

SPRING SESSION OF THE YOUNG ACADEMICS NETWORK OF INZENTIM

Identity in the Context of Migration: Methods, Findings, Analyses

March 18-19, 2021, Online Conference

Migration has a structuring and transforming effect on societies: structuring, since the political collective is being formed through a new constellation, and transforming, as the expectations on the subsystems are more heterogeneous. Many scientific concepts are not suitable to consider migratory diversity. Especially the term ‘identity’ – much like ‘culture’ – is seemingly difficult to disentangle from connotations of homogenization and essentialization, making it less appropriate to adequately grasp societal pluralization. This makes it all the more striking how in recent times the category of identity is increasingly used to describe relations of belonging, differentiation and its reasons. At the same time, the discussion about constructions of identity (Keupp et al. 1999) and processes of identification is becoming more complex. Different contexts decide who is to be excluded from the main society. Concerning societies of migration, identities are being discussed along with language, visual culture, art and religion. The increase in publications dealing with ‘migration and identity’ (cf. Coulmas 2019, 2020; Jugert et al., 2020; Nortier / Svendsen 2015) further illustrates the growing interest and desire to develop ‘identity’ into a category that can be used throughout different disciplines.

The Spring Session of the Young Academics Network of InZentIM wants to offer a platform where the specific concept of identity in context of migration can be discussed transdisciplinary, in order to achieve a scientific precision. ‘Identity’ is approached both on a theoretical level and through existing methodological concepts and findings. The following three subject areas are planned:

- **Theories and concepts:** Which theoretical approaches and concepts do exist? How can they be applied in a transdisciplinary migration research?
- **Methods:** Regarding the special challenges the greater topic of migration is posing to science, the following questions arise: How can identities be studied in societies which are increasingly diversifying? Which empirical and hermeneutical-interpretative approaches do exist?
- **Findings and analyses:** Which work is already at disposal? What can different disciplines add to the research of migration? How can these results be used for further research on migration in transdisciplinary contexts?

Based on these considerations, we would like to invite scientific scholars of all disciplines to submit their contributions dealing with questions of the construction of identity and processes of identification, as well as their ambivalences. Interested researchers (both pre- and post-doc) are asked to submit their abstract of max. 500 words by October 23rd, 2020 to Dr. Aimi Muranaka (aimi.muranaka@uni-due.de). Presentations are set for 30 min, followed by 15 min of discussion. The conference languages are German and English. The conference takes place online.

We are planning to publish selected contributions as a special issue within a scientific journal.

References

- Coulmas, Florian (2019): *Das Zeitalter der Identität. Zur Kritik eines Schlüsselbegriffs unserer Zeit*. Heidelberg: Winter (Beiträge zur Philosophie, Neue Folge).
- Coulmas, Florian (2020): *Ich, wir und die Anderen. Das Zeitalter der Identität*. Zürich: Orell Füssli.
- Jugert, Philipp / Pink, Sebastian / Fleischmann, Fenella / Leszczensky, Lars (2020): „Changes in Turkish- and Resettler-origin Adolescents’ Acculturation Profiles of Identification: A Three-year Longitudinal Study from Germany“. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*. DOI: 1007/s10964-020-01250-w. Last accessed June 25, 2020.
- Keupp, Heiner et al. (1999): *Identitätskonstruktionen. Das Patchwork der Identitäten in der Spätmoderne*. Reinbek bei Hamburg: Rowohlt.
- Nortier, Jacomine / Svendsen, Bente A. (Hrsg.) (2015): *Language, Youth and Identity in the 21st Century. Linguistic Practices across Urban Spaces*. Cambridge: UP.