

The Good Citizen: Global Historical Perspectives on Citizenship, Biopolitics, and Technology from the Colonial to the Digital Era (1800 - 2000)

Seminar

Chair for History of the Modern World

D-GESS, ETH Zürich

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South Pacific immigrants being examined by a doctor at Ellis Island, circa 1910.

Time: FS 2022, Wednesday h 10–12 (fortnightly, starting 23 Feb. 2022). Each class session is followed by a reading week.

Venue: IFW C 33

Learning materials: For each session, readings (♥ = mandatory) are available on Moodle at the following link <https://moodle-app2.let.ethz.ch/course/view.php?id=16253>

Course requirements:

- A) Attendance of the sessions and active participation;
- B) Regular reading of the mandatory texts (a course reader with selected texts will be provided online) and weekly submission of a critical question/comment for each reading to me until Tuesday evening (one mandatory reading = one question/comment; two mandatory readings = two questions/comments) (min 80% of both the frontal sessions and reading weeks);
- C) Group presentation of 15-20 minutes of a chosen case study based on a session topic and followed by a class discussion;
- D) Short final paper providing a critical review of a session (this must be different from the one chosen for the presentation). Papers must be between 1500 and 2000 words long and submitted **until 19 June 2022**.

Final grade

A + B = 30%

C = 35%

D = 35%

Bachelor students can choose between C and D, which, in their case, constitute 70% of the seminar grade.

Class discussions:

This course is based on discussion and deals with potentially sensitive material. To ensure an inclusive atmosphere, we would ask that all discussions be conducted respectfully. That does not mean that we all must be in agreement with others' opinions. It means, instead, that we criticise ideas and not people having certain ideas that differ from ours. It does mean that we will employ tools like gender-, racial-, ethnic- and class-sensitive language (where appropriate), speaking calmly, and listening until a person has finished speaking. Nobody should speak more than twice in a row. Everybody should make an effort to speak at least once.

Summary

Examining citizenship as a contested category, the course focuses on the technoscientific discourses and practices that have historically been adopted to define citizens. Students are introduced to critical literature in this area and explore in particular the relationship existing between citizenship, biopolitics and technology through a range of different case studies in the age of colonialism and globalisation.

Students learn the history of citizenship from ca 1800 onwards through readings taken from the multidisciplinary scholarship on the topic with a focus on different cultural and political settings. Providing insights into the ever-shifting meaning of citizenship, the course explains this category in relation to scientific and technological changes.

This seminar aims to explore the complex and often ambivalent effects that technoscientific discourses and practices and technologies of biopower have had on norms, practices and

institutions of citizenship. It does so by considering, in particular, the impact that technoscientific developments have had in terms of inclusion/exclusion and emancipation/control of citizens. In particular, the role of biology, (colonial) biomedicine, data science, surveillance technologies and biometric identification techniques are objects of substantial reflection that promise to provide students from natural and technical sciences with new perspectives on their core subjects by raising ethical questions about the role and responsibility of these in relation to citizenship issues. The seminar is thematically structured, adopts a multidisciplinary perspective, and uses scholarly texts and concrete examples from different world-regions and periods to familiarise participants with the different dimensions of, and historical variations in, citizenship as well as with the major shifts in understanding this category. It considers topical issues like the implication of digital technologies on political participation, social inclusion, and state borders; the effects of Assisted Reproductive Technologies and genetic advancements on formal membership and immigration policy; the forms of resistance that such practices have spurred locally and globally. Critically engaging with these topics, students a) examine and reflect on the complex, problematic, and often contradictory relationship existing between citizenship, biopolitics and technology; b) relate what they have learnt to their core scientific subject or to contemporary debates while considering historical continuities and discontinuities; c) revisit and broaden their understanding of citizenship while learning to use it as an analytical lens to make sense of the globalised world.

Outline of the Sessions

Session 1 – 23 February

Welcome, introduction, requirements

♥ Grant, Matthew. “Historicizing Citizenship in Post-War Britain”. *The Historical Journal*, Vol. 59, n. 4 (2016), pp. 1187–1206.

♥ Dumbava, Costica. “Citizenship and Technology”, in *The Oxford Handbook of Citizenship* (ed. by Ayelet Shachar et al.), OUP 2017.

Reading week’s material:

Vromen, Ariadne. *Digital Citizenship and Political Engagement. The Challenge from Online Campaigning and Advocacy Organisations*, Palgrave Macmillan, London 2017, pp. 1-50.

Isin, Engin and Evelyn Ruppert. *Being Digital Citizens*, Rowman & Littlefield International, London 2015, pp. 1-16.

Feenberg, Andrew. “Agency and Citizenship in a Technological Society”, in *Spaces for the Future: A Companion to Philosophy of Technology*, (edited by Pitt, J.C., & Shew, A.), Routledge, 2017, pp. 98–107.

