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National Center of Competence in Research –  
The Migration-Mobility Nexus

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**ETH** zürich



**UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE**

**u<sup>b</sup>**

**UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN**

**Berne, a Sanctuary City?**

**University of Berne**

**Thursday, 31 October 2019**

**18:00 – 19:30**

## Berne, a Sanctuary City?

Thursday, 31 October 2019  
18:00 – 19:30

University of Berne  
UniS, Schanzeneckstrasse 1  
Aula A003

Organisation:

Prof. Loren Collingwood,  
University of California, Riverside  
Prof. David Kaufmann,  
ETH Zurich  
Dr. Philipp Lutz,  
University of Geneva

The presentations and  
the discussion are held  
in English

This event is part of the series of events “Sanctuary Cities in Switzerland?”, which takes place in Zurich, Berne and Geneva. The speakers in these events outline the developments in urban migration policies in support of irregular migrants in American, European and Swiss cities. The aim is to discuss the formulation and the effects of Sanctuary Cities and related urban migration policies and compare them with practical examples from the cities of Zurich, Berne and Geneva.

Irregular migrants tend to settle in dense urban areas because it's easier to get access to ethnic, social or cultural networks and there are more opportunities to find work or suitable accommodation. Cities also offer a certain degree of anonymity. Irregular migrants thus are a target group for urban policies. These kind of policies make headlines around the world under the term “Sanctuary Cities”. A Sanctuary City tries to promote the political integration of irregular migrants and refuses to cooperate with the national police and customs authorities in checking the residence permits of its residents. Sanctuary Cities have existed in the US since the 1980s, but during Donald Trump's presidency, the issue has received renewed attention.

The concept of the city as a place of refuge for irregular migrants has also been well received in Europe and Switzerland. Cities in Europe formulate a multitude of measures to support and protect irregular migrants. These cities often take a stance on immigration and integration that contradicts national migration policy. In Switzerland, mainly NGOs have been active in promoting the need for more protection and better support for irregular migrants. Recently there have been interesting urban policy developments in Switzerland. The Geneva “Opération Papyrus”, for example, regularized almost two thousand migrants who did not possess valid residence documents but were well integrated and have been living in the canton of Geneva for many years.

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## Program

### Welcome and Introduction

Dr. Philipp Lutz, University of Geneva

### Policies and Evidence from Sanctuary Cities

Prof. Dr. Loren Collingwood, University of California, Riverside

### Urban Policies in Support of Irregular Migrants in European Cities

Prof. Dr. David Kaufmann, ETH Zurich

### Insights on the Situation and Policies in Swiss Cities

Dr. Payal Parekh, member of the civil society movement “Wir alle sind Bern”, which is a network that advocates for an “urban citizenship”

### Open Discussion

Moderated by Dr. Philipp Lutz, University of Geneva



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