



CREATING GLOBAL CITIZENS:

National Museums in Sweden and Denmark

Peggy Levitt (Wellesley College and Harvard University)

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During his trip to Europe during the 2008 presidential campaign, Barack Obama told an adoring crowd of more than 200,000 gathered in Berlin's Tiergarten that he was speaking to them as a citizen of the United States and as a citizen of the world. But what does it really mean to be a global citizen? Where do the values undergirding global citizenship come from? To what extent do national institutions which were, in part, established to create national publics see themselves as creating global publics as well? Today's world is characterized by high levels of internal and international migration. Migrants often retain ties to their countries of origin at the same time that they become part of the countries where they settle. National governments recognize this and are increasingly granting rights to members who are no longer residents or to long-term residents who are not full members. People also claim and are granted rights on the basis of supranational governance regimes like the European Union or United Nations' conventions and declarations. Levitt examines what role national institutions, like museums, play in creating the symbolic and discursive backdrop that makes this possible. To what extent do they see themselves as creating a world in which the social contract is fulfilled beyond the borders of the nation-state?

Peggy Levitt is a Professor of Sociology at Wellesley College and a Research Fellow at The Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and The Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations at Harvard University where she co-directs The Transnational Studies Initiative. In 2010-2012, she will be a Visiting Fellow at the Vrije University in Amsterdam. Her latest books (2007) include *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape*, published by The New Press and *The Transnational Studies Reader*, by Routledge Press. She coordinates the Social Science Research Council working group on religion and globalization and is Co-Principal Investigator on a National Science Foundation project about how global ideas about women's rights are translated in local contexts.