

IPW LECTURES

Negotiating Non-Citizenship and Legal Status Trajectories in Toronto

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Abstract:

Recognized immigrants and *de-facto* residents share certain exclusions (e.g. racism and racialization) as well as distinct challenges linked to immigration status. *De-facto* residents include temporary residents, who are not typically entitled to full settlement services, and those without authorized status. For this precarious status population, struggles to stay put involve claims of control over im/mobility and presence, claims to membership based on residence, and claims of access to public services and entitlements. Contemporary immigration policies institutionalize a variety of legal status situations and likely trajectories characterized by several dimensions of precarity. These include temporariness (temporary work and residence permits), limited or no access to public services, status revocability, and deportability. This paper examines the *chutes and ladders* of precarious legal status trajectories, focusing on the conditionality of presence and access. Part of the analysis examines the *work* undertaken by precarious noncitizens to remain in Canada and to gain (more) secure status, extend presence, and improve access to services. Another part focuses on the role of certain actors and institutions in shaping experiences and trajectories. The analysis is based on data gathered through a mixed-methods survey conducted in the Greater Toronto Area and may focus on a particular legal status trajectory. The paper aims to contribute to conceptual and empirical work on the assemblage of non-citizenship in Canada, and to comparative discussions.

Diese Veranstaltung findet in Kooperation mit dem Forschungsschwerpunkt *Migration, Citizenship, and Belonging* an der Fakultät für Sozialwissenschaften der Universität Wien statt.