



WORKSHOP

THE POWER OF NARRATIVES: DEMARCATING BELONGING WITH NEW APPROACHES

Aitana Guia and Julija Sardelić | EUI Max Weber Fellows

Conference Room

Villa La Fonte, Via delle Fontanelle, 18 - San Domenico di Fiesole

16-17 MAY 2016

■ INTRODUCTION

“Stories are wondrous things. They can also be dangerous” said Cherokee-Greek-American writer Thomas King in his renowned Massey Lectures ‘[The Truth about Stories: A Native Narrative](#)’.

This workshop explores how narratives are constructed, contested, shaped, and reshaped; how some narratives become hegemonic while others are abandoned and eventually forgotten. Narratives can be especially decisive when they contribute to demarcating who belongs to a certain community and who is excluded from it. This workshop looks at case studies in Europe, North America and the Middle East and focuses on how new narratives of belonging transform and define the boundaries between those included and excluded. It explores to which extent new narratives are being used to reinforce old exclusions and whether new narratives are creating cleavages in societies that hitherto did not experience them.

New discourses appealing to gender equality and the rights of sexual minorities, as well as to the overall discourse on human rights, are increasingly being used, or rather misused, to label and stigmatize certain marginalized minorities and migrants, such as those belonging to Muslim and Roma minorities. Concepts such as nativism and autochthony are increasingly being used to explain transformations in the contours of belonging in Europe and beyond.

The workshop starts with a critical analysis of how new xenophobic discourses addressing particularly Muslims, but also other migrants whether from within or outside the European Union. It continues with a focus on narratives mobilised to make sense of the refugee crisis in the former Yugoslav countries and in the Middle East. It concludes with a focus on the counter-hegemonic narratives of minority actors themselves and how they try to construct different narratives to make sense of the migration phenomenon.

The workshop includes papers on changing narratives of ‘belonging’ and how they re-define outsiders and recreate the community of ‘We’.

■ PROGRAMME

16 MAY

FIRST SESSION

09.30-11.00

Chair: **Julija Sardelić** | EUI

Whose Story? – Narratives of Flight, Persecution and Survival

Ruth Wodak | EUI

11.00-11.30

Coffee Break

IS THE REFUGEE CRISIS RESHAPING NATIONAL IDENTITIES?

11.30-13.00

Chair: **Anna Triandafyllidou** | EUI

New Narratives of the ‘Refugee Crisis’ and the Reconfiguring of ‘Diversity Management’ in the Post-Conflict Former Yugoslav States

Julija Sardelić | EUI

Competing Agendas of National Identity. Values, Narratives and Contradictions to Determine Israel’s Asylum Regime

Shai Tagner | Ben-Gurion University and University of Roma Tre

13.00-14.00

Lunch

NEW DISCOURSES OF EXCLUSION

14.00-15.30

Chair: **Hans-Jörg Trezn** | EUI

Transnational Narratives of Fear and Exclusion in Europe: How Do They Travel and Where Do They Land?

Heather Grabbe | EUI

Why Do Nativist Narratives Prosper in Western Democracies and Under Which Conditions They Wither?

Aitana Guia | EUI

15.30-16.00

Coffee Break

SECOND SESSION

16.00-18.00

Chair: **Aitana Guia** | EUI

White Innocence: Paradoxes of Colonialism and Race

Gloria Wekker | Utrecht University

17 MAY

NARRATIVES OF AUTOCHTHONY

09.30-11.00

Chair: **Sabrina Marchetti** | EUI

Reshaping Autochthony in Europe. Everyday Autochthony. Difference, Discontent, and the Politics of Home in Amsterdam

Paul Mepschen | University of Leiden

Why Do Migrant-Background Individuals Join an Anti-Immigration Party?

Ethnicity, Class and Age in the National Front (France)

Francesca Scrinzi | EUI

Narratives of Assimilation and Resistance: Reclaiming Kurdish Identity in
Diaspora

Barzoo Eliassi | Linneaus University and Oxford University

11.00-11.30

Coffee Break

11.30-12.30

The Power of Narratives: Promoting Interdisciplinary Conversations

12.30-13.30

Lunch