



Guest Lecture and Discussion

Who Gets to Vote? Lessons from the EU on the Extension and Restriction of the Voting Franchise.

Mr. Brian Chihera, LLB(UWC) LLM (MU) PhD Candidate (UWC)

Voting rights are a fundamental aspect of participation in a democratic state. Most countries have been able to remove the exclusions from the voting franchise that were based on race, gender and wealth. However, the increase in human migration has challenged the current views on who should be enfranchised. Has migration led to new *demos*?

At least the EU has managed to enfranchise citizens of EU member states who have migrated within EU member states. However, it has not been able to deal with the issue of third

country nationals who are not part of the EU. Do these resident non-citizens deserve to participate in elections?

The presentation will focus on how the European Union has adopted a citizenship that allows for its citizens to participate in elections within the EU. It will also discuss the judgments by German courts on who forms part of "the people" in the German context in response to the enfranchisement of non-citizens.

08 May 2023 // 6:30 p.m. // GER/037