Biography and Society

BIOGRAPHY AND SOCIETY

RESEARCH COMMITTEE 38 OF THE ISA

NEWSLETTER / DECEMBER 2009

Dear members,

Only in the last days of this year Michaela and I have managed to make this newsletter ready for publication. We wanted to wait until all details of our program for the next ISA World Congress in Gothenburg 2010 "Sociology on the move" (please see http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/) were settled. Furthermore, we were both, like most of you, very busy during this year. Something has "moved" in our professional life. Michaela got a professorship at the University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt-on-Main and has started her new position in October. But thanks to the help of several of our members we are now very pleased to publish this newsletter. It focuses on our program at the next world congress of sociology. I hope you share with us the impression that this is quite an interesting program – a reason to look forward to an exciting meeting in Gothenburg.

I wish you all wonderful holidays, a good and relaxing time in the end of this year and a happy and peaceful New Year 2010.

And I am looking forward to meeting you in Sweden.

Gabriele Rosenthal
President, RC 38, Biography and Society

Some further important topics:

We ask all of you to inform us about a change in your address, and in particular in your e-mail address**.**

Membership fees

Please remember to pay your membership fee:

Regular members	US$ 40
Students and members from countries B and C (see ISA regulations)	US$ 20

Bank account: Michaela Koettig
                     Sparda-Bank-Hessen, Germany
                     bank code: 500 905 00
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The deadline for the next newsletter is end of June 2010

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XVII ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY ON THE MOVE
LA SOCIOLOGIE EN MOUVEMENT
LA SOCIOLOGÍA EN MARCHA
11-17 JULY, 2010
GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN

Research Committee on Biography and Society RC38

Program
http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/rc/rc38.htm

Special Session 1: Worlds of Difference: Life Stories and Education
(Devorah Kalekin-Fishman (dkalekin@construct.haifa.ac.il) Peter Alheit (palheit@gwdg.de)

	Name	Email	Title of paper
1	Ingrid Miethe	miethe@injamati.de	Educational Advancement in Three Generations in Eastern and Western Germany: Biographical Reconstruction to Determine the Relation Between Habitual Disposition and Political Opportunity Structure
2	Andrew Powell	Andrew.Powell@education.monash.edu.au	Engaging with difference: Australian teachers in an international context
3	Baker, Sally & Brown, B.J.	s.baker@bangor.ac.uk	Topic: concepts of cultural and symbolic capital and how they may be accumulated
4	Håkan Löfgren & Héctor Pérez Prieto	Hakan.Lofgren@kau.se	Topic: educational policy changes take shape in a local school-context.

Session 2: Transnational migration and (family) life-courses – theoretical, historical and comparative perspectives (Joint Session: RC 38 and TG02 – Historical and Comparative Sociology) (Ursula Apitzsch (apitzsch@soz.uni-frankfurt.de), and Willfried Spohn (Willfried.Spohn@sowi.uni-goettingen.de)

	Name	Email	Title of paper
1	Thea Boldt	thea.boldt@kwi-nrw.de	Micro and macro trajectories in the context of transnational Polish-German migration
2	Julia Bernstein	juliaber@soz.uni-frankfurt.de	Contested Affiliations of Russian-Speaking Jewish Migrants in Israel and Germany

3	Pakusara Makita (Sara Paku)	bach_ps@hotmail.com	Beyond Borders – Border control in East Asia, from biographies of Korean "illegal entrants"
4	Lena Pérez Na-ranjo	lena@raros.de	Cuban migration today: Analysis and Perspective in Germany
5	Andreas Kempf	andrea-soskarkempf@gmx.de	Biographical meanings of migration for migrants and their families under shifting conditions of mobility

Session 3a: Biographical processes and supranational identity formation in a European context: mobility

(Robert Miller, r.miller@qub.ac.uk and Kaja Kazmierska, kajakaz@uni.lodz.pl)

	Name	Email	Title of paper
1	Christof Van Mol	Christof.VanMol@ua.ac.be	From EU-identification towards a wider European identity. The influence of European student mobility on European identity
2	Gerhard Riemann	gerhard.riemann@ohm-hochschule.de	Features of the biographical experiences of foreign exchange students in a European context
3	Howard Davis	h.h.davis@bangor.ac.uk	
4	Katarzyna Waniek & Agnieszka Adamiak-Gurdala	k.m.waniek@gmail.com, agnieszka.adamiak@gmail.com	Escape to Europe
5	Fritz Schütze & Mariana Draganova & Anja Schröder & Dona Pickard	mail@fritz-schuetze.de, mariana@sociology.bas.bg, anjaschroe@aol.com, dona.pickard@gmail.com	Farming as oriented to a European mental space

Session 3b: Biographical processes and supranational identity formation in a European context: civil society

(Robert Miller, r.miller@qub.ac.uk and Kaja Kazmierska, kajakaz@uni.lodz.pl)

	Name	Email	Title of paper
1	Ina Alber	ialber@uni-goettingen.de	Biographical meanings of 'European identity' among Polish civil society activists
2	Antonella Spanò, Elisabetta Perone & Pasquale Musella	spano@unina.it, eperone@unina.it, pasquale-musella@yahoo.it,	Europe and gender: mobility in space, time and identities
3	Lyudmila Nurse	lyudmilanurse@ox-xxi.org	Reconstruction of families' cultural identities through musical memories
4	Christine Müller-Botsch	mueller-botsch@gmx.de	The European Movement in postwar Germany and the development of supranational identity among the activists

	Name	Email	Title of paper
5	Lena Inowlocki & Ulrike Nagel	inowlocki@soz.uni-frankfurt.de, ul-rike.nagel@ovgu.de	Modern and postmodern pathways to European identities? Inquiry into environmental and cultural spheres of identity formation

Session 4: Biographical research in countries of the global South

(Gabriele Rosenthal, G.Rosenthal@gmx.de and Steve Tonah tonah@operamail.com

	Name	Email	Title of paper
1	Matt Baillie Smith & Katy Jenkins	matt.baillie-smith@northumbria.ac.uk, katy.jenkins@northumbria.ac.uk	The personal is problematic: activist biographies and NGO narratives in South India
2	Robert Miller	r.miller@qub.ac.uk	Collecting Life and Family Histories in order to Investigate the Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty in Kenya
3	Julia Vorhölter	jvorhoe@gwdg.de	Gender Discourses in Northern Uganda – Perceptions, (Re)-Productions and Transformations of Gender Roles and Norms among Youth in the context of the Armed Conflict
4	Angela Pilch Ortega	angela.pilch-ortega@uni-graz.at	Competing profiles of knowledge - Biographies between marginalisation and modernisation
5	Kammila Naidoo	kammila.naidoo@up.ac.za	Family Biography and Memory-Making in an AIDS-affected South African Community

Session 5: Performing ethnicities

(Eva Judit Kovacs, kovacseva@chello.at and Hee-Young Yi, biograf@hanmail.net)

	Name	Email	Title of paper
1	Tina Spies	tspies@uni-kassel.de	topic: life story interviews with juvenile "migrant" delinquents in Ger many
2	Anna Ransiek	anna.ransiek@gmx.net	Performing ethnicity in the narration of an Afro-German Women
3	Noga Gilad	giladnoga@gmail.com	Performing Collectivity - The Case of the Israeli Settlers
4	Rixta Wundrak	rixta.wundrak@sowi.uni-goettingen.de	'Chinatown of Bucharest' – Transnational migrant communities in Eastern Europe post-1989
5	Ursula Apitzsch	apitzsch@soz.uni-frankfurt.de	Ethnic groups without ethnic individuals

Session 6a and b: Perpetuating conflicts within/between societies

(Noga Gilad, giladn@post.tau.ac.il and Lena Inowlocki, inowlocki@soz.uni-frankfurt.de)

	Name	Email	Title of paper
1	Michaela Koettig	Michaela.Koettig@gmx.de	Researching conflicts: self-location and viewing the others in investigating the coexistence of Israelis and Palestinians in Germany
2	Niklas Radenbach	niklas.radenbach@web.de	Perpetuating Hostility: Anti-Semitism in the Grouping of Ethnic Germans in Southern Ukraine

