Summary

Although the number of international migrants has increased from 173 million in 2000 to 258 million in 2017, the share of migrants in the total population worldwide is only 3.4% today. Furthermore, while the number of migrants grew much faster in Asia and Africa than in Europe and Northern America, immigration is mostly perceived in Western countries as posing a threat to economic interests, national identity, and homeland security. This raised a key question: Why has immigration increasingly become a matter of security? This course seeks to understand the ways in which national security interests have influenced immigration policy as well as the reciprocal effects of migrant responses.

This course thus offers a comparative analysis of Europe’s and America’s distinct responses to the recent challenges posed by international migration flows. Both face the flow of legal and illegal migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Both have to address issues of border controls, migrant integration, and minority rights in a context characterized by expanded notions of “internal security.” Stimulated by the external and internal threats demonstrated by 9/11, the London and Madrid bombings, and terrorist attacks in France, immigration has become increasingly linked to security governance - generating new restrictive policy measures, new institutions designed to improve the fight against terrorism, and affecting the perception of migrants among host populations on both sides of the Atlantic.

Professor Biography

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