

'RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES': CITIZENSHIP IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY CITIES

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This session proposes to study the relationship between citizenship and the exercise, acquisition, or contestation of rights and responsibilities, as shaped by the social, economic and political context of the city. It aims to investigate especially the idea that citizenship is an 'everyday' pursuit, centred on ways of living, acting, and behaving in - but also affected by - the specificity of the cultural and physical urban environment. Approaching the twentieth-century on these terms is particularly important, as citizenship became more strongly located in the national – both in cultural and legal terms. It is perhaps by recognising, as Engin Isin reminds us, that it is still the city where the 'lives of people are organized, assembled together, and rendered meaningful' that require us to refocus the issue of citizenship. Despite the alleged importance of the nation-state, the locale is 'the site through which socialization into various identities occurs, and... individuals develop both their individuality and their sociality.' The session invites papers that assess these processes of identity formation and socialization in the city - what we might call 'citizenship practices'.

Themes may include:

- the interaction between citizens and local government;
- the exclusion or 'stripping' of citizenship of the 'other' through segregation, legal apparatus, or public policy;
- the attempt by such marginalized groups to negotiate social rights or assert their identity as citizens of the local;
- the attempts to inculcate specific ideas of 'rights and responsibilities' in the inhabitants of the city by various agencies.

Papers that compare multiple locales to unpick these practices and relationships, both within and across nations, are especially welcome, as are papers that approach the topic in an interdisciplinary manner. Through this it is hoped that an assertion can be made that citizenship in the twentieth century did not 'exist' as an unvaried fact, but was actually an effective identity realised through a process of contestation and practices – facilitated, and perhaps necessitated, by the experience and particularity of the modern city.