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Berlin Social Science Center

Ten years of research on "Migration, Integration, Transnationalization": What have we learned, where are we going?

Conference at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center, June 23-24, 2017

List of Abstracts

Friday, June 23, 2017

Ruth Ditlmann – Naturalization of immigrants: Obstacles and opportunities in German municipalities (with Rafaela Dancygier)

In this project we examine the obstacles and opportunities immigrants may face when seeking naturalization with an empirical focus on German municipalities.
Naturalization can be a deeply personal moment for many migrants, fostering national identification and attachment. There is also evidence that naturalization improves integration outcomes in the political realm. Though non-citizens have access to many of the same rights as do citizens, citizenship continues to signify full membership in a political community. Yet, even though more and more immigrants in Europe are eligible for citizenship, they might not apply because the bureaucratic hurdles can appear daunting, and state authorities may seem inaccessible.
Our project examines the barriers to – and facilitators of – citizenship in German municipalities. In addition to examining administrative and political hurdles, our project considers psychological factors such as how immigrants are perceived by citizens and how decisions that have consequences for immigrants seeking naturalization are made in the realm of local politics. Methodologically, we use a combination of experimental, survey and qualitative methods.

Ines Michalowski – Political endorsement effects on attitudes towards asylum policies. Results from a survey experiment (with Ruth Ditlmann)

The current research tests how people's political attitudes are influenced by political elites during a time when traditional party lines were blurred in Germany, the summer of 2015, when the conservative German chancellor opened the border to 1 million refugees, a decision typically associated with liberal parties. We test if – under such conditions- parties can still fulfill their traditional role as mental shortcuts, with cues from favored parties shifting the attitudes of citizens. We further propose an alternative model for how political elites might influence people's opinions: backlash to what citizens perceive to be elites that are self-serving and disconnected from the public. Using a representative sample of German citizens, we assessed participants' support for lenient and restrictive proposals for how to manage the influx of refugees in two experiments with the same three conditions: no party endorsement, endorsement of a liberal politician, endorsement by a conservative politician. By varying party endorsement of a restrictive (Experiment 1) and a lenient statement (Experiment 2), we also

manipulate in both cases if the proposal is stereotypical or non-stereotypical for a liberal versus conservative politician. Our findings for both the restrictive and the lenient statement are more consistent with a backlash-to-elites than with party-cue hypotheses: Citizens reduce their support for the statement when they are endorsed by the expected political elite in Experiment 1 (conservative endorsement of a restrictive statement, marginally significant) and by the expected political elite in Experiment 2 (liberal endorsement of a lenient statement, significant). We find no evidence for a party-cue effect, i.e. partisans increasing their support for statements when they are endorsed by parties they support.

Sarah Carol – Delinquency among majority and minority youths in Cologne, Mannheim and Brussels: The role of religion (with Freya Peez and Michael Wagner)

The news about New Years Eve of 2016 in Cologne went around the world. Media released a controversy about the clash of cultures, especially the influence of Islam on crime. Which role does religion play for delinquency? To answer this question, we draw on unique data collected among youths of different origin living in European cities that host large immigrant populations, and have recently been shaken by crime. We investigate youths' delinquency in Cologne, Mannheim (Germany) and Brussels (Belgium). Our results indicate that youths in Cologne are not exceptionally violent as media reports sometimes suggested. In line with previous research, we find that religiosity is overall accompanied by lower levels of delinquency (vandalism, property offense, drug abuse, bullying). However, in case of violence, we reveal the opposite pattern. Yet, we discover that not primarily the pious commit these acts but youths who describe themselves as religious without practicing an abstinent lifestyle prescribed by some religions. We conclude that this group might seek refuge in religion and delinquency in response to deprivation.

