

Conceptualizing urban leadership and urban coalitions across the Atlantic: What can we learn from migration research?

Symposium on 15 June 2020
Erasmus University Rotterdam

With a kick-off talk by [Dr. Kristin Good](#) (Dalhousie University, CAN)
and a talk by [Dr. Els de Graauw](#) (Baruch College, CUNY, US)

Chair: [Dr. Maria Schiller](#) (Erasmus University Rotterdam, NL)

The workshop will be organized in the framework of the [Vital Cities and Citizens Initiative](#) of the Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Urban regime theory has been an important strand in the American literature on urban politics and has helped elucidate long-standing coalitions between municipalities, businesses and civil society actors. In Europe, the literature on urban governance and policy networks has been influential in analyzing interrelationships and collaboration of various actors in policymaking.

Over the past decade, these theories have also found their way into migration scholarship. They have been applied in novel and innovative ways to investigate immigrant policymaking in cities on both sides of the Atlantic. This has included increasing attention to coalitions between actors in immigrant policymaking and to the leadership taken by specific actors in defining responses to urban issues relating to migration. However, so far there has been little systematic effort to theorize leadership and coalitions in the urban governance of migration and diversity.

In this workshop, we want to explore current migration research and discuss what we can learn from urban governance/regime theories for understanding the role of urban coalitions and leadership in immigrant policymaking. At the same time, we seek to identify insights that can be gained from migration scholarship for developing urban governance and urban regime theory.

Some of the questions that will be addressed during this workshop are:

1. **How can we conceptualize power** in urban coalitions and urban leadership? How is immigrant policymaking informed by dynamics of inclusion and exclusion, collaboration and co-optation?
2. **What do these theories tell us about which actors are influential** in urban coalitions? Should we expect an influence of economic actors in immigrant policymaking, and if so, how does that differ between North American and European cities? Are immigrant organizations considered as partners by municipalities and what does that imply for having the voice of immigrants heard in policymaking? How does a trend of allocating responsibility for dealing with migration-related diversity across the administration influence the actors involved in urban coalitions on immigrant-policymaking?
3. **Do paradigms matter** to local leaders and how do they shape urban actor coalitions in immigrant policymaking? How are such paradigms circulated and exchanged?
4. **Which policy approaches lead to more effective immigrant integration policies?** What kinds of ideas respond best to immigrant needs and interests (as defined by immigrants themselves)?
5. **How do other levels of government play a role** in urban coalitions in immigrant policymaking, for example through national (and subnational) funding programs, EU initiatives, or involvement of metropolitan regions in urban policymaking?
6. **Do we see variation across cities** in urban coalition-building? How do cities differ in the ways in which various actors interact and collaborate in policymaking related to immigration? How do city networks influence urban coalitions and urban leadership in immigrant policymaking?
7. **Which methodological approaches are most suitable** to study urban coalitions and urban leadership in immigrant policymaking?

We invite scholars who would like to present their research relating to these questions to send their abstract of max 250 words to schiller@essb.eur.nl. Junior scholars are particularly encouraged to apply! Deadline for submissions: 7 March 2020.

If you would like to attend the symposium without giving a presentation, there will be a limited number of spots available to do so. Please send your name and affiliation to schiller@essb.eur.nl.