3	Martina Schiebel & Yvonne Robel	schiebel@uni-bremen.de, yrobel@uni-bremen.de	Enemy Images in the Cold War and their bio-graphical meanings in East and West Germany
4	Ken Arisue	arisue@ll.em-net.ne.jp, arisue@law.keio.ac.jp	Topic: Oral History Research and Life Story of Atomic Bomb Victims in Hiroshima and Nagasaki
5	Steve Tonah	tonah@operamail.com	Chieftaincy, Party Politics and Recurrent Conflicts in Ghana's North
6	Artur Bogner	Artur.Bogner@web.de	Established discourses and the life histories and life stories of outsiders: the post-conflict process(es) in North Uganda
7	Maja Ferber	m.ferber@gmx.net	Neglected Life realities in Israel?
8	Chris Schwarz		"I have never seen my village, but one day I will return there." Adolescence and Intergenerational Transmission in a Palestinian Refugee Camp
9	Roswitha Breck-ner	Roswitha.breckner@univie.ac.at	Pictures of Violence – Dealing with Photographs from the Armenian Genocide
10	Uku Lember	lember_uku@ceu-budapest.edu	Entanglement of two Life-Worlds": Estonian-Russian Intermarriages in the Soviet and Contemporary Estonia

Session 7: Different perspectives on biographies

(Michaela Koettig, Michaela.Koettig@gmx.de, and Tazuko Kobayashi, kobaya@fc.jwu.ac.jp)

	Name	Email	Title of paper
1	Peter Alheit	palheit@gwdg.de	
2	Kathy Davis	Kathy.Davis@let.uu.nl	
3	Henning Salling Olleson	hso@ruc.dk	
4	Hiromi Tanaka	tanaka@dijtokyo.org	

Session 8: Bodies and pictures (Roswitha Breckner, roswitha.breckner@univie.ac.at)

	Name	Email	Title of paper
1	Martina Schiebel & Yvonne Robel	schiebel@uni-bremen.de, yrobel@uni-bremen.de	Visual Biographies: The meaning of photos and film sequences in political-biographical narrations
2	Agata Dziuban	Agata.dziuban@uj.edu.pl	'Myself on myself': Tattooing as a Biographical Strategy in Contemporary Poland
3	Gabriele Rosen-thal & Nicole Witte	g.rosenthal@gmx.de, ni-cole.witte1@aol.com	Images of the Others or Images of Other-ness? Figurations of Muslims, Christians and Jews in Israel and Palestine
4	Roswitha Breck-ner	Roswitha.breckner@univie.ac.at	Pictured Bodies. The Un/Visibility of Cultural Diversity in Public and Private Space
5	Zaruhi Hayra-petyan	zara_hayrapetyan@yahoo.com	Dynamics of Tradition and Modernity in the Images of Advertisements' Heroes and Their Perceptions

Session 9: Doing biographical analysis in a global framework

(Kathy Davis, Kathy.Davis@let.uu.nl and Helma Lutz, Lutz@soz.uni-frankfurt.de)

	Name	Email	Title of paper
1	Cristián Doña Reveco	donacris@msu.edu	No title - Topic: the intersection between history and biography on Chilean migrants in the United States since the 1960s
2	Irini Siouti & Minna Ruokonen-Engler	Siouti@soz.uni-frankfurt.de, Ruokonen-Engler@soz.uni-frankfurt.de	„Looking back, looking forth": Reflections on the meanings of migration experience of the researcher in a transnational research setting
3	Catherine Delcroix & Elise Pape	cadelcroix@wanadoo.fr	Topic: Global contexts seem to constitute a profound characteristic of different fields in social and migration research
4	Marta Kowalska	m.j.kowalska@bangor.ac.uk	Between the local and the global – biographical adjustment strategies of internationally mobile individuals

Session 10: Roundtable on 'the role of transnational public intellectuals'

Joint session of RC05 Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations [host committee] and RC38 Biography and Society

(Helma Lutz, Lutz@soz.uni-frankfurt.de, and Kathy Davis, Kathy.Davis@let.uu.nl)

Session 11: Biography and mental health

Joint session of RC38 Biography and Society and RC49 Mental Health and Illness (host committee)

(Silvia Krumm, silvia.krumm@bkh-guenzburg.de and Gabriele Rosenthal, G.Rosenthal@gmx.de)

	Name	Email	Title of paper
1	Gerhard Riemann	gerhard.riemann@ohm-hochschule.de	On the Uses of Self-reflective Ethnographies in the Field of Mental Health – Social Work as Case in Point
2	Erin Dej	edono050@uottawa.ca	The mad movement is the latest incarnation of the ex-patient/consumer/survivor movement
3	Henrik Loodin	Henrik.Loodin@soc.lu.se	Biographies from the borderland. Biographical reconciliation on the field of psychiatry
4	Liana Ipatova	liana-elena@mail.ru	Perspectives on Biographic Injunctions to Change of Life
5	Julie Brownlie	julie.brownlie@stir.ac.uk	Getting through: Biographies, mental wellbeing and social change
6	Benedikt G. Rogge	brogge@empas.uni-bremen.de	How unemployment gets under the skin. A longitudinal qualitative study on joblessness, the self and mental health
7	W. O. Taylor-Cole	Wtaylorcole@mtroyal.ca, wilfred.taylor-cole@shaw.ca	Impact of mental disorders on biography with particular reference to persons with disabilities on the social assistance program AISH in Alberta, Canada
8	Manuel Torres Cubeiro	mtcubeiro@edu.xunta.es	Making no sense: biographies of Mentally Ill on Galicia, Spain

Session 12: Business meeting

(Gabriele Rosenthal, g.rosenthal@gmx.de and Michaela Köttig, michaela.koettig@gmx.de)

Integrative Session: Narratives, Citizenship, Health, and Social Change

Participating units: RC 05, Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations, RC 15 Sociology of Health, RC 38 Biography and Society

Organizers: Corinne Squire c.squire@uel.ac.uk, Zlatko Skrbis z.skrbis@gradschool.uq.edu.au or Nira Yuval-Davis n.yuval-davis@uel.ac.uk (all RC 05); Mark Davis mark.davis@arts.monash.edu.au or Ellen Annandale eca7@leicester.ac.uk (RC 15) Matti Hyvarinen matti.k.hyvarinen@uta.fi or Gabriele Rosenthal g.rosenthal@gmx.de (RC 38)

	Name	Email	Title of paper
	Discussant: Roswitha Breckner		
1	Siyanda Ndlovu	University of KwaZulu-Natal	South Africa. Storying life, storying blackness: narrating (more than just) race in narratives of being-black-in-the-world.
2	Cigdem Esin	University of East London, UK	Disciplined femininities, sexual armours: telling stories beyond modernist national narratives
3	Corinne Squire	University of East London, UK	Stories of HIV and citizenship
4	Mark Davis	Monash University, Australia	Myth, ethics and wellbeing in stories of online existence.
5	Margareta Hydén,	Linkoping University, Sweden	Personal narratives and personal networks of battered women
6	Laura Hurd Clarke and Andrea Bunden	Bunden, University of British Columbia, Canada	Gendered narratives of health, aging, and dying: Older Canadian men and women and their experiences of multiple chronic conditions

REPORT ON RESEARCH PROJECTS

EUROIDENTITIES
The Evolution of European Identity: Using biographical methods to study the development of European identity

In the Newsletter from December 2008, Robert Miller introduced the ongoing project: Euroidentities – The Evolution of European Identity: Using methods to study the development of European Identity (started march 2008 through February 2011 under the first Framework 7 SSH-2007-5.2.1). He characterized then its main assumptions and ideas. Just to remind: the project "is using qualitative in-depth biographical interviewing and analysis to gain insights into the lives of European citizens and the significance of 'Europe' in their narratives". We collect biographical material in five "sensitized groups" (s.g): 'transnational workers', 'educationally mobile', 'farmers', 'cultural contacts', 'civil society organizations'.[1] The project stuff consists of scholars coming from seven universities (North Ireland, Germany, Poland, Wales, Estonia, Bulgaria, Italy). Each team collects biographical narrative interviews in at least three s.g. Five teams are directly responsible for one of the s.g, namely for this part of final report that will be devoted to a certain s.g.