Evelyn Ersanilli – Profiling headscarves. An exploration of the relation between wearing of headscarves and integration profiles of Turkish and Moroccan origin women in Western-Europe (with Katia Begall and Sawitri Saharso)

The headscarf has become highly contested in the European public sphere as a symbol of religiosity in mostly secular societies, as a symbol of segregation and of suppression of women. Women wearing a headscarf are seen as not integrated in society or as oppressed and those not wearing a headscarf as integrated and liberated. Qualitative studies suggest that the relationship between wearing a headscarf and integration is far more complex. Muslim women have a range of different motives for wearing – or not wearing – a headscarf. While some may wear a headscarf because of family pressures or out of traditionalism, other women wear a headscarf as a political statement. Motivations for not wearing a headscarf are similarly diverse. In this paper we explore how different integration profiles (based on socio-economic position and socio-cultural integration measured as interethnic contacts, identity and attitudes towards cultural maintenance and gender roles) are related to the wearing of a headscarf. We use data from the Six Country Immigrant Integration Comparative Survey (SCIICS) on Sunni Muslim women of Moroccan and Turkish origin in four Western-European countries. We use Latent Class Analyses to explore the presence of different integration profiles and how these profiles relate to the likelihood of wearing a headscarf. We find four different integration profiles. Across profiles, women vary in the likelihood of wearing a headscarf. We have named the four groups "traditionalists", "uncovered traditionalists", "assimilationists" and "euromuslims". There is minor variation in group size across countries and more substantial variation across groups.

Rahim Hajji – Dimensions of sociocultural acculturation of Syrian refugees in Germany (with Friederike Ühre)

In 2016, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has reported that approximately 62.5 million people are being forcibly displaced within the country and abroad, mainly due to terrible wars, armed conflicts, direct violence, ethnic/political persecution, global environmental and nature catastrophes. The small minority of those displaced persons is currently hosted by Germany, including a considerable number of Syrian refugees since 2015. The quantity of refugees has declined from 1.1 million in 2015 to 400,000 in 2016, it nevertheless remains at a comparatively high level. The immigration of refugees raises the question under which conditions refugees in the new cultural environment of Germany can develop their sociocultural ability to act. The sociocultural acculturation describes the ability and skills of individuals that enable them to act in different cultural environments. An empirical study was conducted among refugees in Magdeburg to analyse the acculturation of Syrian refugees in Germany. The results show that the acculturation possesses crucial dimensions in consideration of their sociocultural background. The refugees respond to different levels of the dimensions of acculturation, which can be explained by theoretical approaches of cultural learning, social identity theory as well as stress and coping approaches.

Fenella Fleischmann – Identity multiplicity in the context of immigration: how minorities come to adopt and maintain integrated identities

The large-scale migration to industrialized societies that occurred in the 2nd half of the 20th century has created an increasing population that grows up with a sense of belonging to multiple social groups. The so-called 'second generation', or local-born children of immigrants, often acquires citizenship of their residence country by birth and develops a sense of belonging to the society in which they grow up and participate, and which is potentially shared with their peers of non-immigrant descent (Verkuyten & Martinovic, 2012). At the same time, the migration background of their families provides the second generation with ethnic and/or religious identities that are not only different from those of the majority population, but often stigmatized and politicized – this is particularly the case for Muslims who are commonly represented as the prototypical 'Other' in today's Western societies (Alba, 2005; Foner, 2015; Zemni, 2002). Research on psychological acculturation has pointed out that biculturalism, or an integrated identity where migrants identify simultaneously with their heritage and their host culture, is most beneficial for their well-being (Nguyen & Benet-Martínez, 2013). However, such integrated identities are not adopted by individuals at will or in a social vacuum, but require the recognition and valorization of relevant others (Klein, Spears & Reicher, 2007; Hopkins, 2011).To date, not much is known about the way in which immigrants come to develop and maintain such integrated or dual identities. In this presentation, I will discuss how the intergroup context affects the identity management strategies of minority members, in particular the adoption of dual or integrated identities. Subsequently, I will present empirical data from multiple studies on identification patterns of ethnic minority youth and (young) adults, as well as recent immigrants. Using a longitudinal and experimental approach among the latter research population, I will show how identities develop during the first years after arrival, and whether the acceptance of dual identities by the host society – as signaled in access to dual citizenship – affects the adoption of dual identity by recent immigrants.

