

NATIONAL EUROPE CENTRE SEMINAR SERIES

1.00 - 2.30 pm, 10 June 2008.

REVISITING CITIZENSHIP IN A GLOBALISED BORDERED WORLD

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Abstract

Citizenship is a theme that has been repeatedly revisited. The history of citizenship indicates that change in social conditions have fundamentally impacted on defining who citizens are, their rights and duties. However, through all these discourses - Greek, Roman, medieval or modern citizenship has been essentially bounded. The central concern of my paper is to grapple with citizenship in the age of globalisation. Globalisation is an undisputable reality of contemporary world. One increasingly tends to hear about an interlinking world moving towards a global village. Indeed at one level space and time concepts have been all but redefined in the light of the increased level of quick communication. Does this mean that globalisation will render borders meaningless? I would argue that the world continues to be a 'bordered world' where globalisation means an increase in interaction between states and movement of goods, services and people and no state can live in 'splendid isolation'. By focusing on two European countries – UK and Germany and on Australia I argue that while globalisation profoundly effects states, admitting new members either on a permanent or temporary basis continues to be essentially guided by the perception of the 'national' and is decided by states.

Biography

Bhaswati Sarkar, is teaching at the Centre for European Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. She is currently offering a course on Identity Issues in Europe. Her areas of interest are nation, nationalism, ethnicity and ethnic identity, multiculturalism, citizenship, emerging European identity, European State responses to diversity and EU institutions.

ALL WELCOME

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