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Nihan Topprakkiran is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Zukunfts Kolleg, University of Konstanz, and is affiliated with the Department of Politics and Public Administration. Previously, she received her BA in Political Science and International Relations from Bogazici University and her MSc in Comparative Social Policy from the University of Oxford. For her PhD at the University of York, she focused on the development of social rights and welfare regimes in the context of middle-income countries. Nihan's current work is about the political behavior of immigrants, with particular emphasis on the links between their rights and integration in the country of residence and their views on home-country politics.

Immigrant Support for Home-Country Populism: A Comparative Look at the Turkish, Polish and Italian Communities in Germany

ABSTRACT:

This presentation explores how emigrants keep their political ties with their countries of origin for a very long time after the initial migration. As a striking example of these political ties, I outline the spreading practice of external voting, that is, the possibility of voting in national elections from abroad. Second, I give an overview of my current research project, which aims to explain the external voting behavior of Turkish, Polish and Italian immigrants in Germany, and especially the high levels of support that populist parties find among these groups. This project is mainly based on a survey that is still in the process of implementation, but also includes a number of qualitative interviews with people from the same groups. I then conclude by presenting some preliminary findings from these interviews.