



Donnerstag, 15. Juni 2023 / Thursday, 15 June 2023

09.00 – 09.45h Keynote 1

Prof. Dr. Matthias Otten *Youth and citizenship in the dispositive of transnational civil society (English)*

Institution: Technische Hochschule Köln

Place: Cologne, Germany

Abstract

The discourse on transnational citizenship encompasses a wide range of theoretical aspects of belonging, identity and participation of young people in diaspora and migration contexts. Most researchers in this field criticise methodological nationalism and tend to rely on post-structuralist and postcolonial approaches. Meanwhile, empirical constructs of transnational citizenship (as a normative idea) often refer to the processing of classical adolescent developmental tasks within state-constituted orders of integration such as education, work, language acquisition up to elections and naturalisation intentions. Transnational engagement in the sense of active citizenship cannot avoid connecting in some way to the dispositive of established forms of engagement and political culture in the respective civil society in order to create a (media) public articulation space for transnationality. It remains unclear, however, to what extent the dispositive itself changes as a result, i.e. becomes quasi-transnationalised. For a multidimensional conception and analysis of this question, a heuristic triangle would have to be looked at more closely, which would have to systematically differentiate and relate the following corners:

- (1) (migration) theories and normative discourses on transnational citizenship and political engagement in (post)migrant contexts,
- (2) empirics and data on lived forms of transnational practices, identities and affiliations among (post)migrant youth, and
- (3) the development and transformation of institutional and legal arrangements in the sense of a transnational arena of active political citizenship.

In the lecture, this heuristic triangle will first be presented in order to then justify that especially the third corner, i.e. the institutional and political arrangements oriented towards transnationality (e.g. national and international support programmes, political and cultural youth education, legalisation and naturalisation initiatives, but also organised subversion and rebellion) require a closer look. However, this is not about programme and impact evaluation, but rather about the question of possible (in)congruence in the heuristic triangle of theories used, lifeworld practices of action and civil society structures of activity.

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