I am not going to discuss the results of the project as we are still at the stage of collecting interviews, transcribing them and analyzing the material in our teams. I just want to report how this work is going on in this "multicultural" stuff coming from seven countries located in western, eastern, northern and southern Europe. As we know analysis of biographical data should be a collective activity. Exchanging ideas, interpretations, rooted in different cultural and to some extend theoretical and methodological contexts is sometimes difficult but at the end appears very stimulating. This happens in our case during our periodic project meetings. Since now we have had four such meetings of differentiated form. First one in November 2008 took place in Magdeburg. It was a student workshop organized (according to ongoing cooperation between universities) for students from Magdeburg (Germany), Bangor (Wales) Lodz (Poland). We were analyzing interviews already collected for the project. It was the first attempt to undertake a group analysis and to confront our ideas with some "outer voice" belonging to students having diverse cultural and social background. To simplify the conclusions of this encounter the main problem that students raised was how to discuss the issue of European identity when narrators directly do not speak about Europe. The second meeting took place in Magdeburg in March 2009. It had a form of workshop just for our project team. We analyzed interviews coming from each s.g. Every team responsible for its s.g. presented the analysis of material discussed during the workshop as well as first conceptualizations of problems found as the result of ongoing work. The third meeting took place in Lisbon at the ESA Congress September 2009 where we presented the project in ESA Research Network 3 - Biographical Perspectives on European Societies, during two sessions entitled: Euroidentities – The Evolution of European Identity: Using methods to study the development of European Identity. These session were devoted only to our project. It was the first "official" presentation of each team work what made us systemize the results of ongoing work. It was also the first opportunity to receive

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[1] For further description of sensitized groups see Robert Miller's text In Newsletter December 2008.

comments from professional audience. We met again in a week time (September 2009) in Lodz for the next workshop. It have not been planned as a periodic project meeting but we decided to organize it as we have felt the need of more frequent meetings enabling common discussions. This time the Lodz team proposed a sort of triangulation of perspectives. Each team was to present the analysis of an interview coming from this s.g which the team is not responsible for. The aim of this idea was to motivate teams to undertake in-depth analysis of material which is not in the centre of its project involvements. Thus, such team created a sort of the "outer voice" confronted with the "inner voice" of the team responsible for a given s.g. The third level of this triangulation was represented in each case by the rest of participants. Although at the beginning not all of us were sure about this idea after the workshop we found that the multiplication of perspectives appeared to be very stimulating.

The aim of presented description is not only to report how the project is developing. I would also like to stress that it is very interesting experience for me as a researcher. I may say that for the time being the project has gained its own inner *natural history* (to use R. Park's expression) its own dynamic related to the process of negotiating meanings, interpretations coming from people representing at least seven different cultural, historical, social and last but not least linguistic background. So apart from the results coming from our research, I think that one of the project achievements is to create stimulating atmosphere for international (European!) work on biographical materials.

Kaja Kaźmierska (Kaja Kazmierska kajakaz@uni.lodz.pl) University of Łódź, Poland

PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESEARCH PROJECT

Project:	**Belonging to the Outsider and Established Groupings: Palestinians and Israelis in Various Figurations**
Principal investigators:	Prof. Gabriele Rosenthal, Prof. Shifra Sagy & Prof. Mohammed S. Dajani Daoudi
Funded by:	German Research Foundation
Duration of the Project:	01 February 2010 until 31 January 2013
	Between 2006 and 2009, a pilot study was conducted and partly financed by the state of Lower Saxony and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation).

The project 'Belonging to the Outsider and Established Groupings: Palestinians and Israelis in Various Figurations' will be launched in February 2010 at the Center of Methods in Social Sciences at the University of Goettingen. It is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and located within the Program for Trilateral German-Israeli-Palestinian Cooperation. Responsible investigator of the project is Prof. Gabriele Rosenthal, Professor at the Faculty of Social Science at the Georg-August-University of Goettingen. Further principal investigators are Prof. Shifra Sagy, Head of the graduate program of Conflict Resolution Studies and Professor at the Department of Education at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel, and Professor Mohammed S. Dajani Daoudi, Director and Professor at the Institute for American Studies at Al Quds University, Al-Bireh, Palestine. Further researchers are: Zeina Barakat M.A. (coordinator of the team at Al Quds), Dr. Khansaa Diab and Dr. Adi Mana (coordinators of the team at BGU), Dr. Nicole Witte and Dr. Rixta Wundrak (coordinators of the team at GAU), Michal Beckenstein M.A. M.A., Johannes Becker, M.A. M.A., Daud Daud, M.A., Filip Habib, M.A. and Anan Srour, M.A.

The research group will study present-day social constellations and the dynamics of interaction between members of different social groupings, which are mutually dependent on each other. We will pursue the question, if and in which way the situation of a numerical majority corresponds with the constitution of an established-outsider figuration. In other words, if and in which way numerical minorities also form an outsider-grouping in the sense of Norbert Elias. We will observe figurations of outsider and established and, respectively, of (local) majorities and minorities in Israel and in the Palestinian Authority (West Bank). The study will focus on the perspectives and experiences of Palestinians as members of different groupings and (local) group constellations (Arab and Jewish Israelis; Muslim-Arabs or Christian-Arabs in current local contexts of a Muslim, Christian or Jewish majority in Israel; Muslim and Christian Palestinians and Jews in the Palestinian Authority).

In the historical context of Israelis and Palestinians, the same individuals often interact in a number of social and local contexts as members of groupings of ethno-political or religious out-

siders and in other contexts as members of established groupings. For example: a Christian Palestinian Israeli who lives in a village in Israel with a Christian Palestinian majority is a member of the minority of non-Jews when she is interacting with a Jewish Israeli in all social settings in Israel. But in her village, when interacting with a Muslim, she is a member of the village majority. However, in another local context in Israel with a majority of Muslims, she is a member of the Christian minority within the grouping of Palestinian Israelis, which is again a minority among the citizens of Israel. In the West Bank, she would be a member of a minority within the grouping of Palestinians who constitute the majority of the citizens in the West Bank. Such a list could be extended further (e.g. Bedouins, the Druze community and the various Christian and Islamic denominations) and this reveals the complexity of the relations of interaction within this field of research.

In addition, the research statement will question the influence different and multiple memberships in various pairs of established-outsider figurations have on the structures of social interaction between minority and majority members. Therefore, we aim at a careful and sensitive analysis of the everyday dimension of social and political conflicts in the Middle East – which also does justice to individual cases. The project will focus on subjective perspectives and biographies of individual agents. This offers a chance to reveal possibilities of conflict resolution and conflict transformation in an everyday context and from the subjective perspectives of the individuals involved.

The research questions refer to the micro level and the macro level of the social relations of minority and majority members in the various settings:

On the level of social interaction we expect to get answers to the following questions: What are the constitutive factors of observable interactions between members of the outsiders and the established? Is there an impact of these different and multiple memberships in various pairs of established and outsiders on the structures of social interaction between majority and minority members? Which kinds of conflict may be observed? Are there indications for a constructive transformation of patterns of interaction and disagreement? What are the hindering or supporting factors for changes of the present form of conflictive process? Put differently, which biographical constellations and situational contexts offer chances for an incipient softening of rigid patterns of interaction?

Concerning the experiences of the participants we would like, among other things, to gain insight into the following questions: What are the participants' specific experiences in social interactions with members of the respective established or outsider groupings? To what extent and in which ways have these experiences changed over their lifetime? To what extent and in which ways have these experiences led to the establishment of a more favorable or more unfavorable image of the Others?

Regarding the perception of the participants in the field of research, the following research questions should be considered: How do members of the respective outsider-established figuration perceive patterns of social relations with members of complimentary or other groupings? In particular, we intend to find out how they experience the collective identity, identity structures and acculturation tendencies of members of other groupings in different settings. Additionally, how do members of a minority/majority perceive their collective narrative and how do they per-

ceive the narrative of the "Other" within the established-outsider-figuration and how do they respond emotionally towards it? We are also interested in how members of the minority/majority-grouping perceive possibilities for conflict management and the role they could possibly play in changing the reality of the conflict. Furthermore, we would like to examine the individuals' experiences of their role in altering the reality of the conflict.

