

Democracy, Diversity and Civic Inequality: Culture and Religion in the Netherlands, Germany and Beyond

June 22, 13:30, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Schumannstr. 8, 10117 Berlin

What is the impact of diversity on the democratic constitution of Western societies? Diversity per se assumes an awareness of otherness without necessarily recognizing different access to opportunities between those who consider their citizenship as a birthright and those who consider themselves – in most cases migrants - as lacking voice and equal opportunity in society and in politics.

National constructions of otherness are of basic relevance for this approach since ethnicity cements not only the undesired forms of otherness but perpetuates inequality. By examining primarily two intertwined forms of difference: ethnos/culture and religion, socio-political structures and national discourses will be compared during this conference

The Dutch case will be used here as a prime example of a particular form of multicultural policy, which was more consistently encouraged than elsewhere in Europe. Drawing from this case, we will address theoretical and empirical implications for other Western societies such as Canada and especially Germany.

The event will serve as a preparatory conference to a larger examination of multicultural policies, which have occurred over the past 40 years in Western societies. A two-day conference is scheduled for spring of 2010.

For more information on the event, please contact: Tim.Kremser[at]utoronto-berlin.org

Final Programme

13:00 Registration

13:30 – 15:00 Session One (Chair: Y. Michal Bodemann)

Greetings: Andreas Poltermann, Director, Domestic Division, Heinrich Boell Foundation;
Y. Michal Bodemann, Director, University of Toronto in Berlin

Claus Offe, Political Sociology, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin

Managing Diversity Through Immigration Tests? Testing Immigrants for their Suitability for Citizenship in EU Member States

Marnie Bjornson, Anthropology, University of Toronto

Language and Multiculturalism in the Netherlands

15:00 – 15:15 Coffee Break

15:15 – 16:45 Session Two (Chair: Marianne Zepp)

Peter Scholten, Sociology, University of Twente, The Netherlands

Beyond the Multicultural Model in the Netherlands? Locating and Reflecting Upon 'the Dutch Multicultural Model' in Academic and Political Discourses.

Randall Hansen, Political Science, University of Toronto

The Road to Nowhere: Multiculturalism as Europe's Future

Discussants:

Ruud Koopmans, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin; Gökce Yurdakul, BGSS

16:45 – 17:15 Coffee Break

17:15 – 19:00 Session Three (Chair: Gökce Yurdakul)

Anna Korteweg, Sociology, University of Toronto
Is Multiculturalism Dead? Policy Approaches to Honor Related Violence in the Netherlands

Ruud Koopmans, Migration/Integration, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin
The Nine Lives of Dutch Multiculturalism: Path-dependent Integration Policies and Their Consequences

Roland Robertson, Sociology, University of Aberdeen

National Identity in Confrontation With Religiocultural Loyalities

Discussants:

Michal Bodemann, University of Toronto; Claus Offe, Hertie School of Governance