



***Regulating Social Membership
and Family Ties.***

Policy Frames on Spousal Migration in Germany

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Ph.D. thesis defence on 18 May 2012

Abstract

Migration policy-making in liberal democracies has long been explained with the importance of a “liberal constraint,” obliging governments to respect individual rights when devising migration policies. Family-related migration is based entirely on the individual right to protection of the family of members of society (citizens or long-term residents). However, family migration has recently been the specific target of restrictive policy reforms across Europe. Thus, in a field where theoretically, the liberal constraint could be assumed to be strongest, we can empirically witness increasing restriction. How do liberal democratic states manage to restrict migration in spite of the liberal constraint? The thesis explores the government strategies of restricting spousal migration while staying within the discursive realm of individual rights via the approaches of “membership conditioning” and “family conditioning.” With a frame analysis approach, the German policy process relating to spousal migration from 2005-2010 is explored.



Jury: Martin Kohli (Co-supervisor), Kees Groenendijk, Universiteit Nijmegen, Prof. Anne Philips, LSE, Prof. Rainer Bauböck, EUI (Supervisor)

Bio:

Laura Block holds a BA and an MA with distinction in European Studies from the Universiteit Maastricht as well as a Magister in European Studies from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Before joining the EUI, she spent nine months teaching undergraduate courses at the Universiteit Maastricht's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and received a pre-doctoral research grant of the Faculty Council. During her PhD, she was a visiting fellow at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin (WZB) and participated in the research project „Marriage Migration from Turkey to Germany – A Qualitative Longitudinal and Dyadic Perspective“ led by Can Aybek (Federal Institute for Population, Wiesbaden). Next to family migration, her research interests include wider issues on migration and migration policies pertaining to identity, citizenship and rights.