To answer these multiple research questions that touch so many different social levels, the project demands a methodical and differentiated approach. Hence, the triangulation of methods contains the conduct and analysis of biographical narrative interviews as well as of thematically focused narrative interviews with Jews, Muslims and Christians. It also includes participant observation in various cities and regions (Nazareth, Nazareth Illit, Haifa, Jaffa, Beer Sheva, Bethlehem, Ramallah and Jerusalem), microscopic analyses of visual data based on video recordings of encounters between established and outsiders, and culture-specific questionnaires (n=1700) which will be based on qualitative analyses.

Using the qualitative approach, we may attain insights into both the interrelations of different belongings in specific biographical constellations, social situations and the tacit knowledge (cf. Polanyi, 1966) of individuals. Using quantitative data will open up possibilities to study besides non-quantifiable aspects measurable transformations of the investigated local established-outsider figurations as well measurable sub-aspects of this transformation.

We are looking forward to tackle the complex research awaiting us in such a multi-layered social field.

POST DOCTORAL PROJECT

Dr. Alice Szczepanikova
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Postdoctoral research project supported by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Junior Scientists in Focus Program of the Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main. The project will be carried out from February 2010 till January 2011 in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Helma Lutz (Fachbereich Gesellschaftswissenschaften, Institut für Gesellschafts- und Politikanalyse).

Reconstructing Biographies in Exile: Czech Refugee Women in Germany, Austria and Poland

The project investigates how experiences of forcible displacement and life in exile involve reconstruction of identities. The analysis aims at challenging the categories of "refugee" and "Muslim woman" that are commonly associated with cultural "otherness" and helpless victimhood. Despite the growing presence of refugees from Chechnya (Russian Federation) in Europe, little is known about their situation and experiences of displacement and settlement. The lack of

knowledge goes hand in hand with stereotyping of Chechens as "hard to integrate", as violent, as actual or potential "Islamic fundamentalists" and as a threat to Western liberal values. Chechen refugee women find themselves at the intersection of multiple forces of silencing and marginalization based on their gender, asylum seeker/refugee status and association with Islam. This research does not approach these identities as predetermined and stable. It approaches identity as a continuous and relational process which can be best examined by focusing on women's agency and diversity. Biographical method is used to analyze life stories of Chechen refugee women in Europe as embedded in wider socioeconomic, cultural and political developments in Soviet and post-Soviet Chechnya. Thus, it enhances our understanding of displacement and settlement by adding a historical and a gender dimension. At the same time, the impact of different socio-political and institutional settings on processes of identity reconstruction is investigated by bringing together Chechen women's narratives from Germany, Austria and Poland. These countries have received a large share of Chechen asylum seekers and now host significant populations of Chechen refugees. However, they differ significantly in the conditions of reception and settlement. The research focuses on renegotiations of femininities and masculinities in exile and examines how they intersect with ethnicity, class, age, religious affiliation, family status and urban/rural settings.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

GENDER AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION:
GLOBAL, TRANSNATIONAL AND LOCAL REALITIES AND PERSPECTIVES
JULY 17-19, 2009 IN BEIJING, CHINA

Gender and Social Transformation: Global, Transnational and Local Realities and Perspectives was a small conference convened by Esther Chow, American University, Washington, USA and Tan Lin, Director China Women's Studies Institute, All-China Women's Federation, and held July 17-19, 2009 in Beijing, China. The aim of the conference was to provide an international forum in which to examine "how women and gender relations are shaped by societal transformation economically, politically, socially and culturally in global, transnational and local contexts and processes". The organizers wanted us to explore how the process of globalization and transnationalism has impacted on women's lives, and how it may have challenged gender relations.

The conference brought together about 200 participants, of whom about 50 were from outside China, including Ghana, Germany, Brazil, Turkey, Nigeria, Greece, Japan, Canada, US, UK, and India. Most of the participants were sociologists, and many of the non-Chinese participants were members of the ISA, especially RC 32, Women and Society. As one might expect, the plenary addresses and conference presentations covered a multitude of topics and a range of perspectives. Remarkably few made use of a biographical approach although many were rooted in a qualitative sociological perspective and methods. My own contribution (written with Kristi Poerwandari from Indonesia) was entitled "How Mother/Daughter Relationships Mediate Culture in a Global Age: Reflections from a Comparative Project—Indonesia and Canada", and explored aspects of our current cross cultural life story project focusing on women's reproductive lives. I was also able to contribute to an innovative panel, entitled "Border Crossings: Doing Research on Gender and Global Transformation", which aimed to develop a conversation between researchers trying to work across national and cultural borders.

The most impressive aspect of the conference was the efforts that the organisers had made to ensure that we could communicate across language barriers – an especially difficult issue in China were few scholars feel comfortable in English. Simultaneous translation was provided in all the sessions, not just the plenaries, and the social events were also organised to bring us together. Most of the conference materials were also provided in English and in Chinese. Chinese faculty and graduate students were encouraged to make good use of the foreign participants who presented papers in their areas of interest, and in return, the Chinese participants, volunteers and staff were outstandingly helpful and friendly to their foreign visitors.

Marilyn Porter (Marilyn Porter mporter@mun.ca)

ONE STEP OF FRUITION:
ORAL (LIFE) HISTORY IN SOUTH KOREA
5TH OF JUNE 2009

On 5th of June 2009 the Korean Association of Oral History (KAOH) was inaugurated. Many Korean researchers, who have carried out social scientific fieldwork and analyzed oral materials in cultural anthropology, history, sociology etc. since the 1990ies, celebrated on that day the foundation of the KAOH.

It all started in the mid 1990ies, when a few researchers in Korean social science departments developed an interest in oral materials as academic object. In those days, several anthropologists and sociologists researched into poor areas in big Korean cities and interviewed the "normal," "ordinary people." A rather special example is the oral data gathered by a group of feminists who, over a period of 5 years, interviewed old Korean women, who had lived as sexual slaves of Japanese soldiers under Japanese imperialism between 1910 and 1945. As a result, their oral histories were published in five books which are socially and academically very meaningful. Furthermore, the academic fruits of anthropology in the USA and of biographical research and research of everyday life in Germany – both having been introduced in the late 1990ies - had an influence on the horizon of Korean oral history today.
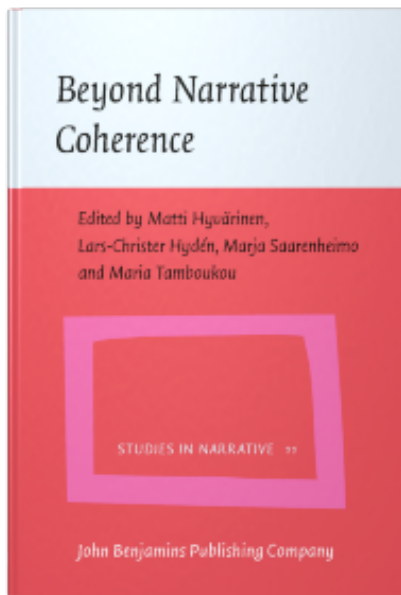
Nowadays, many researchers conduct oral life interviews and actively try to analyze social data and material qualitatively. At the same time, a deeper methodological understanding of oral history is required and remains as an important problem.

In Oct. 2009, the editorial board of the KAOH was constituted. The publication of its scientific journal is now being prepared and should commence in 2010.

