

Description of the planned dissertation project – Judith Welz

The production of deportabilities: Austrian deportation politics from 1990 to the present

This PhD project investigates the development of deportation policy in Austria since the 1990s, focusing especially on how notions of the “(un)deserving”, “(un)needed” and “(in)tolerable” migrant have changed over the past 30 years.

My research questions are:

- Which groups of non-citizens have been subjected to deportation in acts of policy-making over the past 30 years?
- How and why have specific framings of “unwanted”, “intolerable” or “threatening” non-citizens become dominant in related political debates?

My research is designed as a multiple case study, in which I am examining three episodes of deportation policy-making that have taken place in Austria since the 1990s. The episodes were chosen because they fundamentally reshaped the discourse, practice or target population of deportation, bringing about a migration political paradigm shift.

My cases are:

Case	Year	Content of policy-making	Paradigm shift
1	1990	Re-introduction of residence permit (abolished in 1954) and expulsion of foreigners failing to obtain one	Illegalisation
2	2003	Adoption of ‘failed integration’ as a reason for expulsion	Culturalisation
3	2015	Allowing for expulsion of <i>terror suspects</i> (no conviction by a court required)	Securitization

The **methodology** utilised is a post-structuralist policy analysis. Post-structuralist policy analyses differ from conventional policy analyses in not approaching policy-making as a problem-solving activity. Instead, it is assumed that “[p]roblems are (...) not prior to policy, but both are ‘co-constructed’ in processes of problematizations” (Haddad/Paul 2015: 48). In other words, the issues that become publicly understood as problems come to existence in the very political debates aiming at their solving.

In episodes of migration and deportation policy-making, the meaning and scope of social membership are negotiated, based on notions of *(un)deservingness* and *good/bad citizenship* (Holmes/Castaneda 2016; Bloemraad/Sarabia/Fillingim 2016: 1545-6). In my project, I am investigating how these notions have been utilized with regard to migrants over the past 30 years in a way to legitimize inclusion and exclusion.

The **project** started in November 2017 and is expected to be **completed by autumn 2020**.

The project is being conducted within the Department of Contemporary History, under the **supervision** of Prof. Dirk Rupnow.