



Call for Papers

11th International Conference

Thursday 16th June - Saturday 18th June 2011
Alpen-Adria-University Klagenfurt (Austria)

“Migration und Kultur” “Migration and Culture”

Organizers

- Alpen-Adria-University Klagenfurt, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Intercultural Education (Klagenfurt, Austria)
- Centre de Documentation sur les Migrations Humaines CDMH (Dudelange, Luxembourg)
- Institute for Regional and Migration Research IRM (Trier, Germany)
- Institute of Integration and Participation at the School of Social Work FHNW (Olten, Switzerland)

Migration is a central aspect of modern societies, with recent political and social challenges often linked to the subject of migration in public debate. In doing so, migration is primarily discussed as a cultural problem, for instance, in current debates on “integration”, parallel societies” or the “ban on minaret construction” in western societies. Hence, the meaning of culture and cultural differences are mainly discussed in relation to controversies in the migration context.

On the one hand, cultural characteristics are referenced to legitimize processes of social exclusion against migrants. Thereby, cultural and social differences become essentialized and considered as unchangeable characteristics, and as a product of quasi-natural development, and the frequent use of terms like ethnicity or ethnic mentality. In the process, culture becomes a cipher for a new form of racism, which can also be described as “neo-racism” (Balibar) or cultural racism, as opposed to biological racism. From an essentialistic point of view, the relationships of dominance and oppression which background the processes of culturalization and exclusions in regard to political, legal and economic access go along with them. While this cultural essentialism is considered more or less outdated in scientific discourse, it seems to have become the standard in media, political, and everyday related contexts, for instance in the debates regarding headscarf wearing women of Muslim faith.

On the other hand, cultures in their function as an orientation are always dynamically changeable and moving constructs at an individual level, with meanings negotiated and transcribed over and over again. For this development, the relationship between culture and social structure plays a crucial role. Individuals are forced to develop new forms of cultural processing and living through economic and political living conditions to be increasingly set in motion. Out of this dynamic understanding of culture it becomes apparent that individuals are always able to find new forms of socialization and collectivization. With this, there is the development of individual and collective characteristics in which different norm and value-bound social ways of life are manifested. This reveals that ‘culture’ is by no means a rigid construct; in fact, culture has to be understood as an ambivalent and contradictory process. But this also means that culture has to be negotiated afresh at all times and positioned in the context of relationships of dominance and power. ‘Cultural hegemony’ is regarded by Gramsci, for instance, as crucial in order to establish and be



able to maintain relationships of dominance. Following this, 'culture' is regarded not only by Gramsci, but also by cultural studies, with its meaning of 'counterculture', as a form of resistance against dominance and oppression.

Within the framework of the conference, the area of conflict, inherent to the notion of culture and its basic concepts, regarding the context of migration should be discussed against the background of current theoretical debates and empirical findings. Proposals in the following subject areas are welcomed:

- Current theoretical debates (including multiculturalism, interculturality, diversity)
- Mechanisms of exclusion (including neo-racism, neo-assimilationism, intrinsic and extrinsic ethnicization)
- Cultural negotiation processes in border areas
- Forms of resistance (including politics of identity, subculture)
- Cultural phenomena in the everyday world
- Media representations of migration
- Cultures of recollection

If you are interested in presenting, we kindly ask you to submit a short summary (500 words max.) with the title of your paper, a short biographical notice and a contact address (e-mail, telephone, and postal address). **(Please follow the attached guidelines. Proposals that do not correspond with these guidelines cannot be accepted)**

Deadline for proposals: 5th of January 2011
Selection by the program committee: 5th of February 2011

Conference languages: German and English
Information and contact: www.irm-trier.de; Tagung2011@irm-trier.de



Members of the program committee

- Yasemin Ahi, IRM, Istanbul (Turkey)
- Philipp Eigenmann, IRM und University of Zurich (Switzerland)
- Dr. Thomas Geisen, IRM and Institute of Integration and Participation at the School of Social Work FHNW (Switzerland)
- Prof. Dr. Markus Ottersbach, University of Applied Sciences Cologne (Germany)
- Ass. Prof. Dr. Ulla Peters, IRM and University of Luxemburg (Luxemburg)
- Dr. Christine Riegel, University of Tübingen (Germany)
- Antoinette Reuter, Centre de Documentation sur les Migrations Humaines CDMH (Luxemburg)
- Christophe Roulin, Institute of Integration and Participation at the School of Social Work FHNW (Switzerland)
- Prof. Dr. Karin Elinor Sauer, Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University (Germany)
- Tobias Studer, IRM and University of Zurich (Switzerland)
- Lisa Weiller, IRM, Winterthur (Switzerland)
- Prof. Dr. Erol Yildiz, Alpen-Adria-University Klagenfurt, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Intercultural Education (Klagenfurt, Austria)

Please note:

The summary/abstract should accord with the following format, since it is the basis for the Conference Announcement on the IRM homepage.



Proposal for:

**Migration und Kultur
Migration and Culture**

Author:
[name]

[title of your proposed paper]

[short description, max. 500 words]

[what questions will be touched, 3 leading questions of your planned presentation]

[short CV, max. 15 lines, full sentences]

[full contact details]