

Goldsmiths Leverhulme Media Research Centre:
Spaces, Connections, Control,
Inaugural Symposium
Media, Diversity and Cosmopolitanism in Europe

Abstracts

Connie Carøe Christiansen

Homepages of Hometowns: Forging the Transnational Village, Forging Transnational Citizenship?

Kurdish villages in central Turkey constitute the original outset for migration to primarily Copenhagen suburbs in Denmark which has been taking place since the late 1960s. However, it was only after 2005 that hometown associations were established among these migrants and their off-spring. It is probably no coincidence that initiatives were taken to form these associations in the wake of the emergence of a number of homepages for these Kurdish villages, and it seems that the formation of hometown associations in itself gave rise to a multiplication of hometown homepages. These pages combine information about family events among migrants and non-migrants with the history of the village, projects in the village, national news and chat rooms. Photographs of the village and its surroundings and of inhabitants of the (transnational) village are also a frequent and central feature, often revealing nostalgia. What is the significance of these hometown pages? It seems that the now widespread use of new and more interactive media such as the Internet represents a path to more self-conscious transnational communities, if not to direct empowerment, the fact that long-term settlement has increased the levels of education, and migrants' well-educated children themselves also play an important role. I argue that denizens by their own actions link with cosmopolitan or parochial forms of community. If migrants, such as these Kurdish ones, build a substantive citizenship in the transnational social space; to what extent do such forms of substantive citizenship link with on the one hand cosmopolitan and on the other hand parochial or nation state forms of citizenship?

Adrian Favell

The Cosmopolitan and the Provincial: London as a Hub of Intra-EU Mobility

Despite a deluge of speculative social theory concerning new forms of mobility, cosmopolitanism and transnationalism in Europe, there is a lack of in depth empirical research on the actual lives and experiences of the most prototypically mobile of Europeans: the new generation of mobile European citizens enjoying ever expanding free movement rights within the EU. Drawing on two recently published books, *Eurostars and Eurocities* – an ethnography of EU citizens living in London, Brussels, Amsterdam – and *Pioneers of European Integration* – the first systematic sociological survey of the impact of intra-EU migration – I will focus on the phenomenology of European mobility as expressed by mobile Europeans in the most successful Eurocity of all, London. Behind the cosmopolitan allure of this hub city, lie traces of national provincialism and residual barriers to even the most privileged of migrants in the city, that point to why intra-European migration remains a statistically marginal option in the lives of middle class Europeans.

Anikó Imre

Paradoxes of Minority Stardom in post-Wall Europe

The presentation will focus on the interplay of two contrasting trends within the post-Soviet region: the rise of violent discrimination against racial, ethnic and sexual minorities and the simultaneous rise of minority performers to national and international media stardom. While this paradoxical phenomenon is European in scale, the tension between the nationalistic exclusion of minorities and the national celebration of select minority representatives has been most intense in Eastern and Southern Europe. I analyze this contradictory pattern with reference to the figures and careers of Marija Serifovic, the lesbian singer who won the 2007 *Eurovision* competition for Serbia; Azis, the Bulgarian drag queen *chalga* singer with a cross-Balkan popularity, who participated in *Eurovision*, *Bulgarian Idol*, and *Bulgarian VIP Big Brother*; Verka Serdutchka, a cross-dressing Ukrainian performer, also a *Eurovision* runner-up; Vali Vijeile, or, by his original name, Valentin Rusu, a popular Romanian Roma *manele* singer, star of the primetime docusoap, *Aventurile familiei Vijelie* ("The Adventures of the Vijelie Family" 2005- Prima TV); and Hungarian Roma pop singer Győző Gáspár,

star of his own immensely successful docusoap, the *Győzike* show (2005- RTL Klub). I show that the tension between the hatred and the popularity of minority performers has forced into articulation the changing parameters of the postsocialist nation as an ethnically and linguistically defined, extended family. These socio-ethnic changes have been processed on entertainment television much more effectively and affectively than in official political venues and institutions.

Monika Metykova

European Catholic Media: A Challenge to Media Policy?

The paper proposes to challenge some of the basic premises of mainstream media research and policy, in particular a nation-centred understanding of and approach to media. The arguments are based on a case study that surpasses the defining concepts of most academic and policy debates on European media. European Catholic media are virtually absent from discussions on public spheres/media/publics/Europe. Yet, as I strive to demonstrate in this paper, the cases of the Vatican Radio – the official broadcaster of the Holy See – and of Radio Proglas – a Czech Catholic radio station – indicate a need to open up academic and policy discussions to what might seem less obvious instances of transnational/pan-European/cross-border forms of media/broadcasting/public spheres/publics. Such an opening up would involve a radical re-thinking of the basic ‘inputs’ informing policy and media research.

