

IPW LECTURES

The Refugee Crisis as the Crisis of what Democratic Integration in Western Societies should be about?

Vortragender: **Matteo Gianni**
(Universität Genf)

Moderation: Sieglinde Rosenberger
(IPW, Universität Wien)

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Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien

Abstract:

The refugees "crisis" that happened in 2015 has had several implications on internal policies of EU member states. The framing of the 'crisis' has raised important debates that address issues pertaining to politics of belonging, of admittance, and of social and cultural integration. The fact that refugees / migrants came primarily from Muslim countries, has played a role in the strengthening of assimilatory policies envisioned and institutionalized especially for this population, and that are a central element of the multiculturalism backlash observed since approximatively a decade. In particular, one of the interesting aspects which the "crisis" (combined with counter-terrorist policies) has triggered, is the securitization of Muslims and of Islam. Such a securitization process entails strong normative implications about how social cohesion, citizenship and a democratic society should be conceived. This talk addresses some of these implications, focusing in particular on cultural and political integration. It will be argued that the hegemonic public philosophy of integration, named integration as adaptation, leads to the depoliticization of integration and ultimately to the depoliticization of minority / stigmatized subjects, calling into question the democratic meaning of integration in itself.