



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

MSocSc Niko Pyrhönen,
Center for Ethnic Relations and Nationalism,
University of Helsinki
presents his work

The Role of Minority Accommodation in the Discourses of Citizenship

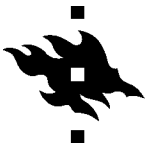
at the
CEREN Colloquium
Monday 23 February 2009, 4:15–5:45 p.m.
at Pohjoinen Hesperiankatu 15 A (buzzer “SSKH”)

Welcome!

Arguments on the fairness and conceivability of various accommodative solutions for immigrant minorities often revolve around conflicting core conceptions of citizenship. However, the degree to which these divergences pertaining to the regimes of minority accommodation translate to a coherent and structured scientific inquiry in the academic literature is far from optimal. Ideally, the first step in engaging in a critical exchange on minority accommodation would be to come to understand how citizenship is conceptualized by those with a conflicting view on accommodation. Pyrhönen argues that when this necessary first step is skipped, ideas of citizenship manifest as esoteric paradigms. These paradigms often derive their minority accommodation agendas from a hermetic set of normative core assumptions. At its worst, this paradigmization results in the conflicting arguments on accommodation being regarded as inherently incommensurable, relevant for consideration only inasmuch as they refer to the similar ideals of citizenship.

Pyrhönen suggests that it is possible to counter this predicament for critical exchange and facilitate accommodation in a more reconciliatory manner. According to him, one way to do this is to consistently triangulate between the paradigmatic core values of citizenship when arguing for a particular set of accommodations for minorities. Providing examples from contemporary literature, Pyrhönen illustrates the polarizing effect of paradigmization that is haunting a number of current, accommodation-relevant issues. He further proposes that such shortcomings could be transcended so that normative disagreements on the nature of citizenship would not have to translate to equally hermetic agendas for minority accommodation.

Centre for Research on Ethnic Relations and Nationalism



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Niko Pyrhönen is a researcher at the Center for Ethnic Relations and Nationalism in the University of Helsinki. He is currently working for the Academy of Finland project “Challenging Power.” His areas of expertise are the academic citizenship discourse and normative approaches to accommodation of immigrant minorities within the discourse. Homepage: http://sockom.helsinki.fi/fiss/researchers/pyrhone_niko.html

