

Volker M. Heins:

Europe—Still a Continent of Immigration?

Focusing on the case of Germany, Volker Heins discusses the consequences of the so-called “refugee crisis” of 2015 and, more generally, large-scale immigration from outside of Europe. He argues that certain migration routes from the Global South into Europe are blocked for no good reason. European border regimes are the expression of a hierarchical and racialized conception of mobility rights. This status quo is often defended by two sets of arguments: (1) “Militarized border regimes against potential migrants from the Global South are necessary because more open borders would politically backfire by strengthening far-right populism”, and (2) “Militarized border regimes against potential migrants from the Global South are necessary because more open borders would jeopardize democratic institutions by letting in people with significantly less liberal and more authoritarian attitudes who will ultimately imperil liberal democracy”. Both these “liberal racist” arguments are discussed and rejected by Professor Heins.

The round-table discussion with researcher of nationalism and migration Dr. Veronika Bajt from the Peace Institute will be moderated by journalist and TV anchor Igor E. Bergant.