

Windy Roads

The ambivalent relationship of Union
Citizenship and Member State nationality

*Conference organised by the
DFG Research Training Group
DynamInt, 28-30 January 2026*

Programme

Concept

Introduced with the Treaty of Maastricht some 30 years ago, Union citizenship is intertwined with the Member States' nationalities. Following the letters of the EU Treaties, it is no freestanding, but a derived status: Union citizens are those who possess the nationality of a Member State (Article 9 TEU). While the Court of Justice ascertained already in 2001 that Union citizenship is destined to become the "fundamental status" of the nationals of the Member States, the past 30 years have demonstrated that Union citizenship follows no linear development towards this destiny. Instead, the relationship of Union citizenship and Member State nationality is ambivalent and subject to many, sometimes contradictory trajectories. Some have strengthened the status of Union citizenship, others have reinforced the relevance of Member State nationalities. With other words: these concepts travel on *windy roads*.

This conference aims at mapping these windy roads. On the one hand, we can observe a renaissance of nationality. Consider the restriction of the rights of economically inactive Union citizens by the EU legislature and the Court of Justice (*Dano* and its progenies) or the consequences of Brexit, which demonstrated the precariousness of Union citizenship (*Préfet du Gers*) and led to a flood of naturalisation requests.

On the other hand, the rights flowing from Union citizenship, free movement and equality, have increasingly expanded. Today, Union citizenship has developed beyond a mere status for mobile and economically active "market citizens". We can even witness the forming of EU requirements not only for the loss and acquisition of the Member States' nationalities (*Commission v Malta*), but also for political rights in national elections (see the infringement proceedings against Poland and the Czech Republic over the right of Union citizens to join a political party in another Member State). In this sense, even core domains of Member State nationality, such as naturalisation requirements and political rights attached to that status, are no longer immune from European influence.

Some of these cases are well-studied, some might say over-explored. However, we do not aim at simply revisiting these "classics". By zooming out and assessing them with temporal distance, we seek to understand their impact and interplay in the long term. Ultimately, we are placing these diverging trajectories in a bigger framework that might allow us to identify the direction in which Union citizenship and Member State nationality are heading. Finally, we want to explore future paths in this relationship. What is their role in an emerging European society, what are their potentials and promises, what are their dangers and risks?

Programme

- **Dates:** 28 to 30 January 2026
- **Convener:** Dr. Luke Dimitrios Spieker,
DFG Research Training Group DynamInt
- **Email:** windyroads.conference.rewi@hu-berlin.de
- **Venue:** Senatssaal, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Unter
den Linden 6, 10117 Berlin

- 28 January 2026 -

From 16:00	<i>Registration</i>
17:00	<i>Welcome addresses</i>
	<u>Matthias Ruffert</u> , Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Academic director of DynamInt)
	<u>Dimitri Spieker</u> , Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Convener, Postdoc at DynamInt)
17:15 – 17:45	Opening keynote by <u>Tamara Ćapeta</u> Advocate General at the Court of Justice of the European Union
17:45 – 18:30	Opening keynote by <u>Daniel Thym</u> Universität Konstanz
	<i>Discussion</i>
19:00	<i>Reception</i>



- 29 January 2026 -

Part I: Declining Union citizenship, rising nationality?

9:00 – 10:30 **Panel 1: *Dano and the precarity of Union citizenship?***

Moderator: [Hannah Zaruchas](#), DynamInt (2nd cohort)

- [Anastasia Iliopoulou-Penot](#), Université Panthéon-Assas (Paris 2)
- [Dion Kramer](#), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- [Victoria Hooton](#), University of Sheffield
- [Charlotte O'Brien](#), York Law School

10:45 – 12:15 **Panel 2: Brexit and the predominance of Member State nationality?**

Moderator: [Jana Ebersberger](#), DynamInt (3rd cohort)

- [Maarten Vink](#), European University Institute
- [Hannes Krämer](#), Acting Director (Team External relations and International Law) & Principal Adviser (Legal matters related to EU-UK relations and to Ukraine), European Commission
- [Stephen Coutts](#), University of Edinburgh
- [Susanne K. Schmidt](#), Universität Bremen

12:15 – 13:00 *Lunch break*

Part II: Rising Union citizenship, declining nationality?

13:00 – 14:30 **Panel 3: Shrinking autonomy? EU impact on acquisition and loss of Member State nationality**

Moderator: [Jasper Kamradt](#), DynamInt (associate)

- [Sara Iglésias Sanchez](#), Universidad Complutense Madrid
- [Martijn van den Brink](#), Leiden University
- [Séolène Barbou des Places](#), Université Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris 1)
- [Ferdinand Weber](#), Universität Göttingen

14:45 – 16:15 **Panel 4: Declining relevance? Free movement's impact on Member State nationality**

Moderator: [Artur Gadow](#), DynamInt (3rd cohort)

- [Eleanor Spaventa](#), Bocconi University Milan
- [Alina Tryfonidou](#), University of Cyprus
- [Gareth Davies](#), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- [Sarah Ganty](#), Peking University / Yale Law School

16:15 – 16:45 *Coffee break*

16:45 – 18:15 **Panel 5: Opening participation? EU impact on national political rights**

Moderator: [Lena Kaiser](#), DynamInt (2nd cohort)

