

Dissertation: An urgency to limit states' scope of action with regard to immigration decisions.

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Abstract:

Aim of this thesis is to analyze and limit the states' scope of action with regard to immigration decisions. At the moment, states ascribe absolute authority to themselves when it comes to excluding potential immigrants. That it is morally impermissible for states to select or reject people based on skin color is generally agreed upon amongst political theorists. But what about nationality? Isn't nationality and place of birth an equally arbitrary criterion based on which admission ought not happen? Why do we allow German or Swiss citizens to reside in Austria while we do not offer the same opportunities to Afghan or Gambian citizens?

In the debate regarding the state's right to exclude versus open borders I am particularly interested to explore state decisions under the phenomenon of discrimination. This does not only concern entrance requirements, but also state decisions that affect immigrants that are already in the country such as isolation in camps or racial profiling. I hope to show that most of the states' actions are in violation with an harm based account of discrimination, thus, immigration ought to be liberalized.