

Virtual Ethnicity

- Ethnic Identity Construction
in the Internet -

26.10.04

Ethnicity



Today's session

1. Last session: imagined communities
2. Assignments
3. Ethnicity
4. Next session



Imagined communities

- „It is *imagined* because the members of even the smallest nation will never know most of their fellow-members, meet them, or even hear of them, yet in the minds of each lives the **image of their communion.**“ (Anderson 1983, 6)
- „In fact, **all communities ... are imagined.** Communities are to be distinguished, not by their falsity/genuineness, but by the style in which they are imagined.“ (Anderson 1983, 6)



Weekly Report - Formalities

- full name, date and title on each report
- file name: last name and date
 - eg. goel261004.doc



Observation

- What is an ethnic virtual space?
 - see example theinder.net
- What features should a virtual space have to be suitable for observation?
 - must be dynamic
 - see example: theinder.net
- [presentation](#)



Example of an ethnic internet portal

The idea and aim of theinder.net:

- „We are a young **Indian** internet community and portal, founded in July 2000, named "**the InderNet**" ("Inder" is the German word for an Indian, so it becomes an "Indian Network").“
- „Our target group is primarily **2nd generation Indians** living in Germany. But actually everybody who is willing to support us is allowed to take part in this project. No matter which origin, religion or age. We do also have German supporters and members from India, UK, USA or Switzerland.“
- source: www.theinder.net



Presentations

- 16.11., 7.12., 4.1. and 1.2.
- max. 10 minutes
- on virtual ethnic space
- applied to discussed theory
- visualise!
- discussion with me beforehand



3. Different concepts of ethnicity

Form groups according to national origin

1. find the word for ethnicity in your language
2. discuss the meaning of ethnicity in your country
3. What are the major ethnic minorities in your country?
4. What term is normally used to name these minorities?



The term ethnicity in different languages

- in all the countries (Romania, Poland, Philippines, Germany) the term ethnicity (or something similar) has been adapted in the national language
- eg. in German: Ethnie, Ethnizität
 - in Germany these terms are however not used colloquially



The meaning of ethnicity in different countries

- the meaning of ethnicity in the individual countries is difficult to define
- eg. in Germany it seems not to be a term which has a colloquial meaning



Some types of ethnic groups

Ethnic groups can be considered any of the following:

- groups which have a (mythic) „homeland“ abroad
 - which live in the country since centuries
 - which have migrated recently
- groups which have an own language
- regional groups
- religious groups
- tribes
- groups which differ phenotypically
- ...



Major ethnic minorities in the countries

- Poland:
 - Germans, Belarus, Orthodox
 - regional
- Philippines:
 - tribes
 - creoles
- Germany:
 - Danes, Sorbs, Frisians (constitutional)
 - migrants
- Romania:
 - Hungarian, German, Greeks
 - Jews
 - Roma



Terms used in the different countries for ethnic minorities

- Poland: minorities
- Philippines: tribes
- Germany: foreigners
 - NB: Sorbians, Frisians, Danes are not considered to form minority groups.
- Romania: ethnic minorities



Next session: 02.11.04

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

- assignment:
- weekly report with topic: What is ethnic about the website?

