

DIEGO ACOSTA

Wednesday, May 25th, 2016

12:00pm, ERC Conference Room 115

200 years of a South American Citizenship: Continuity and Change on Migration and Mobility in the Region

This presentation has two aims. First, it introduces current discussions on the construction of a South American Citizenship in the region, both at the level of UNASUR and MERCOSUR. The MERCOSUR Residence agreement, by which citizens of 9 out of the 12 States in South America may move to another country and enjoy equal treatment and rights with nationals, will be assessed. New liberal migration laws including principles such as non-criminalization of irregular migrants or the right to migrate will also be discussed.

Second, both these developments will be considered as falling within the remit of theories on post-national forms of membership, where the individual, even if not a citizen of a particular state where he or she resides, enjoys treatment close to that of nationals. Scholars working on these theories have located their origins in Europe after the Second World War. This will be problematized by looking at the rich history of agreements that were adopted in South America since the 19th Century and which anticipate post-national forms of membership in Europe by more than a century and which create a regional citizen.

Dr. Diego Acosta is a Senior Lecturer in the department of law at the University of Bristol and currently an Emile Noël Visiting Fellow at NYU Law School. His work has appeared in *International Migration Review*, *European Law Journal*, *European Law Review*, *Common Market Law Review*, and *European Journal of Migration and Law*. Dr. Acosta's research interests include EU and South American Migration Law and the free movement of people. He is currently working on the Prospects for International Migration (MIGPROSP) project funded by the European Research Council. He has provided consultancy for various international organizations, governments, and political parties, including the European Commission, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, and the Brazilian Government.

