



McLAUGHLIN COLLEGE

As part of our popular Lunch Time Talk Series, McLaughlin College Proudly Presents:

Asylum in the EU and Rule of Law Backsliding

Presented by

Lilian Tsourdi



In this presentation, Professor Lilian Tsourdi will examine the links between the state of asylum provision in the EU and challenges to the rule of law. Fundamental rights, democracy and the rule of law are understood as the bedrock of European societies. Yet recent years have seen the EU plagued by populism, racism and xenophobia. This has been linked with challenges to the rule of law in some Member States. Asylum provision and refugee protection is another urgent challenge facing the EU. Three main problems have emerged. First, a persistent implementation gap has eroded mutual trust between Member States. Second, protection obligations have often been deflected, with the EU institutionalising containment and externalisation in its relations with non-EU States. Thirdly, fundamental rights violations in some Member States have been characterised as systemic, or reaching the level of a humanitarian emergency. To what extent can the implementation gap, fundamental rights violations, and the state of asylum provision in the EU generally be considered one of the many ‘faces’ of rule of law backsliding?

LILIAN TSOURDI is an Assistant Professor and Dutch Research Council grantee (NWO VENI) at the Law Faculty of Maastricht University, as well as a visiting professor at Sciences Po Paris. She is a member of the Academic Network for Legal Studies on Immigration and Asylum in Europe, the ‘Odysseus Network’. As a current VENI grantee of the Dutch Research Council she is researching the steering and solidarity potential of EU migration funding. She has published over 50 outputs in the areas of forced displacement, migration, fundamental rights protection, and EU law. Her monograph on the constitutional foundations and administrative governance of the EU asylum policy is forthcoming in Oxford University Press (2021).

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

12:30 – 1:30 pm via Zoom

Click here to join: <https://yorku.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlod-uhri0oG9cMUMZdY2luF7qt78iJKEAX>

For further information, please contact Vicky Carnevale at vcarneva@yorku.ca