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 extend 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, 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, 24.09.2020Narratives 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

In order to protect everyone's health and well-being the summer school 2020 will be primarily carried out through digital means. Therefore, we will use a number of online media channels that will allow us to create the space for an interactive as well as inclusive exchange between all participants (Zoom, Miro...). These methods will include, though by no means be limited to, small group discussions as well as input provided by our guests. Through creating a format that combines multifaceted contributions by all attendees while leaving space for in-depth conversations and reflections we seek to foster an inspiring exchange of perspectives on the power of narratives in our lives and beyond.

Information especially for students from Hamburg:

On 02nd July at 5 pm a preparatory workshop will take place online (the channel will be announced shortly) for students of the Hamburg Universität. Students of the Curriculum Friedensbildung/Peacebuilding of Hamburg will get 3 ECTS for the participation at the summer school.

Information especially for students from Amsterdam:

For students of the Master specialization "Peace, Trauma, Religion" the summer-school is an obligatory part of the course "Just Peace" (Period 1). For all other interested students, please send an application to F.Enns@vu.nl

Organizers

Universität Hamburg

Initiativkreis Friedensbildung/Peacebuilding

Prof. Alexander Redlich, Prof. Hartwig Spitzer, Julia Freund, Sigrid Happ, Dr. Marianne Subklew, Marle Schuhmann, Viktoria Donnerbauer, Stephanie Jänsch.

VU Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam Center for Religion and Peace & Justice Studies, Faculty of Religion and Theology

Prof. Fernando Enns (Hamburg & Amsterdam), Daniel Serrano Bernal, Andrés Pacheco Lozano, María León

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"Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign. But stories can also be used to empower, and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people. But stories can also repair that broken dignity."

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Summer School 2020

Construction and power of narratives in conflict-loaded societies

polarization and/or transformation

21. - 29. September 2020 Online Webinar





