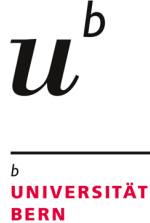


Infrastructures of Solidarity

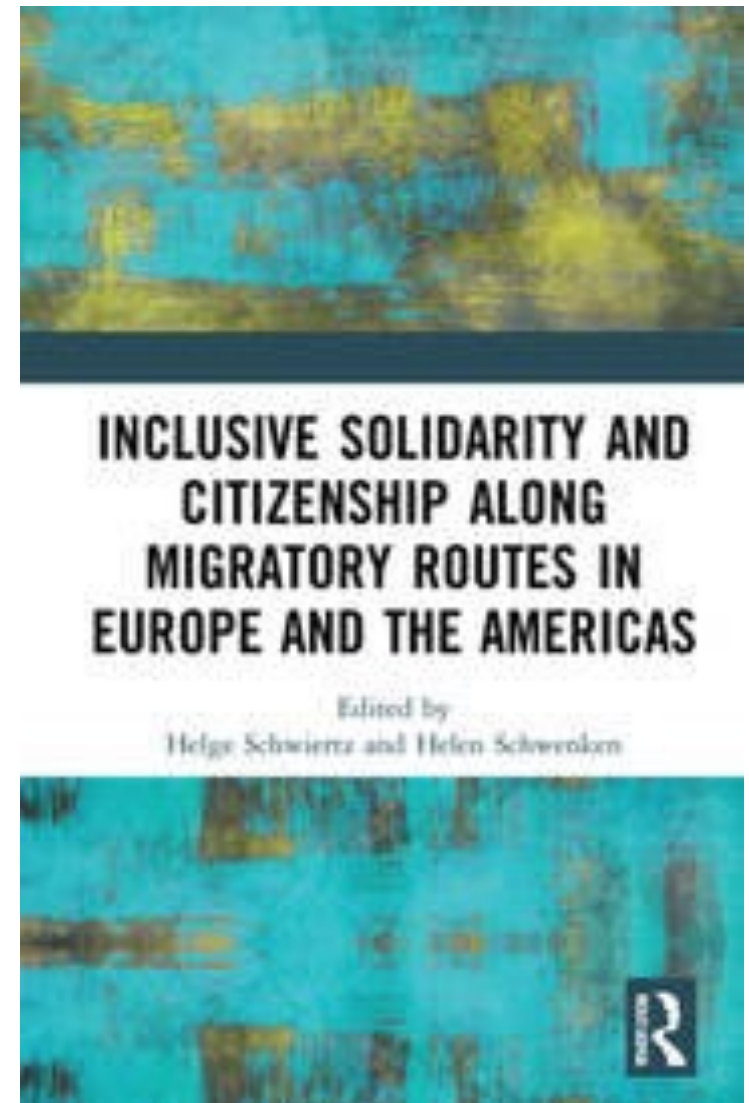
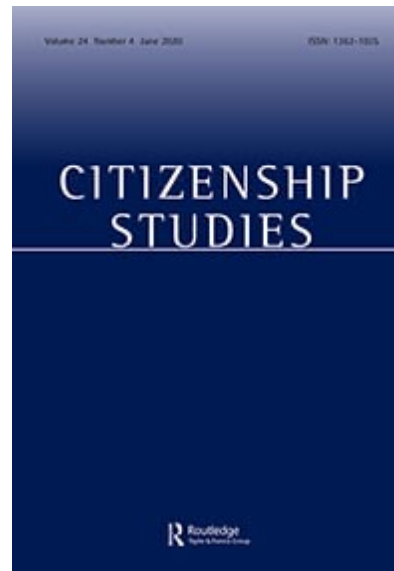
Analyzing the emergence of solidarity relations in the field of migration

Dr Sarah Schilliger, University of Bern
 Workshop ‚Migrant Workers’ Resistance and
 Infrastructures of Solidarity’
 26 February 2024, IMIS, University of Osnabrück



I'd like to start with two personal remarks....

Thankful for the collaborative knowledge production at IMIS!



Citizenship Studies >
Volume 24, 2020 - Issue 4: Inclusive Solidarity and Citizenship along Migratory Routes in Europe and the Americas

Enter keywords, authors, DOI, etc

[Submit an article](#) [Journal homepage](#)

1,303 Views
20 CrossRef citations to date
2 Altmetric

Listen

Article
Challenging who counts as a citizen. The infrastructure of solidarity contesting racial profiling in Switzerland
Sarah Schilliger

Pages 530-547 | Received 21 Dec 2019, Accepted 12 Mar 2020, Published online: 20 Apr 2020

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/13621025.2020.1755176> Check for updates

[Full Article](#) [Figures & data](#) [References](#) [Citations](#) [Metrics](#) [Reprints & Permissions](#) [View PDF](#) [View EPUB](#)

Grateful for the shared experiences & inspiration from the Swiss solidarity movement against racial profiling

One effect of the infrastructure of solidarity became visible on 20th February 2024 → Mohamed Wa Baile won at ECHR!

