

CCIS SEMINAR SERIES WELCOMES:

Jeffrey Reitz

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

ERC Conference Room 115

Behind Immigration Debates: Discourse, Policy and Reality of Muslim Integration in Western Societies



Jeffrey G. Reitz

Professor of Sociology

Robert F. Harney Professor of Ethnic, Immigration and Pluralism Studies

Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto

Discussant: Claire Adida, Associate Professor of Political Science, UC San Diego

Immigration debates varied greatly across Western societies, expressing distinctive national concerns and putting forward different approaches to immigrant integration. With international conflicts and the 'war on terror', these debates have emphasized possibly distinctive problems regarding Muslim groups. Research on actual processes of Muslim minority integration in Western societies shows that while these distinctive national debates and 'discourses' have important impacts on Muslims, overall they provide a poor representation of the reality of Muslim integration. In this context, a comparison of France and Canada is of particular interests for two reasons: (1) they represent almost diametrically opposed integration 'models': republican secularism in France, multiculturalism in Canada; and (2) for each there are excellent large-scale survey data to assess Muslim minority integration. Analysis shows that Muslims experience significant barriers to integration in both settings, mainly based on racial, cultural or ethnic differences, more than religion. Specific policies such as citizenship laws and headscarf bans matter, but social and political experiences in the community reveal only minor differences across settings.

For more information please call 858-822-4447 or email aminvielle@ucsd.edu.