

**The Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies at the University of
Massachusetts Amherst**

Call for Faculty Fellowship Applications for 2019-2020

“Citizenship and Other States of Belonging”

In the academic year 2019-2020, the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies (IHGMS) at the University of Massachusetts Amherst will bring together an interdisciplinary group of scholars from the Five Colleges. This group of IHGMS Fellows will explore the topic of “Citizenship and Other States of Belonging.” The project organizers are Aviva Ben-Ur, Professor in the Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies, and Luis A. Marentes, Associate Professor in the Program in Spanish and Portuguese, both at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Modern citizenship, ostensibly a European idea inspired by Graeco-Roman antiquity and invented during the French Revolution, has been generally understood by governments and scholars as a status conferred upon the individual that determines the relationship between the government and the governed. Political scientist Engin Isin defines citizenship as the “right to have or claim rights” bestowed by a state or public authority, rights that in various historical contexts have included access to residence, education, health insurance, the vote, or legal protection. In different places at different times, it has also imposed obligations, such as obedience to authorities, economic contribution, or military duty. Yet, at the same time, citizenship was born as a category of exclusion, not only determining who could participate in the political process, but also those who could not.

Most recently, scholars such as Maarten Prak have urged us to broaden our understanding of citizenship from a status conferred to a historic practice that has allowed non-state entities or authorities to create belonging through a bottom-up process based on collective action, such as the formation of craft and merchant guilds, religious confraternities, social welfare institutions, and civic militias, which may pertain to any society from antiquity to the present day. In a modern U.S. context, Renato Rosaldo has developed the concept “cultural citizenship,” which pertains to people who, through everyday cultural practices, claim space and their right to be full members of society, regardless of their legal status. These practice-based approaches allow historians and social scientists to engage in broadly conceived, global comparisons.

This seminar explores the nature of citizenship in its various manifestations across time and space, and examines how citizenship has been created, maintained, transformed, challenged, or eroded. Particularly welcome are perspectives that challenge the leading role of Europe in advancing citizenship and the general social welfare of citizens, and approaches that consider the role of ordinary people (those outside the social and economic elite) in rural and urban politics.

Examples may include legal and communal definitions of belonging in Graeco-Roman antiquity (*polis* citizenship, metics, *cives*, *dediticii*, *civitates foederatae*, *civitates liberae*, and *civitates stipendariae*); early modern Spain and Spanish America (*vecinidad*; *naturaleza*; *forasteros*; *crisianos nuevos*); *dhimmi* status of Jews and Christians in Muslim lands; *servi camerae nostrae*

status of European Jews; free and enslaved or formerly enslaved people in the Atlantic World; the position of slave descendants and mixed-race people; immigrants vs. enemy aliens during wartime; illegal and legal “aliens;” the loss of citizenship in contexts of racial persecution or political protest, such as Nazi Germany; hierarchies of belonging in colonies and post-colonial states; the inclusion and exclusion of LGBTQ people; statelessness and occupation, family separation, mixed-status families, dual citizenship, citizenship by investment; the Quechua concept of *sumak kawsay* (“good living,” with harmony between humans and nature), and the nonhuman rights movement, including the conferral of human rights on non-human hominids in 21st-century Spain.

Questions may include: What have been the various modes of inclusion and exclusion in debates and practices surrounding citizenship? What actions have non-citizens undertaken to gain the rights afforded through citizenship? How have citizens articulated their political grievances and demands? What political and economic climates have been conducive to the extension of citizenship? Conversely, what climates have been detrimental to the extension of citizenship? How did the breakup of countries and empires and the start of new ones affect citizenship? Does the political agency of individuals in modern nation-states constitute wellbeing, as some historians and social scientists have assumed? Does citizenship address the mutual interest of the government to govern and the populace to be governed? How did the urban experience of citizenship differ from rural locales?

Our aim is to bring together a group of about ten scholars who work on these or related topics and to meet periodically to share our collective research, questions, and interpretations of citizenship and other states of belonging through time and space. The possible inclusion of selected graduate students will be discussed by the group at a later stage. IHGMS Fellows will collectively select and read key primary and secondary source documents, will have opportunities to present their works in progress, and will interact with outside scholars, who will be supported out of a small budget for invited guest speakers. A workshop at the end of spring semester 2020 will conclude the fellowship.

The project is open to Five College faculty in all disciplines, and to all relevant topics. Particularly because the seminar aims to be global and diachronic, as well as interdisciplinary, the topics and questions mentioned above are examples, rather than a full list of possibilities. The aim is to create a closely-knit scholarly environment for critical inquiry, debate, and exchange of ideas. The group will meet five times each semester (Fall 2019 and Spring 2020) over dinner at the IHGMS to discuss our research as individuals and to pool our efforts to conceptualize the theme as a whole. Fellows will receive \$1,500 as a research stipend, which will be disbursed at the conclusion of the seminar. Participation at all meetings, including the introductory meeting in May 2019, is mandatory.

Applications, including a two-page research proposal and a Curriculum Vitae, should be emailed to ihgms@umass.edu by April 10, 2019.

If you have any questions, please email Aviva Ben-Ur (aben-ur@judnea.umass.edu) and Luis Marentes (marentes@umass.edu).