

Virtual Ethnicity

- Ethnic Identity Construction
in the Internet -

Seminar by Dr. Urmila Goel
Master of European Studies
(Migration)
WS 04/05



Dr. Urmila Goel

- researcher in cultural and social anthropology
- research project: [The virtual second generation](#)
- academic background
 - M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Economics
 - M.A. South Asian Area Studies
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Virtual Ethnicity

- new media providing new social spaces
- used by members of ethnic minorities
- topic:
 - Ethnic identity construction in the internet
- compare also with:
 - *imagined communities* (Anderson)
 - development of nationalism



Methods

- combination of theoretical and empirical approach
- one of many approaches to the topic
- learn empirical research
- learn to critically deal with academic texts and approaches
- not: learning the truth
- but: learning academic approach



Seminar outline

1. Ethnicity, Diaspora, Hybridity – Concepts
2. Introduction to Media and Internet
3. Virtual Ethnicity
 - details on www.urmila.de/viadrina
 - including updated bibliography



Theoretical sessions

- one core text
- which will be discussed
- and applied to field research
- additional texts to go into depth



Presentations

- every few sessions
- to present the empirical research
- based on the theoretical work



Assignments

- observation of an ethnic virtual space
- examples: on www.urmila.de/viadrina
- during the whole term
- to practice field research
- and prepare the final essay
- [weekly reports](#) on development of ethnic space
- presentation on observation
- essay topic developed from field research



Observation of ethnic virtual space

assignment:

- 26.10.04: selection of ethnic virtual space
- every Tuesday: observation of ethnic virtual space
- in 400 to 600 words
- submitted as word document to viadrina@urmila.de



Questions?



Introduction to topics

Discuss

- previous academic knowledge
- practical experience
- differences among countries

about

- Ethnicity, diaspora, hybridity
- Virtual communities
- Virtual ethnicity



The virtual second generation



- www.urmila.de/forschung



Next session: 26.10.04

- topic: ethnicity
- text: Jenkins (1994)
- question: What is ethnicity?

- assignment:
- selection of ethnic virtual space
- reasoning in 400 to 600 words
- deadline: Tuesday by 12.00 hours
- to viadrina@urmila.de