Hee-Young Yi (biograf@hanmail.net)
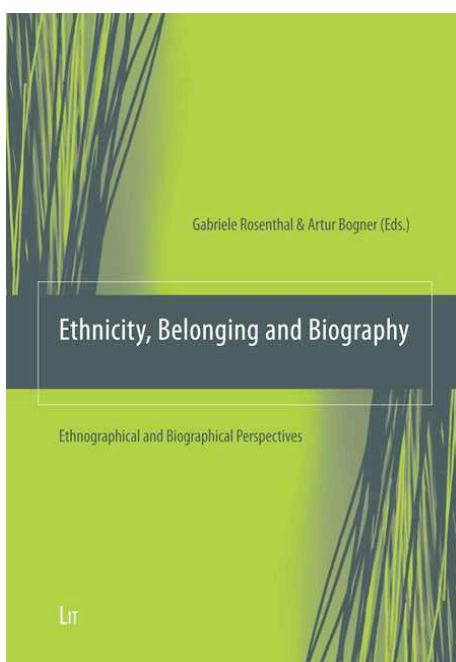
PUBLICATIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matti Hyvärinen, Lars-Christer Hydén, Marja Saarenheimo & Maria Tamboukou (Eds.) (2010): **Beyond Narrative Coherence**. Studies in Narrative 11. Amsterdam: John Benjamins

Contributors: Maria Medved, Jens Brockmeier, Lars-Christer Hydén, Tarja Aaaltonen, Maria Tamboukou, Linda Sandino, Anja Koski-Jännes, Vilma Hänninen, Alison Perez, Molly Andrews

Beyond Narrative Coherence reconsiders the way we understand and work with narratives. Even though narrators tend to strive for coherence, they also add complexity, challenge canonical scripts, and survey lives by telling highly perplexing and contradictory stories. Many narratives remain incomplete, ambiguous, and contradictory. Obvious coherence cannot be the sole moral standard, the only perspective of reading, or the criterion for selecting and discarding research material. *Beyond Narrative Coherence* addresses the limits and aspects of narrative (dis)cohering by offering a rich theoretical and historical background to the debate. Limits of narrative coherence are discussed from the perspective of three fields of life that often threaten the coherence of narrative: illness, arts, and traumatic political experience. The authors of the book cover a wide range of disciplines such as psychology, sociology, arts studies, political science and philosophy.

Gabriele Rosenthal, Artur Bogner (Eds.) (2009): **Ethnicity, Belonging and Biography. Ethnographical and Biographical Perspectives**. Berlin: LIT / New Brunswick: Transaction

The subjects of ethnicity and collective belonging have enjoyed high priority on the agenda of social science research over the last 20 years. Nevertheless there is need (and considerable scope) for further mutual adjustment and refinement of theoretical concepts, substantive empirical discoveries and research techniques. This volume offers a contribution to such efforts by leading practitioners of qualitative research with backgrounds in diverse disciplines. Their research focuses on the perspectives and biographical experiences of concrete "historical" actors within the contexts of migration, cultural diversity and social conflicts.

Abstracts:

Part I
Politics of Belonging & Ethnic Conflicts

Dan and Tammy Bar-On interviewed
by Gabriele Rosenthal and Artur Bogner

The first chapter contains an interview with Dan Bar-On (Beer Sheva, Israel) that we conducted in March 2008. As was true of the other contributors, Dan gave a lecture at the conference in Goettingen but we decided to publish his contribution in the form of an interview due to his severe illness. To our deep sorrow, Dan Bar-On passed away on September 4, 2008 after a long period of illness. In our interview he spoke about his years of empirical and — most notably — his practical work in the field of conflict transformation and peacebuilding in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Dan Bar-On was one of our colleagues who tried to combine the methods of biographical research not only with academic teaching, but also with practical work — in this case in the field of peacebuilding or conflict transformation. Among his other activities, he founded PRIME, the Peace Research Institute in the Middle East, together with his Palestinian colleague Sami Adwan. The interview offers an impressive brief overview and résumé of his work during the last years of a life that was to a large extent devoted to promoting dialogue and understanding both between Germans and Jews as well as between Jewish Israelis and Palestinians. During our conversation Dan reflected upon his experiences with small multi-ethnic or multi-national groups in which he facilitated a further mutual understanding among the participants and upon his attempts at creating a shared bridging narrative concerning the genesis of conflict between these groups.

The Peace Process in the Wake of Ghana's Northern Conflict: Its Course and Conditions for Success
Artur Bogner

This essay deals with the empirical analysis of the peace process — on the heels of a short yet intense interethnic civil war — that took place in Ghana's Northern Region in the 1990s. In the first part the focus of the analysis are the preconditions of this armed conflict that can be found in the interethnic relationships as well as their history. Furthermore, this essay examines the role played by the staff members of Ghanaian, foreign, and transnational NGOs in negotiating a successful peace agreement.

Democratization and the Resurgence of Ethnic Politics in Ghana, 1992-2006
Steve Tonah

This paper analyzes the resurgence of ethnic politics in Ghana since the return to civilian rule in 1992. The paper argues that, since the introduction of multiparty democracy, Ghana's politics has been characterized by a fierce contest for political power and ethnic hegemony. Ghana's two main political parties have often appealed to the electorate to vote along ethnic and regional lines in an attempt to win more votes. As a result, ethnic block voting is very prominent in parts of the country while ethnic prejudices, stereotyping and animosities are

prominent amongst many rural and urban residents. Furthermore, multi-party politics has polarized the country and exacerbated intra- and inter-ethnic conflicts in the country.

Ethnicity as Participation and Belonging
Ursula Apitzsch

This essay argues that it is not sufficient to show *that* ethnicity is constructed; it is also necessary to show *how* the mysterious dynamics of ethnicity work and to identify, in particular, their consequences for the possibility of societal participation and exclusion. It gives insights into the history of the concept of ethnicity as ethnic belief according to Max Weber's constructivist sociology. In a historical digression to Kant it demonstrates how enlightenment and the idea of participation by contract can occur simultaneously with a naturalizing use of ascriptive categories of belonging for members of the population who are considered to be excluded by their "nature" from human development. Today, ethnicity may also be consciously appropriated in a positive way in order to pay tribute to the historical positioning and achievement of marginalized groups and individuals who succeeded in reversing ethnicizing processes of identification and stratification, giving them their own meaning, and so reinterpreting them biographically. In conclusion, this paper argues that, instead of speaking about ethnicity without groups (Brubaker), one should speak about ethnic groups without ethnic individuals.

Part II
The Question of Belonging: Networks & Biographical Work

Identity, the sense of belonging and biographical closure
Kaja Kaźmierska

If we are to refer to the history of post-war Poland, massive displacements were experienced by many nations and ethnic groups. The trauma of relocation, whether by choice or by force, affected many lives. In many cases spatial and temporal distance from homeland has lasted for decades. And it is not until recently that we can observe intensive travelling to places of birth. The idea of visiting the homeland is the result of a long process and complicated biographical work undertaken in order to come to terms with one's biography. Biographical work on emotions combines the past and present experiences. These general frames are then shaped by particular and unique individual biographical experiences. At the same time they are also formed by collective identity and memory. I analyze these phenomena relating to collective and biographical experiences of Jews – survivors of the Holocaust. In the paper I present a narrative of Sarah as an interesting example of biographical work on past and present life experiences undertaken in the context of collective memory constraints.

Immigrants' Memory Work concerning the Shoah and anti-Semitism in Israel and Germany
Edna Lomsky-Feder, Tamar Rapoport, Yvonne Schütze

After the collapse of the Soviet Union "Russian Jews" have immigrated to Germany and Israel in the early 1990s. In both societies the traumatic memory of WWII and the Shoah have

constituted both personal and collective memory. Thus, in their process of positioning them-selves in the new society - either in Israel or Germany - Jewish immigrants cannot avoid en-gaging themselves with the memory of the Shoah. The comparative analysis of personal sto-ries narrated to us in the mid-1990s by ninety young Russian-Jewish immigrants (44 residing in Israel and 46 in Germany) explores the manner in which the young immigrants in Ger-many and Israel manage their membership in the host society by locating themselves within the discourse of recalling the Shoah. More particularly the paper addresses the following questions: Do the immigrants espouse the local discourse in its entirety or only selectively? What do they embrace or reject? Do they put forward a memory version of their own? Put-ting emphasis on memory work from the agency perspective allows us to understand the meanings that the recollection of the Shoah assumes among various groups, and among immigrant groups, in particular.

Fragmented collective memory and negative Belarusian identity
Natalia Mamul

Drawing on a case study from the body of empirical research, which includes over 30 narra-tive interviews collected with male and female residents of Belarus between 1999 and 2008, the author explores the interplay between historical and autobiographical memory, which, according to Maurice Halbwachs (2008), inculcates collective memory and is inextricably connected with collective identity. The interpretive analysis highlights the complex nature of individual and collective identity formation in contemporary Belarus, with its authoritarian re-gime, its contested memory field, restrained memory work and conflicting historical and na-tional discourses.