Isabelle Rigoni

Muslims in the European Mediascape

Mainstream media have been noted for being a powerful adversary to minority groups, their role in perpetuating stereotypical images is well documented. Although Islam is the second religion in many Western European countries, Muslims are not spared a culturalist approach and are facing deep misunderstanding. Islam is often portrayed as being associated with violence and fanaticism, whereas Muslims associate their religion with notions of justice and democracy. Although it is true that stereotypes have been reinforced since September 11, this has also given rise to a very strong voice in favour of civil liberties for Muslims and this voice is increasingly heard in Western European media. In this context, changes in the media landscape present new

challenges for multicultural and multi-faith nation-states. My paper opens with an overview on the discourse on Islam and Muslims in mainstream European media, and considers changes in the perception of Islam and Muslims in the political context of the recognition of Islamophobia and the promotion of diversity or of the visibility of minorities. The rest of the paper is devoted to Muslim media. Like other ethnic media, these can offer a forum in which to speak, a political platform, a space in which to present new images and representations of misunderstood or previously silenced minorities. After drawing a portrait of these media, their contribution in terms of media coverage, especially in the area of gender relations will be considered. Although the paper will cover the main tendencies throughout Europe, its focus will be on the UK, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain.

Katharine Sarikakis

The Citizen-at-Large: Cultural and Communication Rights in the European Context

This paper employs an 'expanded' version of citizenship in order to explore and analyse the political and socioeconomic conditions under which cultural rights and rights related to communication can be guaranteed and exercised. The paper first analyses the current provisions of cultural and communication policy in the European Union and juxtaposes those to the aims for cultural diversity and social cohesion. Further on the paper discusses the implications of such policies for vulnerable groups in relation to their political and legal status, socioeconomic capabilities and often intangible expressions of belonging. In particular, the paper considers the status of rights and protection of human dignity among groups in transitional phases, such as people on the move, as well as people in culturally 'precarious' conditions, such as migrants.

Ksenija Vidmar Horvat

Is There a Cosmopolitan Patriotism? Spaces of Belonging and Citizenship in a Post-national Era

The paper investigates the relationship between cosmopolitanism, patriotism and nationalism in post-1989 Europe. In particular, it asks whether, in contemporary

Europe, cosmopolitanism can be employed as a 'patriotic' alternative to counter xenophobic nationalism and exclusionary politics of belonging. The critical point of departure is that, whereas as a critical paradigm, cosmopolitanism claims forms of belonging that surpass/challenge narrow territorial and/or national groundings, the cosmopolitan subject remains largely defined by its cultural location. This, it is argued, should not necessarily be understood in terms of the not yet complete process of de-territorialisation by the post-national subject, but as an opportunity to reclaim spaces of patriotic politics – spaces which, in the contexts of the new Europe, are being increasingly occupied by the far right wing forces. A major challenge is how to pluralise the spaces of belonging which also demands reconsideration of the politics of cultural diversity. The second half of the paper deals with a concrete case of photographic work of Roma in Slovenia and demonstrates how this pluralisation can be achieved by engaging media and culture professionals.

Biographies

Asu Aksoy is working within the Goldsmiths Leverhulme Media Research Centre. She also teaches at Istanbul Bilgi University, in the Cultural Management Programme. She has been centrally involved in the setting up of Santralistanbul, a new cultural complex at the site of Istanbul's first electricity power plant. At Santralistanbul, she has managed a number of projects and international collaborations. Asu Aksoy was also centrally involved in Istanbul's successful bid to become a Capital of Culture in 2010. She is presently in charge of a major citywide project, *Cultural Mapping of Istanbul*. Asu Aksoy writes on cultural policy issues in the context of the changing political economy of the city. She has also worked extensively on the changing media consumption practices in Europe of Turkish-speaking migrants, and has authored and co-authored many articles on this topic.

Connie Carøe Christiansen is associate professor at Roskilde University, Department of Society and Globalization. She has an MA in cultural sociology and a PhD in

anthropology from Copenhagen University. Her research field is media, migration and gender and her publications include 'Hometown associations and solidarities in Kurdish transnational villages: the migration-development nexus in a European context.' *European Journal of Development Research*. 2008 ; vol. 20, no. 1 and 'News media consumption among immigrants in Europe : The relevance of diaspora.' *Ethnicities*. 2004, vol. 4, no. 2.

Adrian Favell is professor of European and International Studies at Aarhus University, Denmark. He is the author of various works on multiculturalism, migration, cosmopolitanism and cities, including *Philosophies of Integration: Immigration and the Idea of Citizenship in France and Britain* (1998), *The Human Face of Global Mobility* (with Michael Peter Smith, 2006), and *Pioneers of European Integration: Citizenship and Mobility in the EU* (with Ettore Recchi, 2009). In his recently published ethnography, *Eurostars and Eurocities: Free Movement and Mobility in an Integrating Europe* (Blackwell, 2008), he documents the lives and experiences of the new generation of mobile European citizens living in the cities of London, Brussels and Amsterdam. For further details see his website: www.adrianfavell.com

Anikó Imre works at the University of Southern California. Her research and teaching interests are in global, European and East European media, cultural theories of globalization and identity, children's media and media education. Imre is editor of *East European Cinemas*, published in Routledge's Film Readers series (2005), and co-editor of *Transnational Feminism in Film and Media*, published in Palgrave's Comparative Feminist Studies series (2007). Her 2009 monograph, *Identity Games: Globalization and the Transformation of Post-Communist Media Cultures*, was published with MIT Press.

