

# WZB

Berlin Social Science Center



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## MAJORITY AND MINORITY RIGHTS

7<sup>TH</sup> WZB ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
ON MIGRATION AND DIVERSITY

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WZB Berlin Social Science Center  
Berlin, Germany

April 25-27, 2019

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### ORGANIZERS

*Ruud Koopmans*, Director, “Migration, Integration, Transnationalization” Research Unit, WZB Berlin

*Liav Orgad*, Director, “Global Citizenship Governance”, EUI Florence/WZB Berlin/IDC Herzliya

### DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

*Rainer Bauböck*, Part-Time Professor, EUI Florence/Austrian Academy of Sciences

*Paul Cliteur*, Professor of Jurisprudence, Leiden University

*David Goodhart*, Head, Policy Exchange’s “Demography, Immigration, and Integration” Unit

*Ayaan Hirsi Ali*, Founder, The AHA Foundation; Fellow, Hoover Institution

*Christian Joppke*, Director, Institute of Sociology, University of Bern

*Will Kymlicka*, Canada Research Chair in Political Philosophy, Queen's University

*Tariq Modood*, Director, Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship, University of Bristol



Pieter Bruegel the Elder: Netherlandish Proverbs

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

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Liberal thinking and human rights law recognize minority rights. Thus far, majority groups have not been granted similar rights because it is assumed that they are not vulnerable groups. The majority is presumed to be able to “take care of itself”; it can use its numerical advantage to perpetuate its political power and socio-cultural interests.

Tensions between minority and majority rights are among the most pressing issues of our time. The changing patterns in global migration reconfigure the cultural landscape of societies and shift the dynamics between cultural groups within the state. On one side, the backlash against multiculturalism and the reemergence of majority nationalism raise new concerns over the tyranny of the majority. On the other side, fears over the erosion of majority groups’ culture appear due to the accelerated pace of migration and the creation of new minorities. All these challenges call for the reexamination of fundamental assumptions in law and theory.

The Research Area “Migration and Diversity” invites submissions for a multi-disciplinary conference on minority and majority rights. The conference seeks to understand better the intercultural tensions between majority and minority rights, the reflection of these tensions in law and

policy, moral and legal challenges they pose to theories of democracy, diversity and justice, and their normative consequences. What are the vulnerabilities that minorities and majorities face in contemporary societies? Can minority and majority rights be asserted based on similar rationales? How do distinctive political contexts and histories influence the legal responses that shape minority and majority rights? Which policies act as barriers against cultural group rights?

We invite applications from different perspectives (empirical, comparative, theoretical, normative) and disciplines (law, social sciences, philosophy, sociology, social psychology, history, IR) at multiple levels (global, regional, national, local). We strongly encourage junior scholars to apply. Travel and accommodation expenses for accepted papers will be covered by the WZB according to the WZB travel regulations.

Please submit an abstract (up to 300 words) and CV (up to 3 pages) to [mad2019-conference@wzb.eu](mailto:mad2019-conference@wzb.eu) (as one PDF file) no later than October 1, 2018. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by November 15, 2018. Selected speakers are expected to submit a paper by April 10, 2019. For further information, please contact the organizers at [mad2019-conference@wzb.eu](mailto:mad2019-conference@wzb.eu).