

Virtual Ethnicity

- Ethnic Identity Construction
in the Internet -

30.11.04

Social relationships in the internet



Today's session

1. Last session: media and ethnicity
2. Observations
3. Social relationships in the internet
4. Next session



Results of transnational migration

- Karim (2003, 1):
- develop intercontinental networks of communication
- including mail, telephone, fax, film, audiotape, videotape, satellite television, internet
- diasporic mediascapes (Appadurai)



Diasporas

- Karim (2003, 4):
- diasporas layered by
 - periods of immigration
 - extent of integration
 - maintenance of links
 - with origin
 - with worldwide community
- linkages to homeland and within diaspora



Space

- Karim (2003, 6-7, 9):
- spaces of nation continue to be exclusive
- diasporas challenge territoriality
- by producing own transnational spaces
- ‚reterritorialise‘, ‚re-embed‘ identities
- in other imaginings of space
- location in ‚milieu‘ not physical territory



(Re)create home

- Karim (2003, 10):
- by instilling resonance into the spaces
- languages, customs, art forms, arrangement of objects and ideas
- through cultural practices
- in media



Media of diaspora

- Karim (2003, 11-12):
- ethnic, transnational, diaspora
- narrowcasting to specific audiences
- leading edge of technology



Internet

- Karim (2003, 13):
- easier access
- non-linear
- largely non-hierarchical
- relatively cheaper
- almost instantaneous



After 11th September

- Karim (2003, 15):
- suspicion of transnational networks
- ethnic media seen as obstacles to integration
- pressure to conform



Observation

- Any problems, questions, remarks on your observations?
 - diverse needs of the migrants
 - hybridity is the blending of different things
 - What is Russian? What Romanian?
 - What is included? What is excluded? What is referred to?
 - What happens behind the screen?
 - direct quotes
 - field diary



Virtual communities

- ongoing debate
- on nature of community
- possible outside physical space?
- which criteria?
- see SS04: „Virtuelle Gemeinschaften“
- for bibliography and essays



Social relationships in the internet

- Discuss the often supposed opposition between reality and virtuality based on the ethnography of Miller and Slater.
 - How can reliability of information and identities in the internet be checked?
 - What is the difference between face-to-face and virtual communication?
 - Is it an ethnic issue?



Next session: 07.12.04

- Presentations by:
 - Zofia Wnuk?
 - Luana Martin and Miruna Covaci
- Weekly report:
 - Are there offers for diasporic families, for dating, for liming?
- 05.12.04: extra session
- 14.12.04: revision session
- 11.01.04: double session

