

# Shifting boundaries on the internet

Strategies of 'Indians of the second generation' in 'Germany'



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# Structure

1. 'Indians of the second generation' facing boundaries
2. The *Indernet* shifting boundaries
3. Boundaries maintained

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- research interest:
  - constructions and realities of lines of differences
  - in particular racism and heteronormativity

# 'Indians of the second generation' in 'Germany'

- definition:
- socialised in 'Germany'
- and marked as 'Indians'
- in terminology of Paul Mecheril:
- 'Other Germans'
- belonging to several natio-ethno-cultural contexts at the same time

# Outside the boundaries

- 'German' defined exclusively
  - unambiguous
  - through 'blood' and 'culture'
- 'Indians of the second generation' othered and excluded
  - formally and informally
  - mainly implicitly
  - everyday experience
- privileged legally, socially, economically
  - not endangering their existence

# The *Indernet*

- internet portal: <http://www.theinder.net>
- founded in summer of 2000
  - internet boom and '*Kinder statt Inder*'
- by three 'Indians of second generation'
- as platform for 'Indians of the second generation'
  - for communication and information
- and information portal for 'Germans'

# An own space

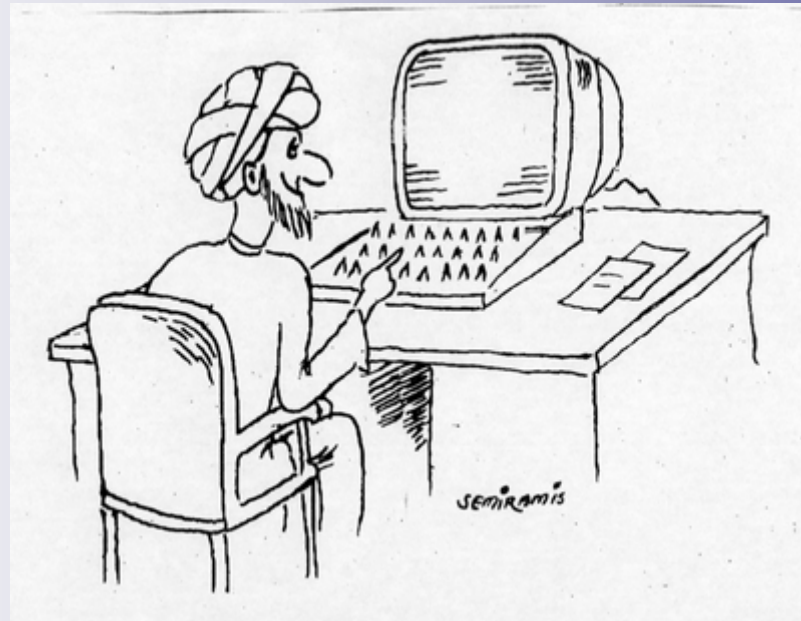
- an own representation of 'India' and 'Indianness'
- implicit norm of multiple belongingness
- absence of natio-ethno-cultural othering
- for those close enough to fictitious prototype of 'Indian of the second generation'
- pan-'Indian' identity imagined
- in German
- natio-ethno-cultural boundaries shifted out of sight
  - for those not deviating too much from prototype

# Boundaries maintained

- essentialising 'origin'
- othering for those
  - seen as deviating significantly from prototype
- other lines of difference:
  - class
  - heteronormativity
    - gender roles
    - homophobia



# Thank you!



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