The Interrelation between Social Mobility and the Sense of Collective Belonging.
A Generation of Social Climbers in the Soviet Union goes to Germany
Irina Fefler, Niklas Radenbach

This article takes a look from a biographical approach at ambivalences with respect to an ethnic sense of belonging among migrants from the former Soviet Union with ethnic German family backgrounds. We thereby focus our study on a generation of Germans born in the 1950s and 1960s, whom we refer to as a "generation of social climbers." Characteristic of those persons representing this generation is that as members of a deported group in the 1940s, they received the opportunity to achieve social advancement in the Soviet Union. Un-der these circumstances, they generally became closely assimilated into the Soviet Russian culture and only began to rethink their collective belonging as Germans during the Per-estroika and with the decision to migrate back to the Federal Republic of Germany. Once in Germany, the representatives of this generation of social climbers are characterized by a striking ambivalence with respect to their collective ethnic sense of belonging. In the follow-ing article we would like to demonstrate that the interplay of the historical past in the Soviet Union and the ascription of being "Russian" in Germany resulted in a sense of ambivalence.

Constructing ethnicity: elite biographies and funerals in Ghana
Carola Lentz

In Ghana as in many other societies, funerals constitute crucial moments when social belonging, including loyalties to an ethnic community, must be ultimately validated. In the case of the urbanized elite men and women from Ghana's marginalized rural north discussed in this chapter, funerals constitute an occasion during which the deceased's 'home ties' are re-evaluated and the relations of his (or her) survivors with their rural kin re-negotiated. At the same time, they are an arena in which elite status is performed vis-à-vis both the broader home constituency and Ghanaian fellow elites.

Emerging transnational migrant networks in Eastern Europe: The Chinese community in Bucharest post-1989
Rixta Wundrak

Based on a case study on the new Chinese migrant network in Bucharest, this article intends to shed light onto this new migration pattern that has neither been investigated nor considered an important political matter in Europe. On the contrary, the issue of immigration has been consciously ignored by the Romanian public and was considered a 'taboo' for Romanian state agencies during the first half of the 1990s. Combining a variety of ethnographic methods, the following research-questions were addressed: Why and how are those immigrants 'kept secret'? How are Chinese migrants regarded or represented in Europe and in the society of Bucharest? And what is the story behind these discourses?

In this article, I focus on the historical development of the new Chinese migration wave to Eastern Europe, the immigration process during the early 'wild' years of transition in the 1990s and, finally, the rise and development of Chinese markets in Romania resulting in an urban project called 'Chinatown of Bucharest.' In particular, I intend to highlight with this the complexity of the immigrants' network-building during this process, which implicates both their social embeddedness in the 'transition-society' as well as their transnational links to 'homeland'.

Part III
Transnational Biographies and Intersectionality

Intersectionality, belonging and translocational positionality: thinking about transnational identities
Floya Anthias

This paper reflects on identity and belonging relating to transnational migration. It critically discusses new forms of identity hailed by the related notions of diaspora, hybridity and cosmopolitanism. The paper provides a critical evaluation of intersectionality frameworks through developing the concept of 'translocational positionality'. This addresses issues of identity in terms of locations which are not fixed but are context, meaning and time related and which therefore involve shifts and contradictions. It also moves away from the idea of given 'groups' or 'categories' of gender, ethnicity and class, which then intersect (a particular

concern of some intersectionality frameworks), and instead pays much more attention to *social locations and processes.*

De/Constructing Difference: A Biographical Perspective on Constructions of Ethnicity as Transnational Positionality
Minna-Kristiina Ruokonen-Engler

In this article, I examine how ethnic difference is de/constructed in migrant women's biographies. Based on biographical-narrative interviews that I conducted for my Ph.D. thesis about migration processes and constructions of ethnicity and gender constructions in biographies of migrant women from Finland in Germany. I argue that the concept of ethnic difference is in fact an ambivalent concept that requires an analysis of its intersection with other differences like gender, "race", class and nation. By discussing biographical processes, constructions of agency and gendered experience of migration, I will show how ethnic difference is a relational and contextual notion that is imbued with intimate as well as un/spoken, societal power relations, structural constraints, experiences and discourses. Accordingly, I propose that ethnicity is biographically constructed as transnational positionality, in the sense of transnational belonging and "translocational positionality" (Anthias 2001, 2002). It is a biographical resource as well as a strategy that results from the negotiations of trans/national location and dislocation in relation to the social positioning and constructions of difference at the intersections of ethnicity, gender, class, nation and racialization.

Transforming transnational biographical memories: Adult accounts of 'non-normative' serial migrant childhoods
Ann Phoenix

This chapter uses data from a study of adults who, as children, were serial migrants from the Caribbean. Some participants reported clear memories of serial migration, while others used psychoanalytic language of 'repressing' traumatic memories. In both cases, their narratives transformed their experiences in ways that helped them to craft 'livable lives' (Butler 2004). The participants arrived in the UK in the 1960s and 1970s, when overt racism was common. Establishing lives in the UK therefore involved experiences of racism and ethnicisation as well as the negotiation of new relationships with their parents.

Border Skirmishes and the Question of Belonging. An autoethnographical account of everyday practices of exclusion in the Netherlands
Kathy Davis, Lorraine Nencel

Transnational migration has transformed most European countries, making the problem of how to "integrate" the growing tide of immigrants an increasingly popular topic in public debates and social policy. It is assumed that as long as the newcomer learns the language, adapts to the local customs, and finds work, s/he will be integrated and welcomed with open arms as a full-fledged member of society. Based on an autoethnography of our experiences as US-born, long-term, and fully "integrated" residents of the Netherlands, one of Europe's most multicultural societies, as well as biographical interviews with other so-called "newcomers," we have explored some of the subtle, well-intentioned practices of distancing and exclusion, which are part of the fabric of everyday life. We will show how - contrary to the offi-

cial discourse of integration - Dutch-ness as a white/ethnic national identity is ongoingly constructed as a "we" which excludes all "others". And, indeed, we have discovered that, paradoxically, the closer the "other" comes to being completely assimilated into Dutch society, the more the symbolic borders of national belonging may need to be policed and tightened.

Part IV
Intergenerational Transmission

The Effect of the Very Distant Past on Migrants: Armenian Families in Germany
Viola Stephan

Based on a family-biographical study using a multi-generational approach, this essay deals with the possible effects of a family history marked by persecution and discrimination on the experiences of belonging on behalf of those Armenians from Turkey who now live in Germany. The Armenian sense of belonging still plays an important role for those subjects I interviewed, and the Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire is the core issue according to which their Armenian belonging is discussed. Furthermore, the effects of the family past after the genocide become noticeable. Three types of families could be reconstructed based on the familial dialogue as well as the family members' sense of ethnic belonging. The findings suggest that the formation of these family types depends on the phase of the family past that followed the genocide and, more specifically, whether the family members felt surrounded by the perpetrators and their descendants and if the migration to Germany effected a more open familial dialogue or not.

Processes of intergenerational transmission of citizenship and belonging among immigrant families in Switzerland
Anne Juhasz

This article is based on ongoing research about citizenship and the family in Switzerland. It explores processes of intergenerational transmission of citizenship and belonging among immigrant families from states of former Yugoslavia. Through the analysis of biographical interviews with parents and their children it describes how citizenship and belonging are transferred across the generations. The article addresses the questions: What does citizenship mean to the immigrants from states of former Yugoslavia and to their children? How does a certain type of relationship to a community and (a) state(s) respectively develop and how do processes of intergenerational transmission of citizenship proceed?

Shifting balances of power and changing constructions of ethnic belonging: Three-generation families in Germany with ethnic German members from the former Soviet Union
Gabriele Rosenthal, Viola Stephan

Based on our study of families of migrants from the former Soviet Union with an ethnic German family background, our article examines how the sense of collective belonging changes within the context of social transformations and shifting social balances of power change. In general, our study has made clear that in terms of the sense of belonging to larger collectiv-

ities as well as the we-group of ethnic Germans in the Soviet Union — and, thus, the family as a reference framework — was subject to varying phases of historical relevance or was only significant in particular historical phases. Using the social developments of four different historical phases, we illustrate the generation-specific and family-dynamic processes as they interrelate to changing constructions of belonging as well as the respective reinterpretations of the family's and the individual's own life histories.