Ruta Yemane – Ethnic discrimination in the US labour market

Despite a long history of strong anti-discrimination laws (Equal Pay Act, Equal Employment Opportunity Act), the US labour market is neither ethnicity neutral nor color blind. In the job queue, Afro Americans are still at the bottom with unemployment rates almost twice as high as for White Americans. Hispanics fare somewhat better than Afro-Americans, whereas Asians have the highest overall employment rates. Occupational segregation, spatial mismatch, differences in education and work experience cannot fully explain these labour market disparities. Previous studies have addressed this question and provided strong evidence of discrimination, yet they tend to vary only one dimension of ethnicity at a time and look at very narrow geographical contexts (usually a few major US cities). With this study we want to take a closer look not only at the extent and variation of discrimination across ethnic groups, but also at the relative importance of ethnic preferences and dislikes ("taste discrimination") and information deficiencies ("statistical discrimination") in explaining variations in discrimination across groups. With a multidimensional design we compare discrimination rates across 35 ethnic groups, in which various ethnic and religious treatment groups are embedded. This will allow us to better distinguish taste and statistical sources of discrimination, and to assess the relative importance of ethnicity, religious affiliation, cultural distance, linguistic distance, and productivity-related information. In a second step we try to analyze the extent and causes of contextual variation in levels of discrimination across US regions, by adding a range of context factors to the data.

Merlin Schaeffer – Unintended consequences of persons of immigrant origin's status aspirations: ethnic skill gaps and perceived discrimination in European comparison

Previous research shows that children of immigrants, the "second generation", have comparatively high educational aspirations that translate into unusually high transition rates given their level of performance in school. In this talk I present two studies on unintended negative consequences of these high aspirations. First, based on data from 14 countries from the Programme for International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), I show that the actual skills of second-generation immigrants are lower than those of natives with similar educational qualifications because their high aspirations let them strive for goals that lie beyond their capacities. These ethnic skills gaps are specifically pronounced in open, "choice-driven" systems with little tracking, and conversely smaller (and in some cases even in the opposite direction) in tracked systems. Second, I use the EURISLAM survey to show that children of immigrant origin who are not able to realize their (parents) high aspirations tend to feel particularly discriminated against. This second pattern is specifically pronounced among those children of immigrant origin who (strongly) agree that "One of the most important goals in life is to make one's parents proud".

Saturday, June 24, 2017

Susanne Veit – Regional variation in ethnic labour market discrimination: local labour market tightness and immigrant group size

Correspondence studies from all over the world demonstrate a robust pattern of ethnic discrimination in hiring. However, how regional characteristics affect ethnic discrimination has only occasionally been investigated. To fill this gap, we conducted a large-scale correspondence test on ethnic discrimination in Germany. We sent job applications to job openings all over Germany. In the application documents, we varied several characteristics - ranging from school grades to job candidates' country of origin. In line with previous studies, we found significant levels of ethnic discrimination. In addition, however, our results demonstrate considerable variation in discrimination between immigrants groups and across German regions. To further explore regional variation in ethnic discrimination, we investigated the

effects of local unemployment rates and local shares of foreigners on the job chances of native and immigrant job candidates. We found a significant negative main effect of local unemployment rates, but no interaction with immigrant background. Local share of foreigners, by contrast, had different effects for native and immigrant job candidates. The implications of these results are discussed against the background of economic and social psychological discrimination theories.

Jutta Höhne – Integration of immigrants and refugees at the work place - experiences and options for action of works councils in Germany

