How Understanding Citizenship in the World Society Determines Attitudes toward the Cultural Rights of Immigrants and Minorities (abstract)

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Research Panel: Human Rights Attitudes in a World Society

Presenters: K. Russell Shekha, Denison University; JoEllen Pedersen, Longwood University

Title: How Understandings of Citizenship in the World Society Determine Attitudes toward the Cultural Rights of Immigrants and Minorities

Abstract: This study addresses how definitions of citizenship affect commitment to, endorsement, and restriction of immigrants’ and minority group members’ economic, social, and cultural rights. Data are from 2003 and 2013 (released this March) waves of the International Social Survey Program’s National Identity. Examining individuals living in 19 countries, this analysis demonstrates that individuals’ beliefs about citizenship and its salience in world society shape attitudes toward human rights of immigrants and minorities. While this study suggests national identities continue to predict human rights attitudes, it reveals that individuals who express an international identity demonstrate greater respect for rights of non-traditional citizens.

Keywords: human rights attitudes, human rights support, world society, citizenship, women’s rights, minority rights

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JoEllen Pederson is an assistant professor of Sociology at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia. She teaches classes in aging, welfare state policy, research methods, and statistics. Her research interests include cross-national comparisons of welfare state policy, aging, social policy evaluation, and public opinion. She received her PhD from Florida State University in 2013.

K. Russell Shekha is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology/Anthropology at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. His teaching and research interests are in human rights, the welfare state, Latin America, global justice, and quantitative methods. His current research focuses on the impacts of universal human rights on welfare state spending and inequality in Latin America and the determinants of attitudes towards human rights and welfare states in international samples. He serves as the current Secretary-Treasurer and Newsletter Editor of the American Sociological Association’s Section on Human Rights.