

Humanity, Identity and Biopolitics in Post-Globalization

A Symposium by the Biopolitics of Science Research Network

Friday 1 Nov 2019

10:00am-4.30pm

Board Room

RD Watt Building

Speakers and discussants

Yasmeen Arif

University of Delhi

Michael Humphreys

University of Sydney

Ihab Shalbak

University of Sydney

Srijan Butola

University of Delhi

Arpita Das

University of Sydney

Miguel Vatter

Flinders University

Charlotte Epstein

University of Sydney

Marc de Leeuw

University of New South Wales

*All welcome but RSVP is essential
because of catering and distribution
of readings*

Please register by

October 24th at:

<https://bit.ly/2LWQOvy>



Image from <https://fortytwomagazine.com/category/magazine/vol-2-nationalism/>

We witness in the 21st century a backlash against global cosmopolitanism, cynicism about the efficacy of human rights, and a heightened interest in the project of national identities. How to understand these developments in a global and comparative perspective? What kind of conceptual tools are needed to understand the complexities and stakes involved?

The symposium starts from the premise that these uncertain times were precipitated by a crisis of citizenship and that a biopolitical analysis of identity and humanity is necessary to fully understand the extent of this citizenship crisis. Rather than focusing on “negative biopolitics,” which emphasizes the death producing capacities of governmental strategies, the symposium engages the work of Roberto Esposito to address the problem of identity, community, and citizenship as ways of “making live.” Sustained life, and the politics it might need in this era, could entail a recalibration of how we might understand humanity with identity in a world of migrants, refugees, and diminishing possibilities of global mobility and hospitality.

Through a wide array of contexts, from mass displacement at the US/Mexico border and Palestinian death in the Israel/Palestine struggle, to the Indian Government’s *Aadhaar* identification program and mobilizations of identity politics in contemporary India, our speakers will examine the ways in which “humanity” and “identity” are newly translated into the citizenship crisis of present-day globalization.