

## **Hyperconnected Diasporas Amidst Pandemic Citizenship: The End of the ‘Global Citizen’?**

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Over the last decades, globalisation has led to a new class of ‘global citizens’. However, this cosmopolitan globalisation rhetoric of a borderless world has been drastically slowed down by COVID-19, by particularly affecting the understanding of diasporas and how much they rely on the potential of hyperconnected societies driven by digital technologies and devices. By contrast, COVID-19 has also hit citizens dramatically, not only creating a general risk-driven environment encompassing a wide array of migration uncertainties and economic vulnerabilities but also exposing them to pervasive digital risks, such as biosurveillance, misinformation, and e-democracy algorithmic threats. As soon as countries have started lifting pandemic restrictions the debate about reopening borders by allowing international travelling has introduced a set of techno-political issues related to the ethical dimensions of *vaccine passports* and biometric components insofar as they might be fostering in a way a sort of unethical *vaccine nationalism*. Against the backdrop of this uncertain scenario, this paper sheds light on the way COVID-19 may end up with the notion of ‘global citizens’ by initiating a new and endless era characterised by ‘pandemic citizenship’, meaning (i) a permanent state of uncertainty in terms of migration for diasporic citizens, (ii) who thereby are highly dependent on their specific overseas location and country, and (iii) are extremely reliant on hyperconnectivity. This paper therefore pays attention to the notion of ‘pandemic citizenship’ as a transitional phase of the former ‘global citizenship’ living overseas and being part of a diaspora while being exposed (consciously or unwittingly) to such techno-political consequences of the pandemic in their daily life regarding privacy, surveillance, ethics, and ownership of data. The paper will explicitly revolve around the ongoing *action research* project on the Basque case in close collaboration with the Basque Government.

### **CV:**

Dr. Igor Calzada, MBA, FeRSA ([www.igorcalzada.com/about](http://www.igorcalzada.com/about) and @ICalzada) is a Senior Researcher on digital, urban, and political transformations from the social innovation perspective. His main research interest draws on how digital transformation processes driven by AI disruption in the post-GDPR current context are altering techno-political and democratic conditions of data governance for the emergence of new algorithmic citizenship regimes in (smart) cities and regions. He is the author of the monograph *SMART CITY CITIZENSHIP* recently (Nov. 2020) published by Elsevier (<https://www.elsevier.com/books/smart-city-citizenship/calzada/978-0-12-815300-0>).

At present, he is a Senior Research Fellow at Cardiff University, Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research and Data (WISERD) funded by the ESRC working on emerging citizenship regimes. In addition, he is a Senior Research Affiliate at the University of Oxford, Future of Cities and Urban Transformations ESRC Programmes. More recently too, he has been working as Senior Scientist at the European Commission’s Centre for Advanced Studies and the Digital Economy Unit in the DG Joint Research Centre (JRC) on AI, Digital Transformations, Digital Rights, and Platform and Data Co-operatives. He serves as Senior Advisor on Digital Transformations in Urban Areas for UN-Habitat’s People-Centered Smart Cities Flagship Programme.

He has more than 20 years of research/policy experience as a senior lecturer/researcher: Cardiff, Oxford, Strathclyde, Aston, Vrije, Malmö, Iceland, Ikerbasque, Nevada, Mondragon, and Helsinki. At present, he is guest invited senior lecturer at Mondragon University in the new degree ‘Digital Global Humanities’ and at the University of the Basque Country in the new postgraduate about Diasporas.

Outside academia, he was director in the Basque regional government in the public and in the private sector at Mondragon Co-operative Corporation ([www.mondragon-corporation.com](http://www.mondragon-corporation.com)).

He holds a PhD in Social Innovation with the qualification ‘Cum Laude’ from Mondragon University, an MBA, and a BA in Business Administration and Political Science and Sociology with Honours, respectively, both at the University of Deusto.