- [Daniel Sarmiento](#), Universidad Complutense Madrid
- [Jonathan Tomkin](#), European Commission
- [Monica Claes & Nora Vissers](#), Maastricht University
- [Mattias Wendel](#), Universität Hamburg

- 30 January 2026 -

Part III: Outlook

9:00 – 10:15 **Panel 6: Derived, decoupled, displaced? What future for Union citizenship and nationality?**

Moderator: [Hanneke van Eijken](#), Utrecht University

- [Francesca Strumia](#), City St George's, University of London
- [Rainer Bauböck](#), European University Institute
- [Dimitry Kochenov](#), Central European University
- [Daniel Thym](#), Universität Konstanz

10:30 – 12:00 **Panel 7: An emerging European society? What role for Union citizenship and nationality?**

Moderator: [Jakob Gašperin Wischhoff](#)

(DynamInt, 1st cohort)

- [Armin von Bogdandy](#), MPIL Heidelberg
- [Paivi Neuvonen](#), Durham University
- [Jules Lepoutre](#), Université Côte d'Azur
- [Ana Bobić](#), Hertie School

12:00 – 12:15 *Concluding remarks by convener*

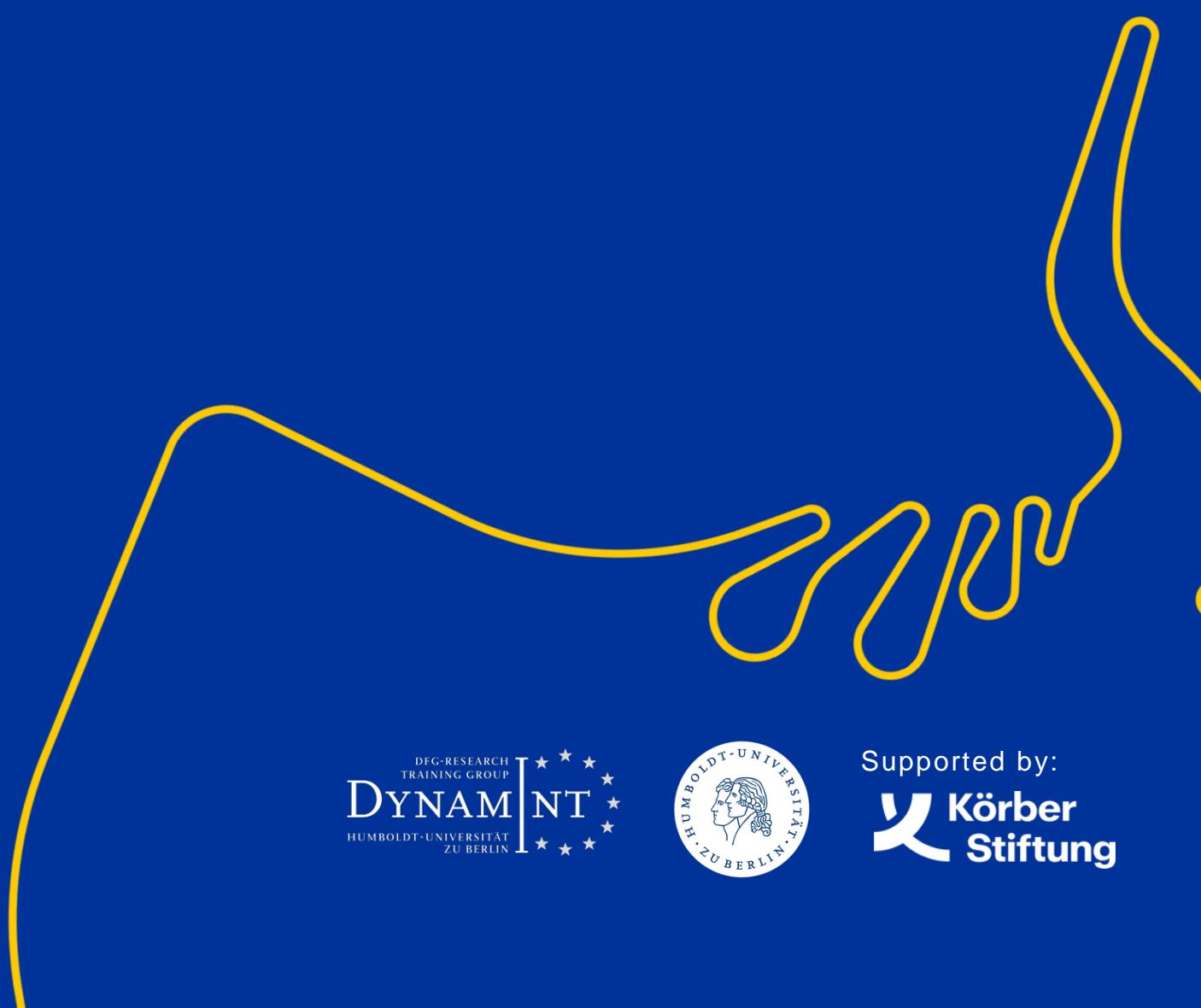
12:15 – 13:00 *Light lunch*

[Open to Public]

13:00 – 15:00 **Closing keynote by Koen Lenaerts**
President of the Court of Justice of the European Union

15:00 *Reception*

- End -



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