In Germany, works councils are obliged by law to prevent any disadvantage based on race or ethnic background at the workplace, and to ensure equal working conditions for employees with and without immigrant background. Does growing ethnic diversity among the workforce and the integration of refugees lead to new challenges? How do works councils cope with problems arising from linguistic and cultural diversity, ethnic prejudice and xenophobia? Do immigrant workers trust works councils? Are immigrants over- or underrepresented in works councils? Do works councils' members with an immigrant background have the possibility to successfully use their specific competencies? Are they accepted by non-migrant workers, by immigrant workers of other nationalities and by the management?
So far, literature on the topic is scarce. There is a small number of studies, mostly case studies or interviews, on the effect of ethnic diversity at the working atmosphere, on trade union participation of immigrants or on the acceptance of works council members with immigrant background. Results draw a largely positive picture of ethnic relations within firms. Migrant works council members in Austria feel well accepted by their colleagues irrespective of background and citizenship, although less so by their co-members in the work council and by the management. German trade union surveys on migration-related problems, however, identified a certain number of conflictual fields (FATK 2005, DGB 2008, DGB 2012, EPSU 2010, Gächter/Handler 2010, Greifenstein et al. 2011, Öztürk 2002).
In 2017, the WSI Works Councils Survey, a representative panel survey among over 4000 works councils chairmen, covering all economic branches and firms of all sizes, for the first time includes a large set of immigration-related questions meant to get an overview of the ethnic composition of works councils, of their specific problems, and to identify the need for action, instruction or support. The data set also offers wide information at the firm level: on the number and main characteristics of employees, on the field of activity, on the current economic situation and recent changes, and on the general working climate. Analyses will reveal whether certain branches are more problematic than others, whether unsecure perspectives lead to growing tensions, and whether a larger share of immigrant work council members is the result of high tensions and economic pressure or rather an indicator of a good working atmosphere.

Bram Lancee – Sorting of migrants across destination countries? A cross-national analysis of the relative unemployment risk of recent non-western immigrants in Europe

Unemployment rates among non-western immigrants in Europe are much higher than among the native-born population. However, research that explains cross-national variation in immigrants' relative unemployment risk is scarce. The sorting hypothesis stipulates that immigrants with better opportunities settle in destination countries with large skill-related wage differences. Consequently, one may expect ethnic penalties to be smaller in countries with positive sorting. The integration hypothesis, on the other hand, states that in countries with a more inclusive integration policy, ethnic penalties are smaller. The main contribution of this paper is to explain cross-national variation in ethnic penalties

with institutional and economic characteristics. The empirical analysis makes use of data from the European Union Labour Force Survey (2004-2012), focusing on recent (< 10 years of residence) non-western immigrants in 17 Western European countries. For the multivariate analysis, I estimate random slope models using a two-stage regression design with an estimated dependent variable regression in the second stage.

Céline Teney – Highly skilled EU migration: Integrated EU labour market or intra-EU brain drain?

Based on a unique representative survey of non-German EU physicians working in Germany, I investigate whether intra-EU highly skilled immigrants who exert a profession suffering from an acute EU labour shortage constitute the manifestation of an integrated European labour market or whether they contribute to the emergence of an intra-EU brain drain. For this purpose, I analyse EU physicians´ original emigration and immigration motives, the planed length of stay in Germany and their future migration plans. The results shed light on significant disparities in the migration patterns of Central and Eastern European physicians and Western physicians. Physicians from the most recent EU Member States tend to confirm the existence of an intra-EU brain drain, as they mostly moved to Germany for economic reasons and tend to plan to stay permanently in Germany. By contrast, physicians from North Western Europe tend to represent the prototypes of workers within an integrated European labour market: their migration decision was mainly driven by career prospects and staying permanently in Germany constitutes only one out of various options in their migration plans. These two types of migrants based on an empirical quantitative survey correspond to the ideal types of free movers and traditional economic migrants developed by Favell (2009).

Ruud Koopmans - Scriptural legitimation causes pro-violent attitudes: Survey-experimental evidence across three religions and seven countries (with Eylem Kanol and Anselm Rink)

Do legitimations of violence in religious scripture cause pro-violent attitudes? We implemented a survey experiment across 9,000 individuals in seven countries with large shares of Christian, Muslim and Jewish believers across Europe, the Middle East and Africa. We find that priming individuals with isomorphic pro-violence quotes from the Bible, Torah or the Koran raises attitudinal support for religious violence significantly. Effect sizes are particularly large in religiously divided countries, among Muslims, and among those with a fundamentalist, literalist conception of their religion. The causal relationship is confirmed across respondents of different ages, education levels, incomes, and religious beliefs as well as all surveyed countries. Our results highlight that religious scripture can work as a salient driver of pro-violent attitudes. The finding thus marks a counterpoint to theoretical arguments that question the causal role of religious scripture in explaining religious violence, and has important implications for de-radicalization policies.

