



Identities and Representations

This year the conference will be held online



LOB



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung



Introduction

Identities and Representations. Interdisciplinary Perspectives.

Dear participants,

We are thrilled to welcome you to the third International Students Conference ICON Mainz 2020. This year's conference is under the topic "Identities and Representations". With this topic we try to present a discussion forum for all disciplines that address one of the countless aspects of identity and representation and thus show the entangled nature of identity that is represented in cultural, social, visual artistic, and literary discourse, as well as philosophical debates.

The way we perceive ourselves and others is constantly shaped by language, image, picture, sound, gesture, clothing, and many more. Forms of representation can include and exclude, promote and limit self-expression, as well as hinder seeing beyond stereotypes. This presents the correlation and nexus of identity and representation, which hints at both the negative and positive connotations that surround this topic.

Are our understandings of identity and forms of representation really appropriate? Do they provide a suitable basis for addressing identity related conflicts? How does one avoid the danger of essentializing identities? Does "difference" incline us to construct mutually exclusive categories when dealing with "identity?" Is there a way to ensure beneficial exchange? With your help, we hope to find answers to some of the questions surrounding identity and representation.

Sadly, due to the ongoing pandemic, this year's conference cannot take place on campus, which does not stop us from coming together virtually and holding the conference online. We are very much looking forward to your digital talks and contributions to the discussions afterwards. Please also consider attending the Online Café at the end of the conference. This will give you all the opportunity to recap and discuss the results of the individual talks as well as express further thoughts on identity and representation.

Please be sure to also take part in the [online survey](#) after the conference.
This helps us, the ICON team, to make the next conference even better
by considering your suggestions.

Goals of ICON Mainz

- to attract international and home students and motivate them to participate in the conference
- to exchange cutting edge scientific knowledge
- to share interdisciplinary perspectives
- to promote international networking and exchange
- to meet renowned scholars
- to represent JGU, thereby getting non-JGU students interested in studying at JGU
- to offer a variety of scientific events to participants
- to compile and edit the contributions and outcomes of the conference events
- to issue a confirmation of participation
- to offer an attractive social program



Campus Johannes Gutenberg-University, Photo: Vanessa Möschner

**IDENTITIES AND
REPRESENTATIONS**

All events on November 20th:

Time	BigBlueButton-Room: ICON 2020: Room 1*	BigBlueButton-Room: ICON 2020: Room 2
9:00	Reception Coffee*	
9:30	Official Welcome*	
10:00	PD Dr. Heike Delitz (Otto-Friedrich-University Bamberg)* Keynote Talk Collective Identities: Impossible and Necessary	
12:00	Margherita Di Cicco “One of the family”: social role and subjectivity negotiation of migrant domestic workers in Italy	Johann Friedrich Spindler Art, Algorithms, and Identity
13:00	Lunch Break	
14:00	Ismail Frouini Reeling Bad Moroccans: Gender, Identity, and Space in Colonial Cinema	Milena Bryła Self-Representation as a Persuasive Strategy. Case Study of Huxley's The Doors of Perception and Leary's The Politics of Ecstasy
15:00	Coffee Break	
15:30	Lena Schnapp Creating Conflicts and Easing Tension – Personal, National, and Supranational Dimensions in the Construction of Identity; The case of Anti- EU and Anti-LGBT resentments in contemporary Poland	CANCELLED Devina Dimri Objects, Identity, and Nationalism: A study of the Tibetan Community in India
16:30	Coffee Break	
17:00	Alba Eugenia Vásquez Miranda New ethnicities: tactics of representation of indigenouness in Mexico	Andreas Hohmann Professional self-images of social workers as narrative identities

All events on November 21st:

