How to conceptualize and measure immigration policies – the Immigration Policies in Comparison (IMPIC) project

Dr. Marc Helbling
Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB)

Immigration and its regulation have become a salient political issue in all industrialized countries. This has affected the social sciences as well, and increasingly researchers are now turning to comparative approaches, aiming at going beyond single case studies and small-N analyses. There is however hardly any data that would allow us to compare a large number of countries across time. For this reason the Immigration Policies in Comparison (IMPIC) project aims at creating a set of sophisticated quantitative indices to measure immigration policies in 33 OECD countries for the period 1980-2010. This new and innovative data-set allows studying the causes and effects, as well as the effectiveness of immigration policies more systematically for the first time. In the second part of this project and by means of detailed case studies and interviews with representatives of national administrations the implementation processes of immigration legislation in four countries will be investigated. In the talk the conceptualization and operationalization of the IMPIC index will be presented.

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