Eylem Kanol – Jihadi radicalization in Europe from a comparative perspective: Profiles, contexts, networks, and narratives

Building on the works of Marc Sageman and Edwin Bakker, we are generating a database, where profiles of Jihadist individuals are being aggregated from publicly available information. The underlying primary research questions, which we aim to answer using this database, are the following: which individual socio-structural characteristics are related to radicalization, how and where do individuals radicalize and are there country-specific radicalization processes? To explore these questions, we are collecting biographical and sociodemographic data on Jihadists from five European countries. Using the

sociodemographic data, we aim to investigate, what kind of people are more susceptible to radicalization, whereas the biographical information provides insights into processes and contexts of radicalization. In addition to these characteristics, social contacts and networks of the individuals are being registered, which enables us to analyze social network structures of Jihadist milieus. So far, 260 individual profiles have been coded (Germany = 125, Denmark = 40, France = 40, the Netherlands = 40, Austria = 20,). In the presentation, I will discuss the findings from the ongoing data collection, focusing particularly on socioeconomic variables, such as educational attainment and employment, as well as on the contexts of radicalization processes.

Anselm Rink – Principal or principle? Experimental evidence on reducing support for violence in Kenya

Can exposure to a pro-peace religious principle reduce individual support for violence? Does the effectiveness of such a message increase when it is communicated by a religious as opposed to a secular source? To study these questions, we conduct a survey with two related embedded experiments in an East African neighborhood known for its high level of religious extremism. We find that priming individuals with pro-peace principles significantly reduces support for violence. But, the endorser of the message—religious or secular—is irrelevant. We use qualitative interviews to corroborate and contextualize the finding. Local interlocutors confirm that attitudes toward violence are not affected by religious authority figures. Rather, they are a result of principles, which some value more highly than outcomes. We explore this "principles trump outcomes"-hypothesis in a vignette experiment by randomizing whether, across two vignettes with near-identical outcomes, an ethical principle is applicable or not. Consistent with the hypothesis, we find that individuals, particularly radicalized ones, are less likely to support violence when religious principles are applicable.

Marc Helbling – What is islamophobia? Ethnicity, religion and religiosity

What citizens think about Muslim immigrants is of great importance for some of the most pressing challenges facing Western democracies. To advance our understanding of what "Islamophobia" really is – i.e. whether it is a dislike based on immigrants` ethnic background, their religious identity or their specific religious behaviour – we fielded a representative online survey experiment in the UK in the summer 2015. Our results suggest that in general Muslims are not viewed more negatively than Christian immigrants. Instead, we provide evidence that citizens' uneasiness with Muslim immigration is first and foremost the result of a rejection of fundamentalist forms of religiosity. This suggests that common explanations, which are based on simple dichotomies between liberal supporters and conservative critics of immigration need to be re-evaluated. While the politically left and culturally liberal have more positive attitudes towards immigrants than right-leaning and conservatives, they are also far more critical towards religious groups. We conclude that a large part of the current political controversy over Muslim immigration has to do with this double opposition. Importantly, the current political conflict over Muslim immigration is not so much about immigrants versus natives or even Muslim versus Christians as it is about political liberalism versus religious fundamentalism.

Oliver Strijbis – Why do immigrants vote against immigration? (with Javier Polavieja)

The article investigates voting behavior by voters with migration background for the popular initiative "against mass immigration" that took place in Switzerland on 9 February 2014. The article shows that the voting behavior of people with migration background for the popular initiative has been very similar to that of the natives. This finding goes against standard explanations for the political behavior of immigrants and ethnic minorities, which would predict a much lower Yes-vote share of citizens with migration background. We explain the surprising voting behavior of first and second generation immigrants with their above–average levels of labour market competition and lack of an identification as immigrants.

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