

Intention

Social divisions can be observed across Europe and the longing for collective identities in particular is gaining new explosiveness. However, who we are is not that easy to answer!

This year's summer school will look at the power of narratives: It is important to understand how narratives arise, how they shape identities, and to ask the question of power: Why do some narratives gain the prerogative of interpretation? Who's voice is heard at all? Why do collective identity narratives so often lead to exclusion and stigmatization? How can narratives contribute to reconciliation and peace? – We want to address these questions using two specific contexts: Germany and the Netherlands.

Contributors

Rebecca Pates is professor at the institute for political science at the University of Leipzig. Her research and teaching focuses on political anthropology, state theory and gender. She is in charge of the innovative project 'Strangers in their own land – variability of national narratives with the help of political laboratories'. Within this project she asks who are 'we' in Germany and how is this 'we' changing through migration. PoliLabs are unconventional, practice-oriented research methods that aim to provide research participants with impulses for active political participation. From Prof. Pates we will get insights about the previous results of the project and discuss to which extent social cohesion is possible even across different cultural codes.

Halleh Ghorashi was born in Iran and came to the Netherlands in 1988. Since 2012 she is Full Professor of Diversity and Integration and Head of the department of Sociology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Ghorashi's research focuses on issues such as diasporic positioning, refugee's narratives, cultural diversity, emancipation and inclusion with the particular focus on power dynamics in society and organizations. She combines expertise in narrative approach, ethnographic research, and experimental engaged methodology in her research. *"Allowing the other person's story creates identification that can be surprising. People find the forgotten sources of commonality. The greater the difference, the more beautiful and educational this surprising encounter and the greater the innovative effects of diversity."* (H. Ghorashi)

Timetable and Topics

Monday, 21.09.2020

Getting Started

02.00 – 02.30 pm: Welcome and Introduction
02.30 – 03.30 pm: Creative Start
04.00 – 05.30 pm: Panel discussion: The Power of Narratives: An interdisciplinary dialog
06.00 – 06.30 pm: Evening Session

Tuesday, 22.09.2020

Narratives in contemporary Germany Part I

09.00 - 09.30 am: Introduction to the day
09.30 - 01.00 pm: "Migration-related conflict and the problem with simple solutions" - PoliLabs - (Prof. Rebecca Pates, Sophia Bader)
1.00 – 3.00 pm: Lunch Break
3.00 – 5.00 pm: Afternoon Offline Session
5.30 - 6.30 pm: Evening Session

Wednesday, 23.09.2020

Narratives in contemporary Germany Part II

9.30 - 10.00 am: Introduction to the day
9.30 - 1.00 pm: Concepts, practices, and functions of the "nation". - (National) privilege and disadvantage (Prof. Rebecca Pates, Sophia Bader)
1.00 – 3.00 pm: Lunch Break
3.00 – 5.00 pm: Afternoon Offline Session
5.30 - 6.30 pm: Evening Session

Thursday, 24.09.2020

Narratives in contemporary Netherlands

09.00 - 09.30 am: Introduction to the day
10.00 – 01.00 pm: Narratives in contemporary Netherlands (Prof. Halleh Ghorashi)
01.00 – 03.00 pm: Lunch Break
03.00 – 05.00 pm: "Visit" to the "Tropen Museum" Amsterdam
05.30 - 06.30 pm: Evening Session

Friday, 25.09.2020

Open Space

9.00 - 09.30 am: Introduction to the day
09.30 – 01.00 pm: Open Space Session
01.00 – 03.00 pm: Lunch Break
3.00 – 5.00 pm: Afternoon Offline Session
5.30 - 6.30 pm: Evening Session

Saturday, 26.09.2020

Closing

09.00 – 09.30: Introduction of the day
09.30 - 1.00 pm: Sharing insights & reflections

Information

