

My paper for the Module D of the Forced Migrations Course will work with the research assignment: Do you think that the Stateless should have a right to citizenship in the host country?

The paper will approach the subject considering two angles that are tangent with the issue the question poses. On the one side, I would like to briefly think about situations in which individuals have a nationality and live in space in which is clearly recognized as part of a State and a Nation, but the state cannot reach because of a lack of capabilities and hence people in a day to day basis live without any contact nor guarantees from the government and the State. Even if this is not the main problem around which the concept note and the specific assignment go on, it is an issue present in the literature, and that generates new questions regarding what comprises the concept of Statelessness. This is worth considering as well, as livelihood under these conditions could lead to the displacement or relocation of population inside or across a country's borders.

Second, I would like to consider the case of people without citizenship given their place of birth and its context. The stepping stone to consider this issue is the situation of children of Haitian mothers that are born in the Dominican Republic. It is a very common situation in the island, for Haitian women to cross the border to work in the Dominican Republic. When/If they get pregnant, their born children aren't recognized as Dominican Republic citizens because of long historical disputes between the two countries and laws that have been designed to specially segregate this population; and neither as Haitian citizens given that their conception of citizenship responds to *jus soli* criteria. Hence this children are nationless and stateless having this numerous consequences related to this condition such as being unprotected by law, and the many conflicts that arise because of being undocumented like the impossibility to cross borders legally, enrollment in school and entry into the formal labor market just to name a few. This situation incorporates gender, migration and border dimensions when thinking about statelessness.

In an effort to identify potential spaces of cooperation and knowledge exchange among regions, the paper aims at taking this case as a Latin-American regional example, and to compare it with a case study from South Asia (yet to be defined), in which a similar situation can be identified in order to assess what problematics have arisen for these children and their mothers in each case, and how have these been addressed both by the host and origin countries. The research will finish considering how the international community has responded to this issue, what instrument does it have to act upon this

problem and whether or not further international instruments are needed to assure minimal rights under this circumstances.