**Unneeded, unwanted: disrupting taken for granted measures of integration**

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In this talk, I argue that we must disrupt the taken for granted and problematic integration measures, which measure how well people are integrated, judging their language skills, work performance, and economic and political activities. Such a need to problematise usual integration measures is evident when the political lip service that ‘everyone matters’ is in stark contrast to realities when certain groups and profiles of people are unwanted and unneeded.

I draw on data from my long-term projects in Finland, Latvia and the UK (2010-2021) and focus on lived experiences through the lens of fundamental categories of national welfare states, neoliberalism and colonial imaginaries. National welfare states, I argue, produce certain groups of migrants as unneeded. Such production is apparent in intersections of age, gender and racialised ethnicities. Neoliberal societies rely on imaginaries of generational changes as a demographic force, which will solve the problem of ‘incapable’ and unneeded. Finally, colonial imaginaries render ‘Eastern Europeans’ as selectively needed but unwanted. Based on a bottom-up approach to voices of people themselves, my main findings point towards a need to imagine integration otherwise than we usually think and talk about it.