



**Department of Political and Social Sciences**

**Rainer Bauböck, Virginie Guiraudon**

**Third Term Workshop**

***The International Politics of Diversity***

***23 – 24 May 2007***

**Room 2 – Badia Fiesolana**

(please register with Eva Breivik, [eva.breivik@eui.eu](mailto:eva.breivik@eui.eu) )

What is the role of international law and international organisations in disseminating liberal models of multiculturalism and minority rights in post-communist and post-colonial states?

In his forthcoming book: *Multicultural Odysseys: Navigating the New International Politics of Diversity* Will Kymlicka examines three strategies that have been employed towards this goal:

- (1) promoting best practices that have been successful in western democracies
- (2) developing binding legal norms and standards in public international law
- (3) case-by-case interventions by international organizations to prevent or resolve ethnic conflicts.

Kymlicka suggests that all three strategies have their inherent problems and have been less than successful so far. The reason is not only that international norms are rarely backed up by strong powers of enforcement, but also that the instruments used may have created perverse incentives for both governments and minority elites to escalate conflicts rather than seek accommodation. In spite of this pessimistic diagnosis, Kymlicka argues against retreating from the task of promoting liberal multiculturalism and calls instead for a more realistic political sociology that takes into account the specific circumstances in non-western societies. Among adverse conditions for adopting western models of multiculturalism he counts insufficient democratic consolidation, historically oppressed majority populations, and the perception of minority claims as a threat to state security.

Kymlicka's text will serve as an input for a workshop on standards and strategies for cultural minority rights in the international arena. The workshop will be, on the one hand, a prepublication review symposium of Kymlicka's forthcoming book. On the other hand, participants will be invited to present their expertise about minority rights

in Europe and other global regions and to answer from their own perspectives the question whether and how minority rights should be promoted in the international arena.

Will Kymlicka, a few external experts and EUI professors will be invited to present comments. For EUI researchers we will offer a preparatory seminar a week before the workshop. On the basis of their contributions in this seminar, researchers will be asked to serve as discussants during the workshop. Please register for the seminar and workshop with [Eva.Breivik@eui.eu](mailto:Eva.Breivik@eui.eu)

## **Outline of the program:**

23 May:

15:00 – 16:00 Welcome and initial presentation by Will Kymlicka

coffee break

16:30 – 18:00 Minority protection in international law:  
What can be achieved through a human rights approach?

2 presentations, 1 discussant

24 May:

9:00 – 10:30 The European experience:  
Minority rights conditionality in EU accession and the Council of Europe Framework  
Convention.

2 presentations, 1 discussant

coffee break

11:00 – 12:30 Preventing and resolving ethnic conflict:  
Preconditions and effects of interventions by international organisations

2 presentations, 1 discussant

lunch

14:00 – 15:30 One size fits all?  
Different regimes or common international standards for migrants, indigenous peoples  
and national minorities?

2 presentations, 1 discussant

coffee

16:00 Roundtable: The author's response to critics, lessons from the debate

participants: Will Kymlicka (Queens University, Kingston), Asbjörn Eide (University  
of Oslo), Gwendolyn Sasse (LSE), Oliver Schmidtke (University of Victoria),  
Andreas Wimmer (UCLA); Rainer Bauböck (EUI), Christine Chwaszcza (EUI),  
Virginie Guiraudon (EUI), Michael Keating (EUI), Bruno de Witte (EUI).