Time	BigBlueButton-Room: ICON 2020: Room 1*	BigBlueButton-Room: ICON 2020: Room 2
9:30	Roberto Ellis Processes of Identification: An Inquiry into the Constraints and Consequences of Conventional Possibilities for Subjectivization	Anita Kwiatkowska Identity extension in social media in the context of the experiences of Polish high school students – between individual and collective identity
10:30	Coffee Break	
11:00	Malin Christina Wikstrøm The Search for an Identity: Trans and Non-binary Gender Representation in Literature	Zhenya Koroleva Self-Presentation Theory Visualization
12:00	Lunch Break	
13:00	Liliia Hrytsai Environmentalism without borders or positive impact of the global citizen identity on the environmental awareness of people	Monika Firych Female Representation on Corporate Boards of Directors – A Global Perspective
14:00	Coffee Break	
14:15	Sara Kusz The Woman Knight – between Femininity and Masculinity. The Case of Poland	Norman Gómez Hernández Language teaching and translation in Colombia and Argentina: shaping or distorting identities?
15:15	Coffee Break	
15:45	Professor Kath Woodward (The Open University)* Keynote Talk Changing Identities, Changing Identifications: What is the relevance of the search for certainties?	
17:15	Online Café*	

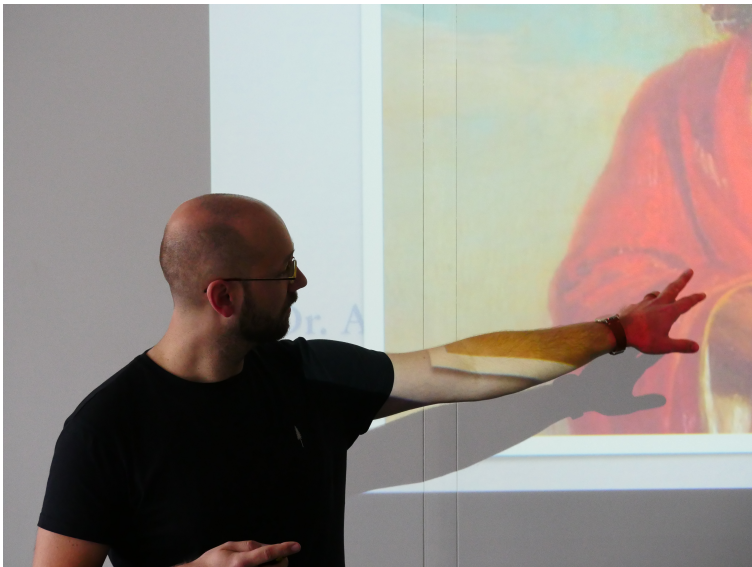
Keynote Talks

Heike Delitz (Otto-Friedrich-University Bamberg, Germany)
Collective Identities: Impossible and Necessary

The talk aims to introduce you in a sociological view on collective identity which would be as distant as possible.

Within sociological, and also within anthropological theory since the 1980s, 'collective' notions increasingly are accused of being essentialist, of being ontological or metaphysical; of homogenizing and fixating the fluid and heterogenous social reality. Those critiques concern even the most basic concepts of the social sciences, namely the notion of society (beneath all other notions for collectives). The same is true for the notions of culture(s), and of identities. In contrast, only few sociological theories explicitly concentrate on collective identities (in particular Shmuel Eisenstadt's and Bernard Giesen's). In general, theories of 'society' seem to be seldom within sociological theory today.

Against those theoretical tendencies – and in view of the nevertheless virulent societal conflicts around collective identities –, I will firstly explore the arguments against collective notions. Secondly, I will plea for a postfoundational, thoroughly non-essentialist notion of collective identity, taking 'collective identity' as impossible as necessary. Finally, I want to reveal the critique of all collective notions – and in particular that of the notions of 'collective' and 'cultural identity' – as being itself an identity politics, as being based on a particular political imagination of the collective's unity, identity, and foundation.



Second Students' Conference 2019, Photo: ICON

Kath Woodward (The Open University)

Changing Identities, Changing Identifications: What is the relevance of the search for certainties?

I explore some of the puzzles of identity and identities, drawing upon my experience of researching and writing about identities, identification and embodied selves especially in the context of sexual politics and social inequalities and relationships between inner and outer worlds, over the last 30 years. One big issue is the claim to certainties which underpin identity politics, however, diverse, fluid and fragmentary those identities may be. The concept still invokes binary logics such as nature and culture, sex and gender, visibility and invisibility. Flesh and bodies are central to the debate and I address the apparent certainties of birth and death as embodied experiences, explored in my recent research with Sophie Woodward, to suggest some ways of making sense of changing identities in changing times.



