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Invitation to a

Higher Seminar in European Law with

Alezini Loxa (Department of Law, Lund University)

on

Revisiting the Normative Foundations of EU Migration Law

Thursday 12th November 2026 at 10:15 - 12:00

Room 1:234, Munken 1 (Trädgårdsgatan 20)

Please register by email no later than Monday 9th November 2026 at donal.casey@jur.uu.se

For further information, please see below.

We look forward to welcoming you!

The European Law Research Group

Speaker

Alezini Loxa is a Pro Futura Scientia Fellow XX at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study and an Associate Senior Lecturer in EU law at Lund University. She holds a PhD in EU law from Lund University, Sweden and an LL.M. and LL.B. from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Before becoming a ProFutura Scientia Fellow, Alezini was an Emile Noël Research Fellow at the Jean Monnet Center for International and Regional Economic Law and Justice at NYU, USA. She is the author of Sustainability and EU Migration Law, Tracing the History of a Contemporary Concept (CUP 2025) which was awarded the UACES Best Book Prize 2026 and the co-editor of The Reasoning of the Court of Justice of the EU: A Normative Assessment (OUP 2025).

Abstract

EU law is structured around a fundamental distinction between EU and non-EU citizens. This binary introduced in law is mirrored in scholarship, which has developed along two distinct tracks—each focusing on the legal acts and historical developments regulating the rights of EU and non- EU citizens. Both strands assume that EU law facilitates the transnational mobility of EU citizens while restricting the movement of non-EU citizens. They treat nationality as the decisive factor for determining entry and residence rights across the EU, but present security as the key concern in the regulation of entry from outside the Union. A closer analysis of the legal frameworks governing the migration of the respective groups reveals, however, that economic contribution plays a critical role in determining access to social rights for all migrants. In fact, disparities in access are sometimes greater within each group than between them. This presentation will challenge the bifurcation in EU migration law scholarship and the assumptions that sustain it. Building on research showing that certain non-EU migrants often enjoy more judicially robust protection of their social rights than economically disadvantaged EU migrants, the aim is to reassess how constitutional theories have sought to define the normative foundations of EU migration law.