# URBAN CITIZENSHIP: New York City ID

#### Citizenship

- A) On the one hand, a state authority grants certain rights and privileges to its citizens. In return, citizens are expected to obey their country's laws (allegiance & taxes).
- B) On the other hand, Citizenship as a collective and affirmative practice through which people actively struggle for and appropriate rights.

#### Urban Citizenship

Right to the city, **independent** of citizenship and legal status. Affiliation through one's place of **residence**. Collective practise in execution in many cities.



# The "New York City ID" as a tool for practiced Urban Citizenship

Free identification card, which works as a document for Urban Citizenship for people living in New York, age 10+, regardless of citizenship or immigration-/ legal status. Largest municipal ID programm in the U.S., launched in 2015. Developed from an ID with the purpose to benefit undocumented and other vulnerable groups to cope with everyday struggles like official visits, registration, bank, contact with police, ... Implementation with community based organisations for advertising and enrollment. Nowadays the ID programm has 1.819.920 users and growing.

... is it a problem? When is it a problem?

IDNYC Users

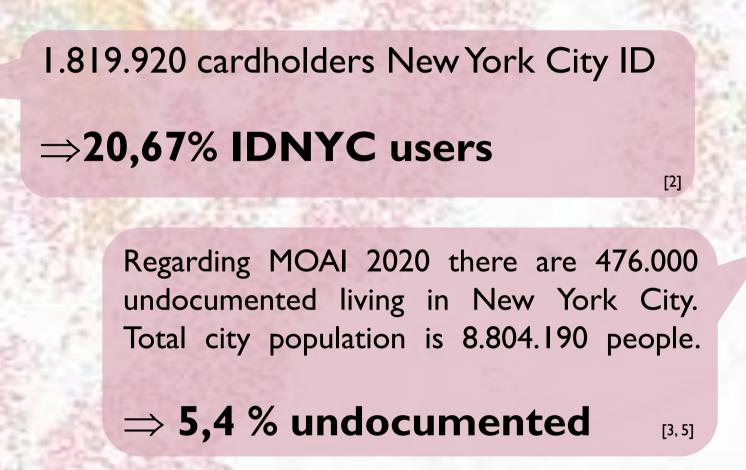
6.984.270

No

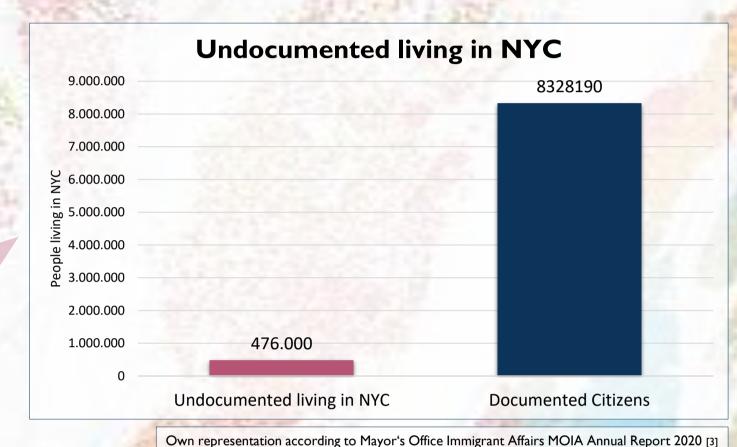
Yes

1.819.920

Own representation according to IDNYC Quarterly Report December 2021 [2]



New York City = city with the highest rate of immigrants in the U.S. (36%)



## Who benefits from the IDNYC?

Immigrants, the homeless, LGBTQIA+ communities, (especially trans people), victims of domestic violence, formerly incarcerated, etc.







Sources: [1] Schilliger (2018): Urban Citizenship. Teilhabe für alle - da, wo wir leben, S. 14–35. https://solidarity-city.eu/app/uploads/2018/07/Schilliger\_Stadt\_fuer\_Alle\_2018.pdf [2] IDNYC Quarterly Report December 31, 2021 https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/idnyc/downloads/pdf/quarterly-report-20211231.pdf [3] Mayor's Office Immigrant Affairs MOIA Annual Report 2020 https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/immigrants/downloads/pdf/MOIA-Annual-Report-for-2020.pdf [4] U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey - Population Division, New York City Interport-2021/2016 https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/idnyc/downloads/pdf/idnyc\_report\_full.pdf [8] The Center for Popular Democracy (CPD) 2013 https://populardemocracy.org/sites/default/files/municipal%20id%20report.pdf [9] Make the Road https://maketheroadny.org/ [10] New York Immigration Coalition https://www.nyic.org/ [11] Bauder (2016): Possibilities of Urban Belonging. In: Antipode 48 (2), S. 252–271. [12] Lebuhn (2016): Ich bin New York. Bilanz des kommunalen Personalasiwa sin New York City. In: Luxemburg (3), S. 114–119.

Illustrations: [13] Background: "Race and ethnicity: New York City" by Eric Fischer is marked with CC BY-SA 2.0. [14] "LGBTQIA Pride - Rennes - 2017" by missbutterflies is marked with CC BY-SA 2.0. To view the terms, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/?ref=openverse [15] "undocumented"

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Functions provided by the card for these groups:

Select gender marker: X, F, M, blank
Registration: aid organizations as c/o address

#### Further issues around the IDNYC

In New York City as an Immigrant City where the concept of urban citizenship definitely makes sense. The most common form of identification is the driver's license, there is no such thing as standardized ID in the U.S. compared to Germany. People migrating to New York all have and use different forms of identification. The approach of one card for all New Yorkers creates a sense of unity and works as a tool against inequality.

Theoretical debates around citizenship often stress differences in people's status, if one is granted citizenship by birth or if one must gain it in a new place.

Belonging or separation is manifested through borders and their significance.

Contrary, local IDs and the social demands behind them are formative, they **give freedom** (*Stadtluft macht frei*) and change the way we value the concept of citizenship.

Community based organizations (CBO) like Make the road and the New York Immigration Coalition who are starting campaigns like the IDNYC shape society and life of immigrants in New York City. Hand in hand with concepts of Solidarity Cities and Sanctuary Cities, the borders of citizenship are dissolving more and more, literally...

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## Undocumented = Illegal?

and 5,4% have no legal status

Services of the IDNYC [6]

Creates problems for:

I) the people migrating to New York City 2) the authorities having loads of work 3) the police would have to pursue every immigrant Those problems can be solved, as the stakeholders (Police, Authorities, Immigrants) agree on a local ID card as a valid legal document.

# Future Outlook

- "Adapting the papers to reality and not reality to the papers" (Schilling 2018: 29).
- ⇒ Idea of municipal ID programms growing: New Haven, San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles, New Jersey, Bern, Zürich, ...
- "Recognize migration as a fact of life and no longer as a dividing line" (ibid.: 32).
- ⇒ Citizenship Studies & Postmigrant Society
- ⇒ underlying problems, such as racism, classism, queerphobia, can be addressed more clearly
- ⇒ Electoral Rights: Right to vote in the place of residence



Background Map
"Race and ethnicity:
New York City"
by Eric Fischer [13]

