

Virtual Ethnicity

- Ethnic Identity Construction
in the Internet -

25.01.05

Race and Racism in the Internet



Today's session

1. Observations, problems
2. Last session
3. Race and Racism in the Internet
4. Next session



Observation

- Any problems, questions, remarks on your observations, reports?
 - folklore and ethnicity



Revision: observations

- differentiate in observation between webmasters and users
- question labels and identity politics



Miller & Slater

- „Being Trini“
 - in communication
 - engaging in practices common in Trinidad
 - no need for translation, explanation
- „Representing Trinidad“
 - through websites
 - in public communication
 - wanting to present positive image



Case study: Virtual Islam

- internet:
 - gives easy and cheap access to information for many
 - provides space to discuss this
 - goes past traditional hierarchies
 - enables new networks
- new interpretations
 - can be developed
 - made public with little resources
- this changes discourses and power structures offline
- it is a never ending process



Virtual ethnicity

- dealing with ethnic identities
 - which can be defined nationally, religiously, ...
- developed, negotiated in virtual space
- but not restricted to virtuality

- virtual also in the sense as they are constructed
- and being so are real



Race and Racism

- on theinder.net
 - eg. „deutsche unfreundlich?“
- Brosius: www.hinduunity.org
- McPherson:
 - www.dixienet.org
 - www.hpa.org



Race and Racism

- What common features do ethnic sites display?
- Where is the difference between ethnicity and race and racism?



Kolko et al

- one enters the internet with the history of one's offline identities



Next session: 01.02.05

- Presentations with focus on virtual ethnicity
 - Zofia Wnuk
 - Monica Bajan and Darja Bozhko
- Weekly report
- Submit topic of essay and short outline

