



COURSE SYLLABUS

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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*.

Arendt, Hannah. *Wir Flüchtlinge*. 1943. In: *Zur Zeit. Politische Essays*. Rotbuch Verlag, 1999, S. 7-21

13. May

Session 3. Statelessness in international law

Text der 1954 Konvention; Text der 1961 Konvention https://www.uno-fluechtlingshilfe.de/shop/media/pdf/dc/58/bb/Staaten-Abkommen_2015.pdf (pdf ok)

Mandal, Ruma und Amanda Gray. 2014. *Out of the shadows. The treatment of statelessness under international law*. Briefing. International Law Programme. Oktober 2014



https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/field/field_document/20141029StatelessnessMandalGray.pdf

Conklin, William. 2014. *Statelessness. The enigma of an international community*. Oxford and Portland: Hart. Introduction (S. 1-10).

20. May

Session 4. The permanent state of exception

Agamben, Giorgio. *Jenseits der Menschenrechte* (1993) In: *Jungle World* 28/2001. Übersetzt von T. Atzert <https://jungle.world/print/pdf/node/25547/debug>

Agamben, Giorgio. *Homo Sacer. Die souveräne Macht und das nackte Leben*. Einleitung und S. 190-198.

27. May

Session 5: Stateless societies – the case of South Omo, Southern Ethiopia (Guest lecture)

(Dr. F. Girke; Konstanz)

Hauck, Gerhard. 2001. *Gesellschaft und Staat in Afrika*. Frankfurt: Brandes & Apsel. Kapitel 1. Gesellschaften ohne Staat. pp. 33-40.

Scott, James. 2009. *The art of not being governed. An anarchist history of upland Southeast Asia*. New Haven and London: Yale. Pp.1-32.

03. June

Session 6. The Kurds (Guest lecture)

(Kerem Schamberger, MA; München)

alle: Schamberger, Kerem und Michael Meyen. 2018. *Die Kurden. Ein Volk zwischen Unterdrückung und Rebellion*. Westend. Kapitel 1. Auftakt in Kassel.

notes JB: Buch gth 155/u18, Verfügbar, BS 3a in Semesterapparat

Part II: Case Studies

Juni 17

Session 7. Statelessness from an individual perspective

Khosravi, Shahram. 2011 (2010). *Illegal traveller. An auto-ethnography of borders*. Palgrave Macmillan, S. 121-129.

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*

everyone: Achilli, Luigi. 2015. *Al-Wihdat refugee camp. Between inclusion and exclusion.*

Group presentations and joint discussion

July 1

Session 9. Case Studies: iBelong campaign / stateless children

everyone: United Colors of Benetton. Pressemitteilung. 4 November 2014.

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).

everyone: West, Carly. 2014. Fighting statelessness with statelessness. How western governments attempt to deal with the rise of ISIS. *The Indy* <https://www.theindy.org/396> Oktober 3, 2014.

Group presentation and joint discussion

July 15

Session 11. Summary / Discussion Term Papers