Welcome to the margins of society: An analysis of (civic) integration policy and fundamental rights of immigrants

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Introduction

- Inside-outside divide
- Legally residing TCNs
- Differentiation of rights
- Civic integration policy
- Consequences of civic integration policy
- Flemish example





Research question

 How does (civic) integration, (i) designed and implemented top-down by the government and supported by the majority, and (ii) made compulsory for some individuals (iii) interfere or conflict with a human rights perspective on freedom and equality?

 Tensions related to fundamental rights, migrants, civic integration policy





Flanders' integration policy

- Broad
- Migrants
- Traveller people
- People in deprived situations



 Emancipation, accessibility of regular facilities and social cohesion through diversity





Civic integration policy

- Basic course of Dutch
- Societal orientation
- Counselling towards work, education etc.
- Personal general guidance

Out of margins

- Foreigners
- Belgians born outside Belgium with one foreign parent
- Minors who turn 18
- Religious servants and leaders





Societal orientation

- Freedom
- Equality (and non-discrimination)
- Solidarity
- Respect
- Citizenship





Tensions

- Civic stratification
- Migrant perspective







Civic stratification (1)

- Distinction nationals, EU citizens and TCNs
- Directive 2000/38/EC on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States
- EU citizens only voluntary
- Social and legal differentiation





Civic stratification (2)

- Power of official classification
- Autochthonous (native) and allochtonous (nonnative)
- Own use in society
- Creates divisions within society







Migrant perspective (1)

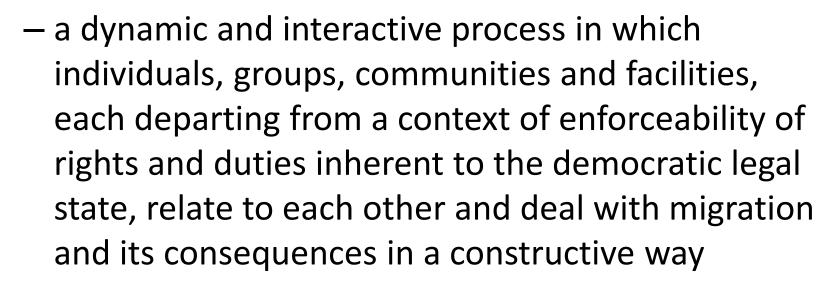
- Facilitating tools
- Restrictive
- Framework
 - Expectations
 - Real life
- Emphasis on duties





Migrant perspective (2)

- 'Additive acculturation'
- Official definition integration



Multi-way process







Conclusion

- Exploration tensions
- Paradoxical nature of civic integration policy
 - Facilitating
 - Restricting
- Further research
 - Fieldwork
 - Enabling side of policy and rights



