

## Webinar

# Citizenship, Inequality and Justice

23 February 2021

Online - Zoom

Scientific organiser: [Jo Shaw](#) | University of Edinburgh/Tampere University and GLOBALCIT

## Introduction

The ideals of 'equal citizenship' and 'the equality of citizens' (and states) lie at the heart of formal paradigms of citizenship, especially when we think about it as a membership concept. Yet the type of equal citizenship trumpeted in many constitutions across the world remains elusive, not least because, as a boundary condition for access to the polity, it is inevitable that citizenship must exclude as much (or as many people) as it includes. Inequality has long been a pervasive condition of citizenship, but it is arguable that this has become even more evident in recent years, in tandem with a noticeable rise of nationalism and populism, infecting many national citizenship regimes. Yet equality is not only a challenge for citizenship within national polities, but also in the context of interstate relations at the regional and global levels. If states are not equal, then how can their citizens have equal rights within the global system?

In this webinar, we will explore the equality paradox at the heart of citizenship, looking at it from an interdisciplinary and trans-national perspective, focusing on both the theoretical frameworks that help us to understand equality and non-discrimination as legal and political principles and on the societal conditions that contextualise experiences of inequality and injustice for different groups of citizens.

The webinar will be organised in a roundtable format, with four speakers and the convenor of the webinar, Jo Shaw. Through the discussion we aim to approach the question whether inequality rather than equality is the predominant feature of citizenship. There will be time for Q&A from the audience.

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

## Programme

18.00 - 19.30 **Roundtable**

Chair: [Jo Shaw](#) | University of Edinburgh/Tampere University and GLOBALCIT

Speakers:

[Christine Hobden](#) | University of Fort Hare and Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study

Dr Christine Hobden is a Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Fort Hare and an Iso Lomso Fellow at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study.

She is a political theorist whose research focuses on citizenship, international justice, and collective responsibility. Her forthcoming book, [Citizenship in a Globalised World](#), will be published by Routledge in May 2021. Christine has recently published: '[Re-centring political equality as a good of citizenship: a response to proposals to decentralise the naturalisation process](#)' (part of a GLOBALCIT Forum Debate on Unblocking access to citizenship in the global South: Should the process be decentralised?).

[Tamar Hostovsky Brandes](#) | Ono Academic College

Dr Tamar Hostovsky Brandes is a Senior Lecturer at Ono Academic College's Faculty of Law, in Israel. She earned her J.S.D and LL.M (cum laude) degrees from Columbia Law School, where she was a Finkelstein Fellow, and her LL.B (magna cum laude) from Tel-Aviv University. She teaches and researches in the areas of international and constitutional law, focusing on the intersection between international law and domestic law, and on the intersection of law and political theory, and has published extensively in these areas. Tamar has recently published [Israel's Nation-State Law - What Now for Equality, Self-Determination, and Social Solidarity?](#), *Verfassungsblog*, 2018.

[Rachel Pougnet](#) | University of Bristol

Dr Rachel Pougnet is a Senior Research Associate (ESRC Postdoctoral researcher) at the University of Bristol Law school. She was awarded her PhD in 2020, also from the University of Bristol. Her research examines the interplay between citizenship, national security, and state-led policies concerning inclusion and exclusion (the "politics of belonging") through the practice of citizenship deprivation. As part of her post-doctoral activities, she is engaged in a Knowledge Exchange Partnership with the European Network on Statelessness (ENS). This collaborative work seeks to contribute to the understanding of citizenship deprivation in different contexts and to its effect on statelessness. In that context, Rachel has recently published a blog on [Citizenship and the fall of the British Empire: A system of exclusion](#), July 2020.

[David Owen](#) | University of Southampton

David Owen is Professor of Social and Political Philosophy at the University of Southampton. His research engages with issues of citizenship, migration and refugees. Recent publications include What do we owe to refugees? (Polity, 2020); 'Migration, Structural Injustice and Domination', *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 2020, 46(12): 2585-2601; 'The Right to Have Nationality Rights', *Netherlands International Law Review*, 2018, 65:299-317; 'Citizenship and Human Rights' in A. Shachar et al. (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Citizenship* OUP 2016: 247-66.