

Becoming and Belonging? Lived experiences of naturalization and the implementation of citizenship law in Germany and Canada
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Citation

Bliersbach, H. (2025, May 13). *Becoming and Belonging? Lived experiences of naturalization and the implementation of citizenship law in Germany and Canada*. *Meijers-reeks*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4246246>

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Propositions relating to the dissertation

BECOMING AND BELONGING?

*Lived Experiences of Naturalization and the Implementation of
Citizenship Law in Germany and Canada*

by Hannah Bliersbach

1. Citizenship status alone does not guarantee a sense of belonging or being recognized as someone who belongs.
2. If a citizen can be denationalized, then their citizenship is conditional and not an equal status.
3. Immigration and citizenship policies have to be evaluated on both their content *and* how far they are interwoven with criminal law.
4. A state aiming to foster a sense of belonging in new citizens has to ensure that citizenship is not the only legal status perceived as safe by migrants.
5. Interviews incorporating real-life vignettes can facilitate discussions of socially undesirable behavior by giving interviewees the opportunity to reflect on real events instead of speaking in hypotheticals.
6. Naturalization does not take place in a vacuum: It is impossible to study the impact of naturalization procedures independently without considering an individual's prior migration trajectory.
7. A state's policy implementation structure – be it centralized or decentralized; personal or impersonal – impacts migrants' legal consciousness.
8. An immigration policy that prioritizes economic requirements while restricting the number of new permanent residents breeds a sense of competition between migrants.
9. An overburdened bureaucratic structure, where comprehensive oversight is impossible and street-level bureaucrats have to make decisions using significant discretionary powers, cannot guarantee procedural justice.
10. If naturalization constitutes the engine of nation-building, then nations ought to err on the side of inclusion.
11. Sports regulations of nationality and players' decisions regarding which country they compete for illustrate the key citizenship debates: conflicts of identity, socio-economic considerations, and questions of allegiance.