Kick-off conference ERC-funded project “MiLifeStatus”

When: June 27, 9.00-17.30 hrs
Where: Maastricht University, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Grote Gracht 80-82), Room 1.003 (Spiegelzaal)

Migrant Life Course and Legal Status Transition (MiLifeStatus)

When does citizenship provide a boost to migrant integration? A fast-track to citizenship can maximise the potential for settlement success, though too short a pathway can disincentivise integration. Not all migrants have an equal interest in naturalising and some are discouraged by restrictive policies. Yet little is known about why, how and for whom legal status transition matters and, especially, how policy variation impacts on this relation. Which migrants are most discouraged by stricter requirements for naturalisation? For whom carries citizenship the largest pay-off? Does it still matter if a migrant acquires citizenship after a long waiting period? This project combines for the first time the ideas that a) migrants have different motivations to naturalise; b) legal status transitions are conditioned by the institutional and socioeconomic contexts in origin and destination countries and c) the potential ‘integration premium’ associated with naturalisation is conditioned by the trajectory into citizenship.

In this one-day conference, during the morning the project members will discuss their research plans and share some first results with colleagues from Europe and North America who have been invited to act as commentators. In the afternoon there will be additional presentations by invited speakers.

More information about the MiLifeStatus project: www.milifestatus.com
Program

9:00        Arrival

9:15-10:15  **Welcome and Presentation of the project by Maarten Vink**  
*Migrant Life Course and Legal Status Transition*  
Discussants: Michael Jones-Correa, Yoav Ben-Shlomo

10:15-10:30 **Coffee break**

10:30 – 11:30 **Presentation by Swantje Falcke**  
*Citizenship status transitions in the migrant life course: a typology*  
Discussants: Elina Kilpa-Jakonnen, Susanne Worbs

11:30-12:30 **Presentation by Floris Peters**  
*Naturalisation and immigrant earnings: why and to whom citizenship matters*  
Discussants: Pieter Bevelander, Eva Erbsøll

12:30-14:00 **Lunch**

14:00-14:45 **Presentation by Pieter Bevelander**  
*On statelessness status and economic integration in Sweden*  
Discussants: Marloes de Hoon, Gerard-René de Groot

14:45-15:30 **Presentation by Yoav Ben-Shlomo**  
*Frailty in older-age European migrants: cross-sectional and longitudinal analyses of the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)*  
Discussants: Mark Levels, Floris Peters

15:30-15:45 **Tea break**

15:45-16:30 **Presentation by Michael Jones-Correa**  
*Overshadowed: Immigrant Legal Status and Local Contexts of Reception as Mediators to Intergroup Contact, Trust and Civic Engagement*  
Discussants: Hans Schmeets, Swantje Falcke
16:30 – 17:30 **Roundtable**

*Comparative Strategies in Citizenship and Immigration Integration Research in Europe and North America*

End of Conference

**List of participants**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ben-Shlomo</td>
<td>University of Bristol</td>
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<td>Bevelander</td>
<td>Malmö Institute of Migration, Diversity and Welfare; Malmö University</td>
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<td>Ersbøll</td>
<td>The Danish Institute for Human Rights</td>
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<td>Falcke</td>
<td>Maastricht University</td>
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<td>de Hoon</td>
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<td>Jones-Correa</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Kilpi-Jakonen</td>
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<td>Vink</td>
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<td>Worbs</td>
<td>Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany</td>
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