De Lanerolle, Indra. “Technology can boost active citizenship if it’s chosen well”, *The Conversation*, 28 August 2016, online <https://theconversation.com/technology-can-boost-active-citizenship-if-its-chosen-well-61816>

Session 2 – 9 March**Fit for citizenship: (pseudo-)biology and race**

♥ FitzGerald, David Scott. “The History of Racialised Citizenship”, *The Oxford Handbook of Citizenship* (edited by Ayelet Shachar et al.), OUP 2017.

♥ Levine, Philippa. “Anthropology, Colonialism and Eugenics”, in *The Oxford handbook of the History of Eugenics* (edited by Alison Bashford and Philippa Levine), OUP 2010.

Dumbrava, Costica and Rainer Bauböck, eds., ‘Bloodlines and Belonging: Time to Abandon Ius Sanguinis?’, EUI Working Paper no. 80 (Florence: RSCAS, 2015), online http://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/37578/RSCAS_2015_80.pdf;sequence=1

De C. Ward, Robert. “National Eugenics in Relation to Immigration.” *The North American Review* 192, no. 656 (1910): 56–67. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25106709>.

Chen, Michelle. «Fit for Citizenship? A Photo Essay”, *Dissent*, Spring 2015, online <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/fit-for-citizenship-eugenics-usa-photo-essay>

Reading week’s material:

Villiers, Janice D. “Brave New World: The Use and Potential Misuse of DNA Technology in Immigration Law”, *Boston College Third World Law Journal* 30, no. 2 (2010): pp. 239–271.

Lee, Seung. “Kuwait Becomes First Country to Collect DNA Samples from all Citizens and Visitors: Report”, *Newsweek*, 19 April 2016, online <http://europe.newsweek.com/kuwait-becomes-first-country-world-collect-dna-samples-all-citizens-and-449830?rm=eu>

van Oorschot, I., M’charek, A. “Keeping race at bay: familial DNA research, the ‘Turkish Community,’ and the pragmatics of multiple collectives in investigative practice”. *BioSocieties*, Vol. 16 (2021), pp. 553–573. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41292-021-00246-4>

Session 3 – 23 March**Technologies of identification and surveillance**

♥ Singha, Radhika. “The Great War and a ‘Proper’ Passport for the Colony: Border-Crossing in British India, c.1882–1922”, *The Indian Economic and Social History Review*, Vol. 50, n. 3 (2013), pp. 289–315.

Torpey, John C. *The Invention of the Passport: Surveillance, Citizenship, and the State*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2018 (2nd edition), pp. 114-50.

Salter, M.B. “Passports, Mobility, and Security: How Smart Can the Border Be?” *International Studies Perspectives*, Vol. 5, n. 1 (2004), pp. 71-91.

Wilson, Dean and Weber, Lean. “Surveillance, Risk and Pre-emption on the Australian Border”, *Surveillance & Society*, Vol. 5, n. 2 (2008), pp. 124-141.

Reading week’s material:

Lyon, David. “The Border is Everywhere: ID Cards, Surveillance and the Other”, in *Global Surveillance and Policing: Borders, Security, Identity* (edited by Elia Zureik and Mark Salter), Cullompton, Portland: Willan, 2005, pp. 66–82.

Achiume, E. Tendayi. “Digital Racial Borders”, *American Journal of International Law, Unbound*, Vol. 115 (2021), pp. 333–338.

Torpey, John C. *The Invention of the Passport: Surveillance, Citizenship, and the State*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2018 (2nd edition), pp. 195-217.

Session 4 – 6 April**ART, citizenship and neo-eugenics.**

♥ Smith Rotabi, K., & Bromfield, N.F. *From Intercountry Adoption to Global Surrogacy: A Human Rights History and New Fertility Frontiers*. Routledge, London 2016, pp. 1-35
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315583389>

♥ Deomampo, Daisy. “Defining Parents, Making Citizens: Nationality and Citizenship in Transnational Surrogacy”, *Medical Anthropology*, Vol. 34, n. 3 (2015), pp. 210-225, DOI:
[10.1080/01459740.2014.890195](https://doi.org/10.1080/01459740.2014.890195)

Harder, Lois. “Does Sperm Have a Flag? On Biological Relationship and National Membership”. *Canadian Journal of Law and Society / Revue Canadienne Droit Et Société*, Vol. 30, n. 1 (2015), pp. 109–125.

Knaplund, Kristine S., “Baby Without a Country: Determining Citizenship for Assisted Reproduction Children Born Overseas”, *Denver University Law Review*, Vol. 91, no. 2 (2013), pp. 335–367.