Tímea Junghaus is a contemporary art curator and art historian of Roma origin. Since 2005 Junghaus has been affiliated with the Open Society Institute Foundation. She is currently finishing her PHD dissertation in film-, media- and cultural theory at the

Eötvös Lóránd University of Sciences (Budapest). She is the founder of the János Balázs Roma Art Gallery, which is located in the 8th district of Budapest (an area known for its large Roma population). She has curated several exhibitions to raise public awareness against the cultural oppression of Roma people: 'Hidden Holocaust'; 'We Are What We Are - Aspects of Roma Life in Contemporary Art'; 'Common Space'; 'About the Absence of the Camp'. She is author of the comprehensive publication on European Roma visual art: 'Meet Your Neighbours - Contemporary Roma Art from Europe' (2006). She was the curator of the 'First Roma Pavilion' in the history of the Venice Contemporary Art Biennale (www.romapavilion.org).

<http://www.romapavilion.org/>

Monika Metykova is a research associate at the Goldsmiths Leverhulme Media Research Centre. She works on a research project concerned with changing European media spaces and policy. Her recent research and publications concentrate on media and transnational migration as well as Eastern European media transformation. Her most recently published piece is 'Only a Mouse Click Away from Home: Transnational Practices of Eastern European Migrants in the United Kingdom.' *Social Identities*, September 2009.

Isabelle Rigoni is the team leader of the EU Marie Curie Excellence Team MINORITYMEDIA (www.minoritymedia.eu) hosted at Migrinter & University of Poitiers, France. She holds a PhD from the University Paris 8 (France, 2000), and was a post-doctoral fellow at the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations (University of Warwick, 2001-2003) and at the Centre Marc Bloch (Berlin, 2004-2005). She is currently teaching at Poitiers and Bordeaux 3 universities; and she taught previously in the universities of Paris 8 Saint-Denis and Evry-Val d'Essonne (1996-2005). She is working on ethnic media, migrations, transnational mobilities and gender.

Kevin Robins is a Visiting Fellow at Goldsmiths, working within the Goldsmiths Leverhulme Media Research Centre. In recent years, he has worked extensively on issues of media and migration, with particular respect to transnational Turkish migrants. Recently, he has been involved with the Council of Europe's programme on Cultural

Policy and Cultural Diversity, writing a report on The Challenge of Transcultural Diversities.

Katharine Sarikakis is senior lecturer in Communications Policy and the immediate past Director of the Centre for International Communications Research at the University of Leeds. She is the inaugural Gustaf and Anne-Marie Ander Foundation Visiting Professor in Global Media Studies at Karlstad University in 2009. She is the founding co-editor of the *International Journal of Media and Cultural Politics*, and the author of articles and books on media and cultural policy and international communications, including *Media and Cultural Policy in the European Union* (European Studies 24, Rodopi, 2007), *Feminist Interventions in International Communication* (Rowman and Littlefield 2008), *Media Policy and Globalisation* (Edinburgh University Press 2006). She is the Chair of the Communications Law and Policy Section of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA); Honorary Research Fellow at the Hainan University, China and Scientific Advisor to the Institute for Applied Communications Research in Cyprus. She has served as elected Vice-President at the International Association of Media and Communication Researchers, where she is currently serving as an elected Member of the International Council.

Ksenija Vidmar-Horvat is associate professor at Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. Her research interests are global media, Europe, post-socialism and cultural diversity. Her most recent publications include 'Globalization of Gender: *Ally McBeal* in Post-Socialist Slovenia' (*European Journal of Cultural Studies*, 2005:2); reprinted in Brundson, C., Spigel, L. (eds.), *Feminist Television Criticism*, (Open University Press, 2007); with Denis Mancević, 'Global News, Local Views: Slovene Media Reporting on 9/11' (in Tomasz Pludowski [ed.] *Global Media Reactions to September 11*, Marquette Books, 2007); with Gerard Delanty, 'Mitteleuropa and the European Heritage', *European Journal of Social Theory*, 2008, 11 (2); *The Future of Intercultural Dialogue: Views From the In-between* (Faculty of Arts Press, Ljubljana, 2008; editor); and 'Consuming European Identity: The Inconspicuous Side of Consumerism in the EU', *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, 2009: 13 (1); in press.