European Court of Human Rights Condemns Switzerland for Racial Profiling in Landmark Case

Personenkontrollen in Bern

**Urteil zu Racial Profiling
bringt Polizei unter
Zugzwang**

**Urteil zu Diskriminierung
ist ein Grund zum Schämen**

Der Gerichtshof für Menschenrechte verurteilt die Schweiz wegen rassistischer Polizeikontrolle. Das kommt überraschend.

«Dieses Urteil ist bahnbrechend»



Analyzing the construction of infrastructures of solidarity

What efforts go into realizing solidarity?

→ Capture the multidimensional and partially invisible aspects of solidarity practices

- a) **Political aspect** of the solidarity infrastructure : **Solidarity work and alliance-building**
- b) **Social aspect** of the solidarity infrastructure: **Formation of social relations of solidarity and care**
- c) **Spatial aspect** of the solidarity infrastructure: **Creation of (counter-)spaces on different scales**
- d) **Mental aspect** of the solidarity infrastructure: **Production and sharing of (counter-)knowledge**

How can practices of solidarity become sedimented in time and space?

→ Go beyond the analysis of single/visible “acts of solidarity” (Schwiertz/Schwenken 2020)

Political aspect of the solidarity infrastructure

- **‘Doing solidarity’**: Solidarity does not arise automatically by proclaiming it as a moral reference but must be **produced** through performative practices
- Mohanty (2003): **Political solidarity** is built by groups of «people who have chosen to **work and fight together**» - building alliances
- Tazzioli/Walters (2019): Solidarity as «**laborious and ongoing production of temporary common terrains**»
- **Visible and invisible politics of solidarity** – including «**micropolitics of everyday resistance**» (Bayat 2000)

Social aspect of the solidarity infrastructure

- Solidarity as a practice that «aims for equality, but includes people who are unequal» (Susemichel/Kastner 2019)
- to «imagine commonality in difference» (Hunt-Hendrix 2018) by countering the relations of 'othering'
- «practical attitude of standing up for one another» (Celikates/Jaeggi 2017)
- Solidarity as a caring practice, based on presence, reciprocity, empathy

Spatial aspect of the solidarity infrastructure

- **Spatialities of solidarity**: sharing and shaping of space through solidarity practices
- Appropriation of **public space** and the use of **everyday places of encounter** (such as parks, churches, community kitchen, playgrounds...)
- **Safe space, sanctuary space** for temporary protection and recreation
- Transformation of hegemonic ,white' spaces
- Solidarity is place-based, but not place-bound: scaling-up

Mental aspect of the solidarity infrastructure

- «a common way of reading the world» (Mohanty 2003)
- Sharing knowledge (e.g. of social rights and labor rights), creating specific moral frames of reference, developing alternative visions and political imaginaries
- «decolonialization of the mind» (bell hooks 1997): reflection on own social position, active listening to marginalized voices
- ‘speak-up’ in the political discourse, self-empowerment & collective learning

Perspective on ,infrastructures‘

- «**underground railroad**» as interlocking networks of support and solidarity (Stierl 2019)
- Understanding of infrastructure as **social practice**, «**people as infrastructure**» (Simone 2004)
- Analyzing how practices of solidarity sediment in time and space
→ «**institutional solidarity**» (Agustín and Jørgensen 2019)

The example of migrant care workers struggles

- The importance of **everyday places** and migrant meeting points: Polish Catholic Church as a starting point of solidarity practices
- **Digital spaces** (e.g. Facebook groups, WhatsApp chat, Skype)
- **Caring practices**: Discussing everyday challenges, sharing experiences with agencies and employers, escaping everyday working life
- **Know your rights-Workshops**





Schilliger, Sarah (2024): Breaking out of the 'prisoner of love' dilemma: Infrastructures of solidarity for live-in care workers in Switzerland. In: Aulenbacher, Brigitte/Lutz, Helma/Palenga-Möllenberg, Ewa/Schwiter, Karin (eds.): *Home Care for Sale. The Transnational Brokering of Senior Care in Europe*. SAGE Publications.