From Guestworkers to Refugees: How a non-immigrant nation became the world's most welcoming refugee state.

a discussion with Girma Parris Ph.D.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science

February 9, 2018 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Dampeir Room, 2nd Floor of Kelvin Smith Library
11201 Euclid Ave

Germany in its various forms has had immigrants, but never had a reputation for being especially welcoming. In France and the United States, national ideologies and laws say one can become French or American by learning ways to think and act. In Germany, national identity has been tied more to birth. A massive labor shortage in the early 1960s led to recruitment of millions of Turkish workers – and later workers from other countries - but as Gastarbeiter, expected to return "home" after two or a few years. Many of the Turks and other immigrants didn't leave, but Germany only created a clear path to citizenship in the Migration Act of 2005.

So it is one of the bigger surprises of recent years that Germany has become the leading recipient of refugees from conflicts in the Middle East and beyond – and that Chancellor Angela Merkel has become the leading advocate for that policy. A rising traditionally nationalist response has caused some defections from her political party base. Yet Merkel has persisted, so far with sufficient support. Join us as Professor Parris, whose research addresses immigration and inclusion in both the United States and Germany, considers the change in German policies and how well it fits with broader attitudes in German politics and culture.

The Friday Public Affairs Discussion Lunch is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, emeriti and other members of our communities to learn and question each other about public policy issues at the international, national, and local levels. Faculty and other speakers share their research and experience to get beyond the headlines and repetition in the mass media, and the wild rumors of the internet. Lunch is brown bag, but cookies and some beverages are provided by the Center for Policy Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences.

http://fridaylunch.case.edu/