

Webinar

Dual Citizenship, Diaspora Engagement and Development

23 March 2021

Online - Zoom

Scientific organiser: [Maarten Vink](#) | European University Institute

Introduction

What is the role of dual citizenship in engaging diaspora communities in the economic and political development of home countries? Diasporas have often been viewed suspiciously as having ‘abandoned the nation’ and, as a result, dual citizenship has traditionally been regulated restrictively in many parts of the world. Yet, in a world where restrictions on choice of citizenship are seen as increasingly arbitrary and migrants commonly maintain active social, economic, and political links with their origin country, political elites are pressured to acknowledge the contributions of overseas communities to the development of their home country and to allow expat communities to retain their citizenship of origin when naturalising abroad.

While dual citizenship is nowadays accepted in three-quarters of all countries around the world, it remains contested as sentiments against diaspora incorporation are easily mobilised, among those home country populations who are ‘left behind’ and view dual citizenship as a cost-free status symbol of global mobility. Moreover, how much can be expected from expats who typically do not pay taxes and may be less interested in homeland governance than resident citizens?

This webinar will be organised in a roundtable format with four speakers who are asked to address three sets of questions. In a first round, we discuss the extent to which diaspora communities have pushed for the recognition of dual citizenship and how political elites, in various geographic and political contexts, have responded to such calls, including attempts of ‘remote control’ over overseas populations. In a second round, we assess what we know about whether dual citizenship does, indeed, contribute to home country economic and political development and, if so, in what ways? Finally, in a third round, we discuss the evolution of global policy environments and question whether dual citizenship brings into purview new perspectives on diaspora governance and development.

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: [Maarten Vink](#) | European University Institute

Speakers:

[Jen Dickinson](#) | University of Winchester

Jen Dickinson is a Senior Lecturer in Human Geography at the University of Winchester. She completed her PhD in 2008 at the University of Leeds, after which she held a number of teaching and research positions at the University of St. Andrews and the University of Leicester. Her research examines the politics of diaspora engagement, and is grounded in feminist approaches that engage with diasporic civil society and everyday practices of the state. She has published this work in a number of journals including *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, and *Geoforum*. Her most current research examines the everyday lived citizenship of young people from the Rwandan diaspora in the UK.

[David Leblang](#) | University of Virginia

David Leblang is the Ambassador Henry J. Taylor and Mrs Marion R. Taylor Endowed Professor of Politics at the University of Virginia as well as a Professor of Public Policy at the University's Batten School for Leadership and Public Policy where he directs the Global Policy Center. He is also the Robert C Compton Professor of Public Affairs at the Miller Center of Public Affairs as well as an Associate Director for UVA's Pan-University Institute on Global Infectious Diseases. As scholar in the area of international political economy he has expertise in international immigration, global capital markets, and financial crises. His work has appeared in *Comparative Political Studies*, *The European Journal of Political Research*, *International Organization*, *The American Political Science Review*, *World Politics* and *The American Journal of Political Science*.

[Daniel Naujoks](#) | Columbia School of International and Public Affairs

Daniel Naujoks is the director a.i. for the International Organization & UN Studies Specialization at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. His research focuses on global governance, and migration, refugees, and citizenship in the Global South, including his book 'Migration, Citizenship, and Development' (2013, Oxford University Press). He has widely published on the policy-making processes and effects of dual citizenship, atypical citizenship regimes, and diaspora engagement, as well as on the link between human mobility and sustainable development processes. Daniel regularly advises international organizations and serves as chair of ISA's Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Migration Studies section. He holds a PhD in political science and political economy from the University of Münster and a law degree from Humboldt University in Berlin. He has previously taught at The New School's Studley Graduate Programs in International Affairs and Jawaharlal Nehru University.

[Robtel Neajai Pailey](#) | London School of Economics and Political Science

Robtel Neajai Pailey is a Liberian scholar-activist working at the intersection of Critical Development Studies, Critical African Studies and Critical Race Studies. Author of *Development, (Dual) Citizenship and Its Discontents in Africa: The Political Economy of Belonging to Liberia* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), she currently serves as Assistant Professor in International Social and Public Policy at the London School of Economics and

Political Science.