Reading week’s material:

Schurr, Carolin. “From Biopolitics to Bioeconomies: The ART of (Re-)Producing White Futures in Mexico’s Surrogacy Market”, *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 35.2 (2017), 241–62
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0263775816638851>

Korolczuk, Elżbieta. “‘The purest citizens’ and ‘IVF children’. Reproductive citizenship in contemporary Poland”, *Reproductive Biomedicine & Society Online*, Vol. 3 (2016), pp. 126-133,
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rbms.2016.12.006>.

Dickens, Bernard M. “The New Eugenics—Selective Breeding in an Era of Reproductive Technologies: A Review Essay”, *Population and Development Review*, 44.3 (2018), pp. 627–38
<https://doi.org/10.1111/padr.12191>

Lippman, Abby. “Prenatal Genetic Testing and Screening: Constructing Needs and Reinforcing Inequities”, *American Journal of Law & Medicine* 17, no. 1–2 (1991), pp. 15–50.

Session 5 – 27 April

Biometrics, rights, and discrimination

♥ van Der Ploeg, Irma. “Biometrics and the body as information: normative issues of the socio-technical coding of the body”, in *Surveillance as Social Sorting: Privacy, Risk and Digital Discrimination* (edited by David Lyon), Routledge, London and New York 2003, pp. 57-63.

♥ Behrent, Michael C. “Foucault and Technology”, *History and Technology*, Vol. 29, n. 1 (2013), pp. 54-104, <https://doi.org/10.1080/07341512.2013.780351>

Krishna, Gopal. “Defying Fundamental Rights with Impunity”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 52, Issue No. 12, 25 Mar, 2017 <https://www.epw.in/journal/2017/12/web-exclusives/defying-fundamental-rights-impunity.html>

Reading week’s material:

Najibi, Alex “Racial Discrimination in Face Recognition Technology », *SINT*, Harvard University, 24 October 2020, online <https://sitn.hms.harvard.edu/flash/2020/racial-discrimination-in-face-recognition-technology/>

Masiero, Silvia and Bailur, Savita. “Digital identity for development: The quest for justice and a research agenda”, *Information Technology for Development*, Vol. 27, n. 1 (2021), pp. 1-12, DOI: [10.1080/02681102.2021.1859669](https://doi.org/10.1080/02681102.2021.1859669)

Mphatso Mwapasa, Kate Gooding, Moses Kumwenda, Marriott Nliwasa, Kruger Kaswaswa, Rodrick Sambakunsi, Michael Parker, Susan Bull & Nicola Desmond. “Are we getting the biometric bioethics right? – the use of biometrics within the healthcare system in Malawi”, *Global Bioethics*, Vol. 31, n. 1 (2020), pp. 67-80, DOI: [10.1080/11287462.2020.1773063](https://doi.org/10.1080/11287462.2020.1773063)

Session 6 – 11 May

Technologies of resistance?

♥ Garrett RK, Edwards PN. “Revolutionary Secrets: Technology’s Role in the South African Anti-Apartheid Movement”, *Social Science Computer Review*, Vol. 25, n. 1 (2007), pp. 13-26
[doi:10.1177/0894439306289556](https://doi.org/10.1177/0894439306289556)

♥ Schelly, Chelsea. *Dwelling in Resistance. Living with Alternative Technologies in America*, Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick: NJ, 2017, pp. 1-17.

Reading week's material:

Emejulu, Akwugo & Callum McGregor, "Towards a radical digital citizenship in digital education", *Critical Studies in Education*, Vol. 60, n. 1 (2019), pp. 131-147, DOI: [10.1080/17508487.2016.1234494](https://doi.org/10.1080/17508487.2016.1234494)

Martin, Aaron K., Rosamunde Van Brakel and Daniel Bernhard. "Understanding resistance to digital surveillance: Towards a multi-disciplinary, multi-actor framework". *Surveillance & Society*, Vol. 6, n. 3 (2009), pp. 213-232.

Session 7 – 25 May**Citizen Science: concerned citizenship and bottom-up research**

♥ Kullenberg, Christopher. "Citizen Science as Resistance: Crossing the Boundary Between Reference and Representation", *Journal of Resistance Studies*, Vol. 1, n. 1 (2015), pp. 50-76.

Vetter, Jeremy. "Knowing the Great Plains Weather: Field Life and Lay Participation on the American Frontier during the Railroad Era", *East Asian Science, Technology and Society: An International Journal*, Vol. 13, n. 2 (2019), pp. 195-213, DOI: [10.1215/18752160-7341700](https://doi.org/10.1215/18752160-7341700)

Haklay M., Dörler D., Heigl F., Manzoni M., Hecker S., Vohland K. "What Is Citizen Science? The Challenges of Definition", in *The Science of Citizen Science* (edited by Vohland K. et al.), Springer, Cham 2021. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-58278-4_2

Irving, Aisling, "No PhDs Needed: How Citizen Science is transforming Research", *Nature*, 23 October 2018, online <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-07106-5>

<https://citizenscience.ch/en/>

Session 8 – 1 June**Final discussion on the course**