

To ask in a new way the question ‘what is identity and cultural identity’ should be at the very heart of social theoretical reflections and sociological thinking in the global age. This question, with regard to the idea of the “European Identity” is the main subject of the conference.

If we can no longer speak of “identity” as a given in itself and with itself, as an identically homogenous fundament, an essence or entity; and of a “cultural identity” as something that is grounded in territory, religion, and ethnicity; but must rather understand these concepts as an open, continuous and heterogeneous process of identification within a plurality of life-forms, embedded in complex social relations and networks, then we should ask ourselves if there is such a thing as “European identity” and what would it mean?

Does European identity still consist of specific kinds of self-understanding and self-interpretations, as well as reinterpretations, in the relations to the other? Or are there several diverging European identities – “multiple Europes”, arising from labour migration, regional policy, multilingualism and citizenship? And what is the role of institutional frames of European identity politics? Or does such a question of “European Identity” only reveal the exclusive hegemony of the European community and is it an expression of the political ideology of the technocratic and elite-driven project of European integration?

Organizer

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Location

Alexander-von-Humboldt-Haus
Hüfferstraße 61
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Conference Programme

The Quest of “European Identity” as a new Challenge for Social Theory

26.–28. November 2014
Münster, Germany

Social Theory Conference
European Sociological Association,
(Research Network 29)

Further information:
<http://www.social-theory.eu/>

Wednesday

12.00–14.00 *Reception Desk*

14.00–14.30 *Welcome address*

Prof. Dr. Ursula Nelles, Rector of the University of Münster
Prof. Dr. Stefanie Ernst, Director of the Institute of Sociology

14.30–15.00 *Introduction*

The Quest of European Identity or the Coming Europe
Gallina Tasheva, Chair of ESA Social Theory RN29

15.00–16.00 *Keynote speech*

Europe/Commons?

Scott Lash, Director of Centre for Cultural Studies,
University of London

16.00–17.00 *Welcome Reception*

17.00–19.00 *Opening Session*

European Identity Politics

Csaba Szaló (Brno)

Contexts of Contingency

Joachim Renn (Münster)

Thursday

9.00–12.00 *Social Theory*

Chair: Joachim Renn

The Sociologist's Europe: The Scientific Battle for the European Identity

Marinus Ossewaarde (Twente)

Transforming Spatial Identities in Rescaling Europe: From Bonding 'Thick' Identities to Bridging 'Thin' Identities and Back Again

Kees Terlouw (Utrecht)

European Mental Space, a Collective Phenomenon of Biographical Relevance

Fritz Schütze, Anja Wildhagen (Magdeburg)

The Theoretical Challenge of the 'Bond of Difference'

Gennaro Iorio (Salerno)

12.00–14.00 *Lunch Break*

14.00–17.00 *Time, Myth and Narrative*

Chair: Anne Sophie Krossa

Three Versions of Myth: Renegotiating Europe

William D. Melaney (Cairo)

Critique and Crisis: On Reinhart Koselleck's Contribution to Critical Theory

Rodrigo Cordero (Warwick)

The Presence of Europe. Temporalities and Levels of a European Process of Identity?

Gerd Sebald (Erlangen)

14.00–17.00 *Reframing Collectives*

Chair: Anastasia Marinopoulou

European Cosmopolitanism: The Case of Euro-Kurds

Ipek Demir (London)

The Refugee in Europe. Towards a Theory of Desperate Communities

Christoph Mautz (Münster)

Roma as "the Ultimate European Other" – The Construction of the Roma Identity in the Public Discourse in the Aftermath of a Human Rights Violation

Chloe Delcour (Gent)

17.00–18.00 *Evening Lecture*

Europe's Cultural Identity: Innocent or Ironical?

Johannes Weiß (Kassel)

19.00 *Dinner*

Friday

9.00–12.00 *Identity Concepts*

Chair: N. N.

European Identity from a Pragmatic Perspective

Fabian Annicker (Düsseldorf)

Christianity, Secularism and the Crisis of Europe

Ian Morrison (Cairo)

A Theoretical Approach to Explain the Relationship between European Identity and European Solidarity

Christopher Starke (Münster)

European Identity as Process: Identification via Conflict

Anne Sophie Krossa (Gießen)

12.00–14.00 *Lunch Break*

14.00–17.00 *Contested Homogeneity*

Chair: Csaba Szaló

Europe as Demarcation and Conflict. Assessing Identity, its Parasite and its Struggles

Yannick Kalff (Jena)

European Identity as a "Fractured Identity"

Angela Maria Zocchi (Teramo)

Social Theory vs Social Impact? Beyond an old Dichotomy

Marta Soler (Barcelona)

Imagined Relations: Different Ways of Constructing Difference in Contemporary Europe

Andreas Langenohl (Gießen)

14.00–17.00 *Cosmopolitanism*

Chair: Marta Soler

The Quest for European Identity: Sociological Paradoxes of Identities and Cosmopolitan Dialogues

Gilles Verpraet (Paris)

On Cosmopolitan Modernity: Any Political Prospects?

Anastasia Marinopoulou (Athen)

Is there a European Working Class?

Jannes Jacobsen (Berlin)

14.00–17.00 *Emotions, Habits, Marginalization*

Chair: N. N.

Identity and the Integration of African Immigrant Youth

Loretta E. Bass (Oklahoma)

Rising of Extremist Parties in Elections of European Parliament in 2014 as Function of Drag Effect of the Social Habitus of a Great Number of Europeans

Behrouz Alikhani (Münster)

Hijab and Identity after Post-multiculturalism: Can they still Live as European and Muslim Woman?

Fadlan Khaerul Anam (Depok)