Educational Success and intergenerational Transmission: Educational Advancement among Migrants of Turkish Descent in Germany
Ebru Tepecik

In contrast to the dominant discourse on the low educational participation and consequently the limited educational success of migrant children in Germany, this article deals with the academic success of such children as exemplified by university students of Turkish descent. As part of a doctoral thesis a number of educationally successful, second generation migrants in Germany were analyzed in a biographical-theoretically oriented qualitative case study. These academically successful migrants and their families are shown to have specific resources and potentials at their disposal, which are beneficial for scholastic achievements. One of the central empirical insights gained from this study is the relevance of the intergenerational transmission of an educational mandate within the family, which is to be analyzed further in the following article.

Migrant Children in City Space: Assimilation to Multicultural Society
Victoria Semenova

Cross-national migrant discourse is primarily concerned with the problem of adult immigrants not approaching the process of immigration as a collective family project that may include two or more age groups: both adult members as well as their offspring or non-adult members. These children, as a group of young migrants are subsequently described in their host countries as 'second generation' immigrants. The numbers of child migrants are growing very quickly in most countries and this brings a lot of new social problems that are educational, and cultural in nature as well as different forms of social violence. The purpose of this paper is to give an overview of the problem of migration from the following angle of investigation: children as actors in the process of geographic mobility during family-project migration and their adaptation to a new place of residence. I will put particular emphasis on the difficulties of adapting culturally in terms of their self-reflection about a new city space. I am interested in applying new methodologies (the 'space' approach) to child-oriented research in the migration process. In fact, migration is a physical process of geographical mobility. Therefore the 'space' approach to migration as a cultural process could serve as an adequate additional resource for understanding people in a new cultural milieu. How do people react to the changes in their living space and what are the subjective meanings of this change? How do they pass through the boundaries of cultures and respond emotionally in a new alien environment? How do they cope in this new space?

FQS FORUM: QUALITATIVE
SOCIAL RESEARCH
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THEMATIC ISSUE

Biography and Ethnicity

Edited by Michaela Köttig, Julia Chaitin, John P. Linstroth & Gabriele Rosenthal

Preface: Biography and Ethnicity: Development and Changes in Senses of Socio-cultural Belonging in Migrant Populations in the US and Germany
Michaela Köttig, Julia Chaitin, J. P. Linstroth, Gabriele Rosenthal

This special issue is based on the empirical research carried out for our project "Biography and Ethnicity: Development and Changes in Senses of Socio-cultural Belonging in Migrant Populations in the United States and Germany." This research and collaborative teaching project at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Nova Southeastern University (USA) and at the Center of Methods in Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences at Georg-August-University of Goettingen (Germany) between 2006 and 2008 was characterized by a differing methodological and interdisciplinary approach. Whereas the US-team of researchers followed a psychological and social-anthropological approach, the team of researchers from Germany consisted of sociologists. The German team primarily conducted biographical-narrative interviews, while the team in Florida applied participant observation techniques in addition to biographical and open-ended interviews. The persons belong to different group-ings of migrants who have settled in Germany and the United States in order to escape so-cio-political ethnic conflicts or difficult living conditions in their countries of origin, whereby most of these immigrants may be considered political refugees. The goal of our study was to investigate the processes behind the creation and transformation of ethnic belongings and, in general, collective belongings of various groupings of migrants in variant social contexts. In particular, we examined how different living conditions and different societal contexts in-fluenced the development and transformation of the sense of collective belonging. [1]

Interviews were conducted with migrants from Guatemala, Haiti, and Cuba now living in South Florida as well as migrants from Cuba, Poland, Iran, Sierra Leone, Ghana, and the successor states of former Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union now living in Germany. This special issue will introduce the theoretical and methodological considerations as well as the empirical findings of the US and German research teams. The articles reflect upon and compare the interrelated life courses and current life situations of these different groupings of migrants. [2]

This special issue also includes an article by Alex STEPICK and Carol DUTTON STEPICK who were kind enough to contribute an article describing their research dedicated to the same or

very similar themes. For many years, these researchers have made migration to South Florida the focus of their work. Their article focuses on migrants' experiences in the country of immigration and describes the coexistence between the established residents and newcomers from Cuba, Haiti, and other Caribbean and Latin American countries. The following chapter, an introduction to this publication, was written by members of the US research team: Julia CHAITIN, J.P. LINSTROTH, and Patrick T. HILLER. Their article presents an overview of their work and discusses the methodology of ethnographic and biographic techniques as well as their views for explaining the particular situation of migrants from Cuba, Haiti, and Guatemala in Florida. Their text also sets the framework for the following four articles focusing on Cuban, Guatemalan-Maya, and Haitian migrant-ethnicities in South Florida and the relationship between their respective countries of origin and the host country of the United States as well as the interviewees' experiences. These articles offer discussions of aspects of Cuban, Guatemalan-Maya, and Haitian identities and how such views are related to ambivalent belongings, conflictive belongings, gender, home, maintaining indigeneity, social control, and social hybridity. [3]

The first article of the four, written by Robin COOPER, Denese EDSALL, Diana RIVIERA, Julia CHAITIN, and J.P. LINSTROTH, focuses on U.S. Cubans, their ambivalent identities and notions of home. This article is then followed by a contribution by Patrick HILLER, J.P. LINSTROTH, and Paloma AYALA VELA, describing the authors' interviews with members of Guatemala's indigenous population, the Mayas, and why Guatemalan-Mayas separate their identities from the Hispanic population in South Florida. In an additional article, J.P. LINSTROTH, Allison HALL, Mamyrah PROSPER, and Patrick T. HILLER have detailed their empirical findings from a study of Florida's Haitian-born and US-born Haitian population. Finally, Robin COOPER, J.P. LINSTROTH, and Julia CHAITIN's article addresses the particular situation of Cuban and Haitian women, regarding issues of gender and social control and the pressures of home country identity and traditions on female immigrant lives. [4]

The second part of the special issue contains articles written by the German research team. This section begins with an article by Gabriele ROSENTHAL written in collaboration with Michaela KÖTTIG. The essay describes the theoretical and methodological approach used in the empirical case reconstructions that are discussed in the following articles. The essay introduces a social-constructivist and biographical-theory concept of the creation and transformation of collective belongings and attempts to develop the methodological implications of this approach. On the basis of empirical findings, this article highlights the enormous impact that the interaction of familial pasts and life stories with the historical and cultural context has on the construction and reinterpretation of collective belongings. The authors refer to the biographical case reconstructions discussed in the following articles as well as the theoretical generalizations derived from these reconstructions. In the following article, Michaela KÖTTIG discusses the particularities in the constructions of collective belongings among migrants from Cuba in Germany and South Florida, demonstrating a specific relation to art as well as the special role art plays in the construction of a Cuban we-image. The article by Rosa-Maria BRANDHORST also addresses the issue of a Cuban migrant in Germany and his insecurity vis-à-vis his feelings of belonging. The contribution by Jana BALLENTHIEN and Corring BÜCHING describes the intergenerational transmission of constructions of ethnic

belonging using the example of a family of ethnic Germans from the former Soviet Union. Sonja GRÜN's article takes up a similar theme and, based on her case reconstruction of a migrant from Bosnia, also describes the efficacy of the family history. Jan KÜVER's contribution, which represents the final article in this special issue, focuses on the case study of a migrant from Sierra Leone whose familial and societal history led to clearly ambivalent feelings and ambiguous constructions of collective belonging. [5]

Diverse Contexts of Reception and Feelings of Belonging
Alex Stepick, Carol Dutton Stepick

The theoretical focus of this paper is the context of reception experienced by migrants in their new homeland. In particular we examine relations between established residents and newcomers or immigrants from Cuba, Haiti, and other Caribbean and Latin American nations in South Florida. Based upon long term fieldwork among late adolescents and young adults, we develop a framework and give ethnographic examples of established resident-newcomer relations that influence the contexts of reception for immigrants in South Florida. These contexts range from positive to negative, vary between national and local settings, and change over time.

Ethnicity and Belonging: An Overview of a Study of Cuban, Haitian and Guatemalan Immigrants to Florida
Julia Chaitin, J. P. Linstroth, Patrick T. Hiller

This article provides an overview of an interdisciplinary qualitative study that explored the personal meanings and public expressions of home, ethnicity and belonging among Cuban, Haitian and Guatemalan immigrants to Florida. We present the theoretical bases for the study, a description of the interview and observational methods employed, and the major themes discerned in the analyses of the biographical interviews. This paper provides a gateway to the four articles in this special issue, which will then focus specifically on one major theme found to be important for each of the sub-groups.

