Call-for-Abstracts

Cosmopolitanism in a Postdigital, Postmigrant Europe, and Beyond

June 26 - July 7 2023, online conference

The idea of cosmopolitanism remains multifaceted and fit for purpose. It may be seen, for example, as a philosophical concept, or viewed as a theoretical and empirical tool used to describe and understand contemporary society, culture and interculturality. But cultural theory and empirical research have not remained stagnant, and a number of recent ideas have been proffered as further theoretical and empirical tools. These include the concepts of *postdigitality* and *postmigrancy*. The "post" in these terms does not denote an end (of digitality or migration), but the transformation of a society indissolubly interwoven with digitality and migration. Cramer (2014:13, 17) sees the "post" in *postdigital* as denoting a "continuation" rather than a rupture, as indicative of the "messy state of media, art and design after their digitization", eradicating the distinction between old and new media. Similarly, the term *postmigration* implies that the structures of society have been fundamentally altered by migratory processes (Foroutan 2019); supposedly clear dichotomies of "migrant" /"native" or "assimilated" /"segregated" become dissolved, while established distributions of resources and power structures have increasingly been called into question and become renegotiated. Indeed, the mere fact of continuously shaping a (post)migrant society and of being immersed in super-diversity with cultural and linguistic implications (Blommaert / Rampton 2011) needs to be accepted (Foroutan 2019). Thus, the new theoretical and empirical postmigrant and postdigital realities call for new perspectives on the concept of cosmopolitanism and adjoining concepts, such as Europeanism. These ideas, though very applicable to European societies and lifeworlds, are not limited to Europe but are found and may be investigated in a variety of contexts.

We welcome empirical and theoretical papers engaging with Europe and beyond, that embrace the topics of cosmopolitanism, postdigitality and postmigration. A keynote address from Prof. Gerard Delanty – a leading authority on critical theory, cosmopolitanism and the European idea – and Prof. Naika Foroutan – an expert on integration studies and one of the principal thinkers behind the idea of the "postmigrant society" – have been confirmed for the conference. Possible themes, among others, include:

- Cosmopolitan Intercultural Communication in light of postdigitality and postmigration
- Banal cosmopolitanism, interculturality, Europe and subtle cultural shifts

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- Digital intercultural connections, from the perspective of cosmopolitanism
- Interconnections between the concepts of intercultural competence, digital competence and cosmopolitanism
- Internet history and the cosmopolitan idea
- Online discourses and ideas of Europe and Europeanism
- Digital diaspora communication
- Social media, migration and cosmopolitanism
- Online populism and cosmopolitanism discourses

Please send an **abstract of circa 250** words giving a sketch of your proposed paper **by 31 January 2023** to: redico@uni-mainz.de . Papers may be presented in English or German. We are open to alternative forms of presentation (e.g. workshop, live-experiment, interview, data session). Please indicate if you have preferred dates or times within the prospected conference dates (26 June - 7 July 2023). An open-access e-book will be published with suitable selected papers from the conference.

The conference will take place (mainly) online in individual morning and afternoon slots, thus facilitating potential global participation. No participation fees will be charged. Further information for registration will be communicated soon.

References

- Blommaert, Jan / Rampton, Ben (2011): Language and Superdiversity. Diversities, 13(2), 1-21. https://newdiversities.mmg.mpg.de/?page_id=2056 (last retrieved 20 Sep 2022)
- Cramer, Florian (2014): What is Post-Digital? In: APRJA A Peer Reviewed Journal About Postdigitality 3/1: 10-24. http://lab404.com/142/cramer.pdf (last retrieved 20 Sep 2022).
- Foroutan, Naika (2019): Die postmigrantische Gesellschaft. Ein Versprechen der pluralen Demokratie. transcript, Bielefeld.

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