



CCIS SEMINAR SERIES:

## Migrants in the big European waiting room: what EU “hotspots” tell us about border policy

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ERC Conference Room 115



### Virginie Guiraudon, (PhD, 1997, Harvard)

CNRS Director of Research at the Sciences Po Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics in Paris. Early on, her work focused on the comparative politics of migration and citizenship. For the last twenty years, she has studied EU policy processes, in particular the emergence of a EU immigration, asylum, external borders policy domain as well as EU antidiscrimination laws. She is the recipient of the 2013 Mattei Dogan prize in European Political Sociology. Virginie Guiraudon recently coedited the volume *Europe's Prolonged Crisis. The making and Unmaking of a Political Union* (Palgrave, 2015) and published “The 2015 refugee crisis was not a turning point: explaining policy inertia in EU border control” in *European Political Science* (July 2017).

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### Migrants in the big European waiting room: what EU “hotspots” tell us about border policy

Since the late 1980s, European governments have tried to avert the arrival of asylum-seekers and unwanted migrants that would be difficult to expel. By the early 2000s, migrants who reached European soil irregularly were housed in reception centers and encampments in Southern Europe, re-labelled “hotspots” in 2015, notably in Greece and Italy. This talk will focus on these hotspots, their modus operandi, and the myriad of actors present from a range of EU agencies, local and national administrations, NGOs, and private companies. A political sociology perspective will narrow in on what hotspots tell us about the policy elaboration and implementation of EU border policy. There are ever more players in the immigration field: policemen, border guards, intelligence agencies, security guards, diplomats, refugee agency bureaucrats, humanitarian NGOs, security companies, and IT experts. This analysis may also inform us on the role of special interests involved in border policy beyond the well-publicized polarization of the debate on migration in Europe and its relevance for the US.

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*For more information please call 858-822-4447 or email [aminvielle@ucsd.edu](mailto:aminvielle@ucsd.edu)*