

## Why minority protections are not privileges: on minority rights, equal citizenship and immigrant ‘integration’

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### Abstract

There has been an increase of academic publications that argue in favor of ‘majority rights,’ ‘majority precedence,’ or ‘white identity,’ claiming that multicultural theory to date has overlooked the (cultural) interests of majorities. This presentation will examine this academic trend to which commentators seem to exclusively focus on the potential risks of granting minority rights to immigrant groups. However, multiculturalists broadly accept the cultural hegemony of the majority culture in the context of diversity triggered by migration. For example, they agree that minority rights for immigrant groups do not involve forms of territorial, linguistic or institutional political power sharing between the majority and migrant groups. Instead, newcomers are required, inter alia, to learn the national language and ‘integrate’ into the broader society. Within multiculturalism, minority rights for immigrant groups involve forms of broader inclusive accommodation and the protection of equal citizenship, for instance by fighting stigmas, racism, discrimination and other barriers to prevent them from being fully accepted and participating as equal citizens. The presentation will conclude that the trend mistakenly understands minority rights for immigrant groups as privileges (that majorities lack), instead of public measures to secure equal citizenship for all.

### Biography

**Tamar de Waal** is assistant professor, legal theory at the Amsterdam Law School of the University of Amsterdam. She is the author of *Integration Requirements for Immigrants in Europe – A Legal-Philosophical Inquiry* that was published in 2021 by Hart Publishing (Bloomsbury). De Waal has published in a variety of national and international journals on matters of citizenship, minority rights and immigrant integration. She is also director of the Amsterdam Honours College of Law.