

METROPOLIS *Presents*

Divided Loyalties? Transnationalism and the Meaning of Citizenship in the 21st Century

When: Monday, December 10, 2007
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

How Do I Attend? R.S.V.P. to Vicki Bencze - vicki.bencze@cic.gc.ca

Where: National Library
395 Wellington Street, Auditorium
Ottawa

Description:

Citizenship has become a contested concept in Canada, especially since the 2006 evacuation of Canadian citizens from Lebanon which sparked debates about the “meaning” of citizenship and about the legitimacy of dual citizenship. Globalization, increased international mobility, and advances in communications technology have enabled increasingly large numbers of individuals, both Canadian and foreign-born, to maintain active and strong ties with more than one country. These activities are often referred to as ‘transnationalism’ and are said to take place within ‘transnational communities’. Transnationalism also encompasses dual citizenship, return and circular migration, remittances, and immigrants’ political and civic participation in their countries of origin.

In this *Metropolis Presents*, we will look at the implications of transnationalism for our thinking about citizenship, what realistic government policy can expect of citizens now and in the future, and whether policy ought to be adapted.

Transnational practices are regarded by some as valuable expressions of identity and effective supports to integration, all supported by official multiculturalism policy. These activities are thought to bring economic and political benefits to Canada through the international ties of transnational communities. According to others, however, transnationalism is bringing about the devaluation of Canadian citizenship. At best, such practices have been pinpointed as barriers to active citizenship through full participation in Canadian society. At worst, transnationals who display strong ethnic ties are perceived to have little or no allegiance to Canada, and consider their citizenship as a matter of convenience.

This panel of experts from Canada, France, and the United States will explore the issues of transnationalism and citizenship as they relate to the policy-making process in immigration and diversity. Their comparative perspectives will also provide cues for future research.

Presenters:

Nancy Foner, City University of New York (UNITED STATES)

Christian Joppke, American University of Paris (FRANCE)

Audrey Kobayashi, Queen’s University (CANADA)

Daniel Weinstock, Université de Montréal (CANADA)

Discussants:

Karen Mosher, Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Pablo Sobrino, Canadian Heritage

Supported by:

Citizenship Branch, Citizenship and Immigration Canada
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