Following independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, economic and political liberalization projects were rolled out across Latvia and Eastern Europe. While economic liberalism was welcomed, political liberalism was contested. Many in Latvia did not want to give up their collective sense of self and insisted on the importance of the nation alongside individual liberties and respect for diversity. From the perspective of liberal Europe, this often led to the conclusion that Latvia’s residents exhibited too much socialist mentality or nationalist sentiment and thus required lessons in political liberalism in order to become fully European.

In this talk, I critically examine efforts to extend lessons in political liberalism to Latvia’s residents on the basis of an ethnography of tolerance promotion in Latvia in the 2000s. I argue that, rather than viewing Eastern Europe as falling behind, it should be viewed as the laboratory for forging post-Cold War political liberalism in Europe. Moreover, it provides insight with regard to the current crisis of political liberalism from a moment in time when it was still confident and from the perspective of a place and people that were thought to have never been liberal.

Dace Dzenovska is Associate Professor in the Anthropology of Migration, Center on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford.


The event is arranged by Marlene Paulin Kristensen, PhD Fellow and Marie Sandberg, Associate Professor, The Saxo-Institute in cooperation with CEMES

**Details**

Time: 5 April 2018, 10:00-12:00  
Place: South Campus, auditorium 22.0.11  
Organizer: AMIS-CEMES Student Forum

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**Immigrants in the Sexual Revolution: a book talk**

Andrew DJ Shield presents on his book, which focuses on the latter half of the twentieth century, when much of northwest Europe grew increasingly multicultural with the arrival of foreign workers and (post-)colonial migrants, whilst simultaneously experiencing a boom in feminist and sexual liberation activism.

Using multilingual newspapers, foreign worker organizations’ archives, and interviews, Shield shows that immigrants in the Netherlands and Denmark held a variety of viewpoints about European gender and sexual cultures.

Some immigrants felt solidarity with, and even participated in, European social movements that changed norms and laws in favor of women’s equality, gay and lesbian rights, and sexual liberation. These histories challenge today’s politicians and journalists who strategically link immigration to sexual conservatism, misogyny, and homophobia.

Everyone is welcome!
Epistemologies of the 'Muslim Question’ in Europe. On the Politics of Knowledge Production in a Minefield

Amir-Schirin Moazami critically reflects on the politics of knowledge production undergirding hegemonic epistemologies on the “Muslim Question” in Europe. Starting from the assumption about an intrinsic relationship between knowledge and power, Moazami investigates the conditions and functions of the current incitement to discourse on Muslims and Islam in Europe and looks at the intertwine of in which the figure of the Muslim is produced as an object of academic analysis and of political intervention. Also Moazami discusses specific formats, methodologies and academic practices which have become hegemonic in this field, and asks how current politics of knowledge production on Muslims and Islam in Europe are predicated on historically constituted epistemologies and disciplinary divisions. He argues that the prevalence and persistence of certain paradigms, methodologies and categories need to be historicized in their imperial legacies and as incidents of minority-majority (re)productions within secular nation-state frameworks.

Schirin Amir-Moazami holds a PhD from the department of Social and Political Sciences of the European University Institute in Florence. Since 2009 she has worked as a professor of Islam in Europe in the department of Islamic Studies at Freie Universität Berlin. Her research focuses on bodily components of secularism in relation to minoritised religions, on questions of knowledge production on Muslims in Europe and on politics of recognition. She has published books and articles on these issues. Her edited volume on the politics of knowledge production is currently in press and will appear in German under the title “The inspected Muslim. On the Politicisation of Knowledge on Islam in Europe”.

Everyone is welcome!

Pitfalls and Promises of Researching Super-diversity

Lecture by Susanne Wessendorf, Marie Curie Research Fellow at the School of Social Policy (IRiS), University of Birmingham.

Ever since the notion of super-diversity was first coined in 2007 (Vertovec 2007), the idea of a concept which captures the increasing diversification of immigration-related diversity has gained much academic and policy attention.

Despite being criticised by some as merely descriptive, oblivious to inequality and racism, and theoretically thin, the notion has taken on its own life, and it has been widely used across the social sciences and policy.

This lecture addresses how the notion of super-diversity emerged and the kinds of criticism it has met. By using empirical examples from two ethnographic research projects, the lecture shows how the concept of super-diversity has helped move research on migration and ethnicity away from methodological nationalism, allowing for more nuanced interpretations of the social categories which make a difference for people of migrant origin. These include, for example, legal status, cultural capital, language, gender, religion and race. While acknowledging the limitations of the concept, the paper shows how a 'super-diversity lens' allows for a more finely tuned ethnographic analysis of ethnic
minorities’ and migrants’ life-worlds and the social, economic, political and socio-cultural factors which shape their lives.

Everyone is welcome!

**Details**
Time: 1 June 2018, TBA
Place: South Campus, room 27.0.09
Organizer: Centre for Advanced Migration Studies (AMIS)

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