Summer Term 2019
Mondays, 11.45am-1.15pm

Statelessness: On the permanent state of exception

What does it mean to live without citizenship in the time of nation states? An increasing number of people (more than 10 million people globally) find themselves in exactly this situation. As the UNHCR proclaims the end of statelessness in the context of its refugee work (the ‘iBelong-Campaign’) by 2020, more people are born into statelessness or lose their citizenship each day.

We will read legal anthropological and legal sociological literature on the topic as well as texts from legal philosophy and human rights law which will help us to critically question the concept of statehood as a ‘normality’ and reflect better on our own civic existence as citizens. We will engage with fundamental questions about the linkages between nationality, statelessness and human rights and work through a series of case studies together, focusing on the causes, consequences and offered solutions of statelessness.

The course is structured in two parts: in the first sessions of the class we will read theoretical and legal approaches towards statelessness while students prepare for their presentations. In this part of the seminar we will have a guest lecture on “statelessness as a way of life” by means of an ethnographic example from Southern Ethiopia.

In the second part of the course we will hear two case studies each week which the students will have prepared in advance. We will also have another guest lecture by an outside expert who will talk about the situation of stateless Kurds.
Seminar requirements:
1. You should come to the class having read the key readings designated for each week, and having formulated three questions that you would like to pose to the class for the group to discuss in relation to the readings. This is a reading-based course and you will be asked to leave the seminar if you have not done the key readings, or brought along a copy of the readings (in hard copy or electronically) and your own notes.
2. Regular active participation in the seminar (missing twice is fine, beyond that you will need to have a health care provider validate your illness or other cause for which sick leave was taken.
3. One of the key goals of the course is for students to gain experience of presenting their ideas in the form of a group presentation that should take the form of a mini-lecture with interactive elements (Powerpoint) and the preparation of a jointly designed poster. (Studienleistung)
4. Writing an extended final term paper on a self-chosen topic related to the seminar (Prüfungsleistung).

Books for the seminar can be found in the library (Semesterapparat). The readings will be uploaded to ILIAS.

COURSE PLAN

29. April
Session 1. Introduction
Introduction, Splitting up in groups for case studies

Part I: Theory

06. May
Session 2. The right to have rights
Arendt, Hannah. On statelessness (Berkeley notes)
Arendt, Hannah. Es gibt nur ein einziges Menschenrecht.

13. May
Session 3. Statelessness in international law

20. May
Session 4. The permanent state of exception

27. May
Session 5: Stateless societies – the case of South Omo, Southern Ethiopia (Guest lecture)
(Dr. F. Girke; Konstanz)

03. June
Session 6. The Kurds (Guest lecture)
(Kerem Schamberger, MA; München)
notes JB: Buch gth 155/u18, Verfügbär, BS 3a in Semesterapparat

Part II: Case Studies

Juni 17
Session 7. Statelessness from an individual perspective
5 short stories of stateless people as covered in German media
June 24
Session 8. Case Studies: Rohingya / Palestinians
everyone: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. 2015. “They want us all to go away.” Early warning signs of genocide in Burma
Group presentations and joint discussion

July 1
Session 9. Case Studies: iBelong campaign / stateless children
everyone: ENS 2014. Preventing childhood statelessness in Europe. Issues, gaps and good practice
Group presentations and joint discussion

July 8
Session 10. Case Studies: Roma / Deprivation of citizenship
everyone: Marushiakova, Elena und Vesselin Popov. The Roma – a nation without a state? Historical background and contemporary tendencies. In: Streck, Bernhard (Hg.): Segmentation und Komplementarität. Mitteilungen des SFB „Differenz und Integration“ 6, pp. 71-100. To read: 5. The NGO boom (pp. 84-88).
Group presentation and joint discussion

July 15
Session 11. Summary / Discussion Term Papers