

Webinar

Access to Citizenship in the Global South: How Important Is It and How Could It Be Made More Inclusive?

1 December 2020

Online - Zoom

Scientific organiser: **Rainer Bauböck** | European University Institute

Introduction

Throughout countries of the so-called global South, rates of naturalisation are low - even where there are large populations of immigrants. And outside South America only few countries automatically include second generations of immigrant origin through ius soli rules. GLOBALCIT has just concluded its [15th GLOBALCIT Forum](#) in which 15 authors discussed a proposal by Bronwen Manby to unblock access to citizenship by empowering local communities to naturalise foreigners. We want to build on the insights from this debate in a webinar that looks into the broader question of how important access to citizenship is in the global South compared to other legal statuses and documents, such as birth certificates or permanent residence permits. The webinar will also ask what is the best strategy for closing citizenship gaps and how strongly success depends on national contexts.

The webinar is organised by the [Global Citizenship Observatory](#)

Programme

18.00 - 18.10 Chair: **Rainer Bauböck** | European University Institute

Welcome

18.10 - 18.30 Naturalisation rates vary strongly between immigrant receiving countries in the global North, but in the global South they seem to be uniformly low, independently of the size of immigrant populations and also in immigrant nations, such as those in South America. Do you share this diagnosis? And if so, how much of a problem is it that immigrants in the global South rarely get access to citizenship via naturalisation?

Round of answers by :

Amal de Chickera | Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, London

Imke Harbers | University of Amsterdam



Bronwen Manby | London School of Economics and Political Science

Sujata Ramachandran | Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada

18.30 - 18.50 What should be done to improve access to citizenship status and rights in the global South and which policy reforms should take priority? Most observers will agree that improving registration at birth and after birth is crucial. After this, should the emphasis be on introducing or strengthening ius soli, on secure permanent residence statuses for non-citizens, or on facilitating access to full citizenship by naturalisation? And how could any of these goals be made more realistic?

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18.50 - 19.10 Context matters enormously and - just like in the global North - citizenship regimes vary hugely across the global South. What are the differences that matter most for citizenship reform: colonial legacies and geopolitical differences between world regions, level of economic development or the democratic or autocratic nature of the political regime?

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19.10- 19.30 **Q&A**