

**WORKSHOP WITH ALEX SAGER:
POLITICAL THEORY AND METHODOLOGICAL NATIONALISM**

13 May 2024, University of Geneva / Hybrid
Organized by Dr. Esmā Baycan Herzog, Lecturer, University of Geneva

Call for Proposals

Methodological nationalism is a central debate in political theory of migration. It investigates how political theorists should grapple with the criticism that their theories unwittingly or problematically adopt state-centered categories and assumptions. While discussions of methodological nationalism have been prevalent in the social sciences for over two decades, political theorists have just begun to explore its implications. First, political theorists have raised questions about its analytic rigor. Given that social scientists have presented different and possibly conflicting definitions of methodological nationalism, can these definitions be reconciled? Second, they have begun to explore methodological approaches and analytic tools that could enable theorists to overcome or at least mitigate methodological nationalism. Third, the normative contribution the critique of methodological nationalism needs to be developed. For example, what implications, if any, does a largely epistemic critique (methodological nationalism) have for normative nationalist or cosmopolitan theories? A burgeoning literature around questions of migration and justice has begun to fill this lacuna, but discussions are very much in their infancy.

This pre-read hybrid workshop will offer a possibility to Swiss and international (early-career) researchers*** working in the field of political theory, or in the field of social sciences with a particular interest in methodological nationalism, to connect with peers and to receive feedback from Prof. Alex Sager (Portland State University) on their ongoing research work. The workshop is open to both social scientific and political theory contributions on or sensible to methodological nationalism. As the format is a pre-read workshop, we expect participants to prepare a draft work a week in advance and prepare a small presentation.

If you are interested in participating, please send an abstract of app. 400 words to us (asager@pdx.edu and esma.baycan@unige.ch) by 28 March 2024. Please note that sadly we do not have budget to cover international travel and accommodation costs of participants. We expect Swiss participants to be present in person and may be able to contribute (some) of their travel costs (to be confirmed). Please specify whether you intend to participate online or in person.

*** We understand early-career researchers broadly as scholars without a permanent appointment at a research institution.