The dramatic rise in numbers of refugees entering Germany from 2014 to 2016 has elicited worldwide attention, even as the “welcome culture” seen as enabling this influx has already been deemed a failure in much of the English-language and German-language press. Similarly, recent coverage about the conditions facing European Roma often relies on a similar language of “welcome” and “helping.” In her talk, Professor Weber argues that expectations of refugee gratitude and likeability foreclose an acknowledgement of racism through a politics of good feeling. When refugees and Roma are deemed ungrateful or unresponsive to hospitality and welcome, the closing of borders is seen as legitimate.

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