Isin will join Professors Almond and Dainotto in a concluding panel on the task of opening the boundaries of European thought.

For applying to the PhD school, you need to submit a statement of interest between 500-750 words, addressing what the seminar will add to your work, and a brief CV (max. 2 pages) through the online application form at <http://www.oecumene.eu/events/1st-symposium/abstracts-and-application> no later than 12th September 2011.

Applicants will be informed about the outcome of the selection by 9th October 2011.

Please note that all participants are requested to fully prepare the reading material beforehand and to deliver an assignment before the seminar starts. We will distribute the material well in advance to give you plenty of time to prepare.

Workshop Series

Although attendance to the workshops is mainly by invitation, there will be a limited number of places available for advance students, scholars and activists participating in the first symposium.

If you wish to attend any of the workshops, you should send a brief CV (max. 2 pages) and a statement of interest including a brief description of your current research no later than 12th September 2011 to each workshop convener.

Workshop 1: Sexual democracy, imperialism and cultural translation.

Leticia Sabsay

l.i.sabsay@open.ac.uk

This workshop addresses the re-articulation and contestation of orientalist and colonial mentalities in current sexual politics across different geo-political sites.

Workshop 2: Performance and political subjectivity.

Deena Dajani

d.s.m.dajani@open.ac.uk

Crossing different disciplines, this workshop explores ways of thinking about performances as spaces and forms where political subjectivities are created and reproduced.

Workshop 3: Local instances, global claims: acts of writing and social movements.

Alessandra Marino

a.marino@open.ac.uk

What is the role of writing in shaping and dismantling travelling images of citizenship? Can writing be a tool for engaging, mobilising people and enhancing social struggles? This workshop explores the (im)possible relations between writing and social movements.

Workshop 4: Religious organisations and their political articulation of citizenship.

Aya Ikegame

a.ikegame@open.ac.uk

Inviting people working on religious organisations in different parts of world, this workshop questions if and how these organisations provide a means to articulate the political subjectivity of their followers and constituents.

Workshop 5: Subjects of migration: citizenship, law and orientalism.

Iker Barbero

i.b.gonzalez@open.ac.uk

This workshop discusses whether contemporary immigration policies of selective control and the denial of migrants' political subjectivity are vestiges of orientalism or even a new model of governance.

Applicants will receive a notification of acceptance by e-mail by 9th October 2011.

