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# MAJORITY AND MINORITY RIGHTS

7TH WZB ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
ON MIGRATION AND DIVERSITY

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WZB Berlin Social Science Center  
Berlin, Germany

April 25-27, 2019

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**Organizers:**

**Ruud Koopmans**, Director, "Migration, Integration, Transnationalization", WZB Berlin

**Liav Orgad**, Director, "Global Citizenship Governance", EUI / WZB / IDC

*\* Attending the conference is by registration only*



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## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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Liberal thinking and human rights law recognize minority rights. Thus far, majority groups have not been granted similar rights because it is assumed that they are not vulnerable groups. The majority is presumed to be able to “take care of itself”; it can use its numerical advantage to perpetuate its political power and socio-cultural interests.

Tensions between minority and majority rights are among the most pressing issues of our time. The changing patterns in global migration reconfigure the cultural landscape of societies and shift the dynamics between cultural groups within the state. On one side, the backlash against multiculturalism and the reemergence of majority nationalism raise new concerns over the tyranny of the majority. On the other side, fears over the erosion of majority groups’ culture appear due to the accelerated pace of migration and the creation of new minorities. All these challenges call for the reexamination of fundamental assumptions in law and theory.

The conference seeks to understand better the intercultural tensions between majority and minority rights, the reflection of these tensions in law and policy, moral and legal challenges they pose to theories of democracy, diversity and justice, and their

normative consequences. What are the vulnerabilities that minorities and majorities face in contemporary societies? Can minority rights and majority rights be asserted based on similar rationales? How do distinctive political contexts and histories influence the legal responses that shape minority and majority rights? Which policies act as barriers against cultural group rights?

The conference will open with a Keynote Address by Will Kymlicka on April 25 at 16:00 at the WZB Berlin. Regular and poster session presenters are requested to submit a paper two weeks before the workshop (*no later than April 8*), so that we can distribute it in advance. Participants to the panel discussions do not need to submit a paper in advance but may do so if they wish. For regular sessions, each talk will be 40 minutes in total: 20 minutes presentation and 20 minutes Q&A. Presenters in the one-hour parallel poster session should prepare a poster on the basis of their paper. From the contributions to all sessions, we aim at publishing 12 selected papers, based on a peer review process, as an edited volume with one of the leading publishers (there is no publication requirement, however). More details about it will be discussed in Berlin.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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*April 25, 2019*

**16.00**                      **Arrival** at WZB / Berlin Social Science Center

**16.30 – 16.40**            **Welcoming Remarks**  
Ruud Koopmans (WZB)

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**16.40 -18.00**            **The 1st WZB Annual Address on Migration and Diversity**  
Will Kymlicka (Queen's University)  
*The Enduring Importance of Nationhood in Shaping Majority-Minority Relations*

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**19.30**                      **Dinner**

*April 26, 2019*

**9.00**                        **Welcome Coffee**

**9.30 – 10.50**            **Session 1: Majority Rights? – Part I**  
*Chair:* Will Kymlicka (Queen's University)  
  
Peter Balint (UNSW Canberra)  
Daniel Weinstock (McGill University)

**10.50 – 11.00**            **Coffee Break**

**11.00 – 12.30**            **Session 2: Panel Discussion**  
*Chair:* Liav Orgad (WZB, EUI, IDC)  
  
Ayaan Hirsi Ali (Hoover Institution)  
Ruud Koopmans (WZB)  
Tariq Modood (University of Bristol)

**12.30 – 13.45**            **Lunch Break**

**13.45 – 15.45**

**Session 3: Legal Perspectives**

*Chair:* Paul Cliteur (Leiden University)

David Abraham (University of Miami)  
Roberta Medda-Windischer (EURAC Research)  
Alexander Yakobson (Hebrew University)

**15.45 – 16.00**

**Coffee Break**

**16.00 – 17.20**

**Session 4: Majority Rights? – Part II**

*Chair:* Tariq Modood (University of Bristol)

Măriuca-Oana Constantin (SNSPA)  
Matthias Hoesch (University of Münster)

**17.20 – 17.30**

**Coffee Break**

**17.30 – 18.30**

**Session 5: Conversation**

*Chair:* David Goodhart (Policy Exchange)

Ayaan Hirsi Ali (Hoover Institution)

**19.30**

**Dinner**

*April 27th, 2019*

**9.00**

**Welcome Coffee**

**9.20 – 11.20**

**Session 6: Comparative Perspectives**

*Chair:* Rainer Bauböck (EUI, Austrian Academy of Sciences)

Netta Barak-Corren (Hebrew University)  
Christoph Baumgartner (Utrecht University)  
Tan Rebecca (University of Bristol)

**11.20 – 11.30**

**Coffee break**

**11.30 – 13.00**

**Session 7: Panel Discussion**

*Chair:* Ruud Koopmans (WZB)

Paul Cliteur (Leiden University)  
David Goodhart (Policy Exchange)  
Christian Joppke (University of Bern)

**13.00 – 14.00**

**Lunch break**

**14.00 – 15.00**

**Session 8: Poster Presentations**

Tamar De Waal (Erasmus University School of Law)  
Ryoko Ishikawa (Ritsumeikan University)

**15.00 – 16.30**

**Session 9: Panel Discussion**

*Chair:* Christian Joppke (University of Bern)

Rainer Bauböck (EUI, Austrian Academy of Sciences)  
Liav Orgad (WZB, EUI, IDC)  
Yael (Yuli) Tamir (Shenkar)

**16.30 – 17.00**

**Closing Remarks**

Liav Orgad (WZB, EUI, IDC)

**17.00 – 20.00**

**Informal Cooperation Talks**

## PARTICIPANTS

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*David Abraham*, Professor of Law, University of Miami School of Law

*Ayaan Hirsi Ali*, Founder, The AHA Foundation; Fellow, Hoover Institution

*Peter Balint*, Senior Lecturer, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, UNSW Canberra

*Netta Barak-Corren*, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

*Rainer Bauböck*, Professor of Social and Political Theory, EUI Florence

*Christoph Baumgartner*, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Utrecht University

*Paul Cliteur*, Professor of Jurisprudence, Universiteit Leiden

*Măriuca-Oana Constantin*, Researcher, Political Science Department, SNSPA

*David Goodhart*, Head, Policy Exchange, Demography, Immigration & Integration Unit

*Matthias Hoesch*, Researcher, Philosophy Department, University of Münster

*Christian Joppke*, Director, Institute of Sociology, University of Bern

*Ruud Koopmans*, Director, Migration, Integration, Transnationalization Unit, WZB Berlin

*Will Kymlicka*, Canada Research Chair in Political Philosophy, Queen's University

*Roberta Medda-Windischer*, Senior Researcher, Institute for Minority Rights, EURAC Research

*Janne Mende*, Professor, Institute for Political Science, University of Giessen

*Tariq Modood*, Director, Centre for the Study of Ethnicity & Citizenship, University of Bristol

*Liav Orgad*, Director, Global Citizenship Governance, EUI Florence / WZB Berlin / IDC Herzliya

*Ishikawa Ryoko*, Associate Professor, Ritsumeikan University Kyoto

*Rebecca Tan*, PhD Candidate, School of Sociology, University of Bristol

*Yael Tamir*, President, Shenkar College of Engineering, Design and Art

*Tamar De Waal*, Assistant Professor, Erasmus University School of Law

*Daniel Weinstock*, Professor, Institute for Health and Social Policy, McGill University

*Alexander Yakobson*, Associate Professor, History Department, Hebrew University of Jerusalem



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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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