

**Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, UC San Diego**  
**Center for the Study of International Migration, UC Los Angeles**  
**Center for European and Russian Studies, UC Los Angeles**

## **European Union Border Policy: Similarities with and Differences to the US**

Friday, November 3, 2023 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM Pacific Time  
Will be held via Zoom (This Event May Be Recorded)



**Presenter: Daniel Thym**

Daniel Thym holds the Jean-Monnet-Chair of European, International and Public Law at the University of Konstanz (Germany). He serves as managing director of the 'Research Centre Immigration & Asylum Law' and is the spokesperson of the interdisciplinary 'Research Institute Social Cohesion' at this university, after having previously worked for the Walter-Hallstein-Institute for European Constitutional Law at Humboldt-University in Berlin. Thym regularly appears as an expert witness in the home affairs committee of the German Bundestag, contributes to the pan-European 'Odysseus Academic Network' of legal experts in immigration and asylum law. Over the past seven years, he served as the Vice-Chairperson of the German 'Expert Council on Integration and Migration', an independent advisory body. Thym has published widely on diverse issues of European law, with a special focus on immigration, citizenship, asylum, and constitutional affairs. His comprehensive 700-page reference work on 'European Migration Law' was published with OUP in June 2023.

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Border control and asylum policies are a salient and controversial topic on both sides of the Atlantic. Indeed, the United States and the European Union are facing a comparable phenomenon: a substantial increase in the number of entries of asylum applicants from Southern neighbours. State institutions respond to this challenge with a combination of—increasingly restrictive—measures, with drastic consequences for migrants. Against this background, Daniel Thym will give a bird's eye view on the European situation drawing on selected insights from the relevant chapters of his book on EUROPEAN MIGRATION LAW, which has been published with OUP this summer. A crucial difference concerns the high degree of legalisation in Europe with regard to detention and access to the asylum procedure, even though some countries ignore these safeguards in practice. One reason for the high level of protection is the normative pertinence and practical impact of universal human rights, which extend to border controls on the high seas. Widespread focus on cooperation with neighbours, such as Turkey, Tunisia, Libya, and Morocco, can be explained, in part at least, by the high level of protection once migrants have reached the EU's external border. Such 'externalisation' of migration control epitomises the history of half-hearted commitment which has defined European asylum policy from the beginning: states uphold the right to asylum in the abstract, while trying to make sure that not too many people arrive in practice.

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