

Pro-European activism and the ‘making’ of European citizens

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Résumé / Abstract

In the context of multiple crises, the European Union has provoked much negative reaction with anti-European activism challenging more broadly than ever before its policies and the integration process. But in the course of the events of growing anti-European emotions also pro-European social movements have emerged. With the common aim of countering Euroscepticism, these movements are expressing their concern about a potential disintegration of the EU, and call upon political actors to urgently address necessary reforms for the future. How does pro-European activism relate to the idea (and promise) of European citizenship? Can we make sense of current transformative dynamics by re-interpreting the classical notion of “constituent power” and shifting it to the transnational level? The talk will take up the idea of ‘citizenship as agency’ and interprets it as a way of creating new frames of reference. While the firm connection between citizenship and territorial nation states has lost its self-evidence and citizenship rights are lifted up to higher levels of political organization the idea of ‘citizenship as agency’ stresses the process of becoming aware and working through relations of interdependence that transcend national boundaries.