



Integration, Multi-culturalism and Islam in the West

Research Seminar

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Second Term (January-March 2016) – Mondays 3-5 pm – Room 4

Registration with Maureen Lechleitner (maureen.lechleitner@eui.eu) or [online](#)

The issue of integration is usually perceived along the paradigm of “integrating Muslim migrants”. We will question the three terms. Can we still speak of migrants when most Western European countries are now dealing with a third generation? What means Muslim? Does it refer to a quasi ethnic origin, to the practice of a religion or to a specific culture. In this case how to define a Muslim “culture”? Is it a secularized form of religion? What has the third generation in common with the first one in terms of norms, values and world-view?

The concept of “integration” refers either to some sort of assimilation, that is the adoption of the values of the dominant culture, or to “multi-culturalism”, in terms of “minority rights”, that is to the recognition by the dominant culture of a specific minority. But then how to define such a minority? Is it by the practice of religion, - but in this case non-believers are no more part of the minority-, or is it by a culture, and we are back to the previous question: how to define a minority culture?

The seminar will deal with concrete cases:

- rethinking religion and culture among migrants.
- the conflict of norms and values: feminism, sexual freedom and gay rights.
- cultural or religious norms in the mirror of courts' practices: crimes of honour, circumcision, veil.
- the debate on same-sex marriage and bio-ethics.
- is the West secular or/and Christian? the visibility of religious signs in the public sphere: the meaning of the debate on crucifix, minarets, burqas etc...
- the “Youth issue”: what is the “youth culture” among descendants of migrants.
- radicalization: what do we call “religious radicalization”? Who is joining jihad?
- critical approach of the post-colonial theory.
- is there a sociology of integration: social mobility and its cultural consequences.