Inaugural public lecture

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Professor for Migration and Integration

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Towards a political sociology of migration ethics

Migration and immigrant integration are highly politicized topics often associated with social and political conflicts. In order to find better ways to deal with the migratory phenomenon, we need to look beyond the reasons why people move. This lecture introduces a new research agenda, which seeks to inaugurate a political sociology of migration ethics. This new research agenda consists in identifying the ethical principles and normative dilemmas that lie at the heart of the controversies, analyzing why and how societal polarization over migration takes place, and assessing the implications of this polarization for democracy. Following such an approach can help us counter pernicious trends towards the political instrumentalization of migration and develop action-guiding input that can be helpful to policymakers and other actors in the migration field.

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Julia Mourão Permoser holds a bachelor in foreign service from Georgetown University, a master in international studies from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, and a doctorate in political science from the University of Vienna. Before joining the UWK, she was Visiting Professor of Political Science at the University of Vienna, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Innsbruck, and Research Fellow at the Institute for European Studies of the Université Libre de Bruxelles.