

# Virtual Ethnicity

- Ethnic Identity Construction  
in the Internet -

16.11.04

Hybridity



# Today's session

1. Last session: diaspora
2. Observation
3. Hybridity
4. Presentations
5. Next session



# Diaspora

- attempt of a description:
- example:
  - Protestants in the diaspora (in the Sauerland)
- belonging to a collective scattered across different places
- living in an environment where another collective is in the majority
- often used in literature like this



# Saffran's and Clifford's views on diaspora in comparison

- Saffran focuses his definition on
  - a home country
- Clifford focuses on
  - the connections in the diaspora
  - he stresses routes rather than roots
  - transnationalism rather than nationalism



# Clifford's diaspora

„... understood as a practice of dwelling  
(differently),

as an ambivalent refusal or indefinite  
deferral of return,

and as a positive **transnationalism** ...“

Clifford (1994, 321)



# Observation

- Any problems, questions, remarks on your observations?
  - transactional ethnicity is a proces, which always works
  - diaspora describes a collective, which in cases applies
  - give thick description
  - discuss theory on basis of observation
  - make description, raise questions instead of judging and giving answers
  - in dealing with questionnaires be careful about the validity of the statistics



# Hybridity in my research

- wanted to give you example of youth seminar
- of Indians of the second generation, German-Indians, Indo-Germans, Desis, ...
- wanted to combine participant observation and interviews
- but seminar had to be cancelled



# Concept of hybridity

- developed by Homi Bhaba, Stuart Hall, Paul Gilroy (Black Atlantic)
- something new developing from colonial encounter





# Examples for further work

- Gerd Baumann
  - field study in Southall
  - dominant and demiotic discourses of culture
  - development of Asian culture
- Paul Mecheril
  - *Andere Deutsche*
- Tarek Badawia
  - *Der Dritte Stuhl*



# Werbner on hybridity

- Who are the butterflies and who the ants and bees?
  - butterflies: cosmopolitans
  - bees and ants: transnationals
- What is organic and what intentional hybridity?
  - organic: unconscious process
  - intentional: purposeful construction of hybridity



# Dates of presentations

- 7th December:
  - topic: media and ethnicity
  - Miruna Covaci, Luana Martin, Zofia Wnuk
- 4th January:
  - topic: specificity of internet
  - Myra Mae Cabantac, Izabela Krassowska, Alexandra Florea
- 1st February:
  - topic: virtual ethnicity
  - Monica Bajan, Vitaly Gullo, Natalia Tabolich (Antje Uckel?)



# Form of presentations

- discuss the topic
- on the basis of observed virtual space
- max. 10 minutes presentation
- visualise
  - use my computer
  - to show website
  - for power point presentation
- make appointment with me for discussion before



# Next session: 23.11.04

- topic: media and ethnicity
- text: Karim (2003)
- question: What special role play media for migrants and their descendants?
  
- assignment:
- weekly report with topic:
  - Are there signs of hybridity?

