

Virtual Ethnicity

- Ethnic Identity Construction
in the Internet -

23.11.04

Media and ethnicity



Today's session

1. Last session: hybridity
2. Presentations, Observations
3. Media and ethnicity
4. Next session



Organic hybridity

according to Werbner (1997, 5):

- does not disrupt the sense of order and continuity:
- new images, words, objects, are integrated into language and culture unconsciously



Intentional hybridity

according to Werbner (1997, 5):

- organic hybridity creates historical foundations
- on which aesthetic hybrids build
- to shock, change, challenge, revitalise or disrupt
- through deliberate, intended fusions of unlike social languages and images



Cosmpolitans and transnationals

according to Werbner (1997, 12):

- both cultural hybrids
- think globally



Transnationals (bees and ants)

- build hives and nests in foreign land
- people who move
- often in great swarms
- to create collective ,homes‘
- wherever they happen to land
- unconscious, organic hybridity
- collectively negotiated in practice
- loyalties in transnational networks
- actively construct ,community‘



Cosmopolitans (butterflies)

- travel among global cultures
- savouring cultural differences
- flit with ease between social worlds



Presentations

Date of presentation		Meeting to discuss and prepare presentation (HG 248)	
14.12.	discussion of reports and theory		
07.12. (media and ethnicity)	Covaci Martin Wnuk	30.11.	12.00 Covaci 12.30 Martin 13.00 Wnuk
11.01. (specificity of internet) 14.00 – 18.00	Cabantac Tabolich Florea	07.12.	12.00 Cabantac 12.30 Tabolich 13.00 Florea
01.02.04 (virtual ethnicity)	Bajan Bozhko Gullo? Uckel	18.01. 25.01.	12.30 Uckel 12.30 Bajan 13.00 Bozhko



Observation

- Any problems, questions, remarks on your observations?
 - deadlines to be kept
 - my comments to be followed
 - focus on observation in reports
 - avoid essentialising cultures
 - hybridity is a consequences of the transactional nature of ethnicity
 - reactions to stereotypes show the transactional nature of ethnicity
 - analyse pictures for images of ethnicity
 - questions of community (see SS04)
 - anonymity is a feature of the internet
 - interviews with direct answers are less productive than those where you get narratives on topics



From my research

- one user
- seems Hindu-nationalist/ very patriotic to me
 - from statements in discussion
 - from private message interview
- new discussion
 - says she has little relation to India
 - is being attacked for lacking Indian culture
- How to explain?



Media and ethnicity

- Which media do you use at the moment?
- Why do media play a special role for ethnic minorities?
 - information before migration
 - media has two effects:
 - homogenising
 - access to diversity
 - special role of Internet
 - collection of different media
 - speed
 - provides new space, not territorialised



Next session: 30.11.04

- topic: social relationships in the internet
- text: Miller and Slater (2000), Ch. 3

- weekly report:
- How is the website used to cater for special needs of migrants?

