

## **Afraid of what?**

### **About otherness, uncertainty, populism, cultural racism.**

**Friday, Decembre 12 2014, 2 – 7 pm**  
**Potsdam Museum, Potsdam**

Today we live in a society that is becoming more diverse, individual and international. This also means that many people experience otherness in their everyday life, which can trigger a lot: fear, uncertainty, a diffuse sense of threat. Quite often these feelings are based on prejudice, populist stereotypes as well as racism. The fear of "the other" and racism blend into each other. Recent media and political discussions show that, when talking about immigration, migration or refugees, frequently buzzwords, such as mass immigration, social parasites or border crime, come up. Right-wing and populist parties specifically use the fear and resentment in some parts of society to make demands for limiting immigration, to spread Euro-skepticism or to hold up national culture, as could be seen in the AfD's last election campaign in Brandenburg. This is also reflected in the discussions about the reception and accommodation of refugees, which are not only characterized by prejudices and insecurities, but often are accompanied by protests and marches of right-wing extremist groups. Recent studies support this trend: pejorative settings are firmly anchored in the middle of society and thus counteract the development of a welcoming culture.

The conference focuses on these trends and attitudes in society, as well as on the current situation in Brandenburg. Why do the citizens fear "the others"? How are populist parties trying to make campaigns against immigration and are so successful in exploiting the fears of parts of society? How do refugees experience their arrival in Brandenburg and what are their expectations from society?

#### **Location:**

Potsdam Museum, Am Alten Markt 9, 14467 Potsdam

The participation is free of charge – a registration would be appreciated ([anmeldung@boell-brandenburg.de](mailto:anmeldung@boell-brandenburg.de)).

The meeting will be held in German. If required, a translation will be provided in sign language and English. Please express the need via mail till decembre 8, 2014.

#### **Contact and further information:**

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## Programme

From 13:30 on	arrival
14:00 Uhr	<b>Greetings</b> // Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Brandenburg
14.15 Uhr	lecture „ <b>Cultural racism and welcoming culture</b> “ <b>Klaus J. Bade</b> // migration researcher and journalist
15.15 Uhr	lecture „ <b>Welcome? On affiliation and equivalence.</b> “ <b>Madlen Preuß</b> // Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence, University of Bielefeld
16.15 Uhr	coffee break
16:45 Uhr	Panel discussion „ <b>What's welcoming culture in Brandenburg? Situation and perspectives.</b> “  <b>Nadja Hitzel-Abdelhamid</b> // Mobile Counseling for victims of racist discrimination <b>Annie Amadu</b> // Women in Exile e.V. <b>Svenna Berger</b> // apabiz e.V. <b>Gabi Jaschke</b> // Refugee Council of Brandenburg
19:00 Uhr	End of the conference

The conference is followed by the cinematic presentation of the "Vereinswerkstätten" that were also carried out in the framework of the project.

### **Note:**

The organizers reserve the right to make use of their house right and deny the access to the conference or exclude persons from it, who belong to right-wing parties or organizations, who are affiliated with the extreme right or made an appearance in the past with racist, nationalist, anti-Semitic or other inhuman statements.