

## **Intersectional Perspectives on Global Freedom of Movement**

**Brigitte Kukovetz**

Universität Graz

Research on globalisation often assumes a diminishing importance of national sovereignty and promotes a narrative of de-bordering. This has been compellingly challenged by Steffen Mau (2021). He demonstrates that alongside globalization's de-bordering tendencies, trends toward closure are becoming increasingly visible. Nevertheless, in social and humanistic discourse, some authors use the right for transnational mobility as a foundation for their research. Others endeavour to further develop the idea of global freedom of movement, often without fundamentally questioning the existence of nation-state borders. In sum, the idea of global freedom of movement is discussed broadly within different disciplines. Some might consider it as a utopia, others reject the conception that this idea is (only) utopian. They discuss the feasibility of a migration regime implementing freedom of movement across international borders. However, this discourse seems to lack an intersectional perspective.

The relevance of different categories, such as race, class, gender, national origin, education, to some extent also age, ability or sexual orientation, is already examined in research on border regimes. Sometimes the authors even discuss the intertwining of these categories in terms of intersectionality. However, this discourse does not seem to have reached the debate on global freedom of movement – apart from a few perceptions.

In this presentation I will first outline the main strands of the scientific debate on global freedom of movement. On this basis, I will discuss, how intersectional issues are addressed in the literature on global freedom of movement and which perspectives could be of interest for further research in this field.

References:

Mau, S. (2021). Sortiermaschinen. Die Neuerfindung der Grenze im 21. Jahrhundert.  
C.H.Beck.