

## **GRITIM-UPF Research in Progress session, 31 May 2022, 15:00-17:00 (CET)**

### **1. Beyond Integration: Determining the Quality of Life of People with a Migration Background in Barcelona Using the Capabilities Approach.**

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#### **Abstract**

European cities have been receiving a steadily increasing number of immigrants over the last 40 years, and the European Union has developed integration indicators in an attempt to measure their social cohesion, mainly focused on employment, education, and housing. While these indicators may be useful as a rough measure for recent immigrants' ability to function in the receiving society, they lose utility for subsequent generations. Therefore, I propose the concept of quality of life as a novel lens through which to examine immigrant-receiving societies. Quality of life is applicable to immigrants, to people born and raised in-country with immigrant parents, and to people with native-born parents, making it ideal for assessing social cohesion. This paper defines quality of life for people with a migration background within the framework of the capabilities approach. Grounded in the normative theories of Martha Nussbaum and the discussions of practitioners of the human development/capabilities approach, I argue that the approach can be applied effectively to immigrant incorporation studies and can provide useful insights for policymakers. To illustrate this argument, I perform a case study in the city of Barcelona, often considered an ideal case of city-level integration. With a nonrandom sample of 30 adults whose families hail from the countries with the largest immigrant population from each global region to Barcelona, I employ participatory research and perform semi-structured interviews to explore and determine a list of capabilities that define quality of life for this population. I also measure my interviewees' integration according to both standard EU indicators and the additional indicators proposed in the 2021-2027 EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion. The results of my analysis largely support Nussbaum's list with some modifications and additions, providing parameters with which to define quality of life in the context of people with a migration background in a large European city. These findings offer insights for future policies aimed at improving social cohesion and prosperity in Europe. Furthermore, this paper defines a list of capabilities and functionings that are valuable in the context of multigenerational immigrant incorporation, which can be applied in future research.

## 2. Enfranchising Migrants in Chile: A Century of Politics, Elites, and Regime Changes

Dr. Victoria Finn (Max Weber Fellow, European University Institute)

### Abstract

Enfranchising migrants into electorates is a growing global trend, not exclusive to democracy. As one of the most inclusive countries worldwide for migrant voting rights, Chile was a latecomer in granting *emigrant* voting rights, but a pioneer for *immigrant* suffrage rights. Comparing periods over the migrant enfranchisement process, I start in 1925 and take 1980 Chile as an extreme case. Stepping away from analyzing enfranchisement in only consolidated democracies in the 'Global North', I unpack almost a century of elite-led top-down politics in Chile over various political regimes, fluctuating between dictatorship and democracy. The evidence comes from constitutional laws, transcribed debates from constitutional commission sessions, scholarly literature, national censuses, and electoral data. The comparative historical analysis reveals a normative path dependence of who belongs as voters and migrant voting rights' durability. Inclusivity requires not only continued implementation in elections but also rights survival through shifting ideology and political regime types. But nothing lasts forever: even for this pioneer, the looming risk of rights reversal remains.