"My Country" / "This Country": Ambivalent Belongings of Cuban Americans in South Florida
Robin Cooper, Denese Edsall, Diana Riviera, Julia Chaitin, J. P. Linstroth

This article explores significant notions of home and belonging among first- and second-generation Cuban immigrants in South Florida. The analyses are derived from biographical narrative interviews with six Cuban Americans. Three key subjects were in the biographical life stories – the notion of escape or leaving, the sense of home, and constructions of Cuban identity. In assessing these themes, we found there to be profound differences between the generations. Moreover, these Cuban biographies demonstrate how differing stories of migration provide new theoretical perspectives on immigration, transnationalism, and ethnicity. The experiences presented and discussed here connect to the ambivalence and complexity of belongingness and interpretations of Cuban-ness.

"I am Maya, not Guatemalan, nor Hispanic" – the Belongingness of Mayas in Southern Florida
Patrick T. Hiller, J. P. Linstroth, Paloma Ayala Vela

This article explores the personal meanings and public expressions of home, ethnicity and belonging among Maya/Guatemalan immigrants living in South Florida, specifically from the viewpoints of seven biographies of first and second-generation Maya immigrants. Our examination of their narratives suggests why these immigrants actively resist a public miscategorization of being part of the Hispanic community by emphasizing their indigenous heritage. As such, this study provides a new type of research regarding Maya immigrants and their "positioning" or their "self-localization" as indigenous peoples seeking refuge in the United States. These are narratives of Maya lives, most of them child survivors, who fled the genocide in Guatemala with their families and who have faced discrimination while living in the United States. What is unique about our study is its emphasis upon biography for portraying particular facets of ethnicity and indigeneity and the difficult processes of transnational migration faced by Maya peoples now living in Florida.

Conflicting Ambivalence of Haitian Identity-Making in South Florida
J. P. Linstroth, Alison Hall, Mamyrah A. Douge-Prosper, Patrick T. Hiller

This article discusses constructions of identity, home, and belonging among first and second-generation Haitian-migrants living in South Florida. Conflicting polarities mark the lived experiences of the Haitian interviewees, and as such, migration theories of integration as the "melting pot" or "salad bowl," are rendered useless for understanding immigrant experiences. To another degree, the notion of social hybridity is elaborated upon for its resonance to ontological concepts among Haitian-Americans, especially in regard to the push and pull of living in the United States with remaining sentiments toward Haiti. For many of our Haitian informants the notion of class stratification defined their perceptions of selfhood. So too, our Haitian-American interviewees described their differences from other Afro-descendant experiences as African-Americans, further situating their Haitian-ness as being unique. What is clear from analyzing narratives of these Haitian-Americans is the mutability of their imagining belonging-ness and the polyvalent meanings associated with their ambivalent identities.

Negotiating the Transnationality of Social Control: Stories of Immigrant Women in South Florida
Robin Cooper, J. P. Linstroth, Julia Chaitin

Historically, young women have been the object of social control, often in the name of filial honor. This article addresses a particular phenomenon of such social control as it is experienced by first- and second-generation female immigrants from Cuba and Haiti who are living in South Florida in the United States. This theme is explored by analyzing the life stories of six immigrants from these countries. The biographical stories of immigrant women reveal how social control operates in the context of transnationalism through controlling processes, internalization of gender expectations, and dominating discourse. It is also argued how social control manipulates and restricts female spaces and operates across spaces in a transnational manner from homelands to host nations. The main conclusion of the study is that a

family's relocation to the United States for the purpose of political, social, or economic free-dom does not necessarily result in liberation from restrictive social control for young women from such immigrant families. The "transnationality of social control" is therefore understood as the hegemonic domination of female bodies and behaviors through the mimesis of reified and remembered spaces of homelands in host societies.

Migration and Questions of Belonging. Migrants in Germany and Florida
Gabriele Rosenthal in collaboration with Michaela Köttig

This essay describes the theoretical and methodological approach behind the empirical case reconstructions that are discussed in the following articles. The essay also introduces a social constructivist and biographical theoretical concept of the creation and transformation of the constructions of collective belonging before going on to develop the methodological implications. On the basis of empirical findings, this essay will discuss the enormous impact that the interaction between family stories and life stories with the historical and cultural framework has on the construction and reinterpretation of collective belongings.

Constructions of Collective Belongings through Art by Migrants from Cuba in Germany and South Florida
Michaela Köttig

This essay focuses on Cuban immigration to South Florida and Germany. Focusing on two biographies, this essay shall introduce the migration backgrounds and living conditions in the countries of immigration. The construction of ethnic belonging for migrants from Cuba is un-questioningly self-evident for migrants from Cuba both in Germany and Florida. In creating this ethnic belonging, immigrants refer to Cuba's history, culture and art. Strong similarities can be found in these constructions despite the rather different circumstances that the mi-grants face in their countries of immigration. In terms of the use of art in these construc-tions, a biographical empirical approach can show how occupation as an artist can either help individuals find solutions for contradictory aspects of life in the country of immigration or help create continuity with the migrants' past prior to their migration.

Ethnicity and Transnational Relations of Cuban Immigrants in Germany. An In-sight into a Case Reconstruction
Rosa María Brandhorst

In my presentation of a case reconstruction of a Cuban migrant living in Berlin, I provide de-tailed insight into the diachronical/biographical dynamics of ethnic belonging, the dealing with categorizations and the forms of transnational relations. The article also details the situation of Cuban immigrants in Germany.

Insecure Belongings: A Family of Ethnic Germans from the Former Soviet Union in Germany
Jana Ballenthien, Corinne Büching

This article takes a look at the transformation of constructions of belonging during the course of life, and how they are embedded in family and collective history. Based on a case study of three women belonging to one family, who as ethnic Germans migrated in the early

1990's from the Soviet Union to Germany, we were able to demonstrate how questions of belonging were initiated by the migration process and the attributes ascribed to them in their country of arrival. Different family members were seen to perform different strategies of biographical work. This was due to their unique autobiographical experience and their belonging to different historical generations. Thus, the grandmother's experience of deportation from the Volga Republic to Siberia during the course of the Second World War was reactivated during her emigration to Germany. This reconfirmed her construction of belonging as a Volga German. Whereas after migration her daughter in law conceptualizes her belonging as a question of membership of a religious we-group. Her granddaughter, however, before and after emigration successfully searched a connection of the sense of belonging to her family of origin and her peer groups, first in Soviet society which was influenced by the predominantly Russian culture, and later in German society.

Construction of Ethnic Belonging in the Context of Former Yugoslavia – the Case of a Migrant from Bosnia-Herzegovina
Sonja Grün

This article deals with the question of the change and continuity of ethnic and national constructs of belonging in the context of former Yugoslavia with special emphasis on Bosnia-Herzegovina. I am taking a biographical analytical approach. This allows me to reconstruct the process of the development and transformation, as well as the continuity of ethnic and national constructs of belonging. Moreover, this approach also allows an analysis of these phenomena in their genesis. Based on a case study, it will be demonstrated how ethnic and national belongings developed, how they changed, and how under some circumstances they exhibit a certain continuity. In doing so, the interplay between the past and the present as well as the intra-biographical and societal developments were analyzed. I came to the conclusion that the biographer formed a supra-ethnical Yugoslavian construct of belonging which was maintained despite the migration experience.

Cultural and Corporate Belonging in the Course of Transnational Biographies: A Case Study of a Sierra Leonean Immigrant in Germany
Jan Küver

How does cultural and corporate affiliation emerge in transnational biographies? How does it develop under the influence of global and national power structures? These questions are addressed in this study that combines epistemological approaches dealing with the interplay of social and individual factors in identity formation with a structural analysis of historical power relations in form of racism and colonialism.

Empirically this paper identifies how immigrants deal with challenges of integration into the host society and incorporate these experiences into their biographical self-construction. It concentrates on African and particularly Sierra Leonean immigrants in Germany. The findings are generated from a reconstructive analysis of selected biographical narrations which were scrutinized from different perspectives.

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