Students' Talks

Milena Bryła

Self-Representation as a Persuasive Strategy. Case Study of Huxley's *The Doors of Perception* and Leary's *The Politics of Ecstasy*

This paper treats Aldous Huxley's *The Doors of Perception* (1953) and Timothy Leary's *The Politics of Ecstasy* (the 1960s), as works of persuasion intended to encourage readers to try psychedelic substances. The presentation focuses on the differences in Huxley's and Leary's writings, considering both direct and indirect strategies. It is revealed that Huxley directly conceptualizes himself as a (FLAWED) HUMAN. Whereas his indirect representation creates the impression of a sophisticated, well-educated philosopher. Leary employs SCIENCE, RELIGION, and POLITICS as source domains for his self-describing metaphors. The aim is to compare the authors' self-representation strategies and to point out how target audiences impact their persuasive styles.

Margherita Di Cicco

“One of the family”: social role and subjectivity negotiation of migrant domestic workers in Italy

This paper provides an anthropological account on the experiences of depersonalization, precariousness, and social exclusion that affect many migrant domestic workers in Italy. It is argued that domestic work is not substantially characterized by a set of tasks but, first and foremost, in terms of the social role implicitly assigned to the worker. Docility, compliance and full availability are often regarded as necessary by employers. The representation of the worker as “one of the family” is functional in hiding the asymmetry of power between employer and employee and enhancing the exploitation of the worker’s subjectivity. As a result, migrant domestic workers are involved in constant processes of identity negotiation without the availability of an alternative environment where one’s personal sense of self can be expressed.



Devina Dimri (Shiv Nadar University, India)

Objects, Identity, and Nationalism: A study of the Tibetan Community in India

This paper is part of a larger project that I had undertaken in 2018-19, regarding material culture and the Tibetan community in exile. This particular paper, however, attempts to connect Tibetan nationalism and National identity with certain ‘things’ that I had encountered during my fieldwork in Dharamshala (India). While analysing ‘mundane everyday objects’ (such as a map at a museum, a government document, a couple of hoardings and a piece of cloth), the presentation shall attempt to delve deeper into discussions regarding place-making, nationalism, and memory. The presentation shall also be touching upon the community’s ardent desire to preserve Tibetan culture, language and experience, as well as the presence of intergenerational trauma among 2nd and 3rd generation Tibetans.

Roberto L. Ellis (Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany)

Processes of Identification: An Inquiry into the Constraints and Consequences of Conventional Possibilities for Subjectivization

In an effort to highlight the dangers of identification's internal processes and their consequences, we will piece together a new jargon to describe their instantiation. Based mostly on externally introduced concepts, and as a means to accessing collectives, alone the possibilities of subjectivization-mechanisms constructed by convention demonstrate how self models comprise concepts, nomenclature, conditions, and constraints among other things. Furthermore, our manners of self reference are often indirectly delineated, via grammatical conjugation, cultural roles etc... In this way, reviewing terms and models currently in use and approaching new ones that describe self understanding in a more explicit way, can itself serve an important function in their reflection. The hope is that the act of description will engender a circumscription of these processes, such that we, as agents who come forth by their means, are at the very least less ensnared by our own mechanisms.



Monika Firych (University of Warsaw, Poland)

Female Representation on Corporate Boards of Directors – A Global Perspective

Globally, an estimated 17% of boardroom positions in companies are held by women, and only a few countries can claim an average higher than 30%. While numerous studies have shown that ensuring female participation in the boardroom may lead to better business outcomes and smarter decision-making, not to mention the benefits of setting female leaders as role models and mentors to young girls, women are still largely under-represented in the business environment. The purpose of this conference talk is to discuss how different countries address the boardroom gender gap, with particular emphasis on regulatory and legislative initiatives, as well as to formulate recommendation and conclusions in that regard.

Ismail Frouini (Chouaib Doukkali University, Morocco)
Reeling Bad Moroccans: Gender, Identity and Space in Colonial Cinema

This paper addresses the issue of (mis)representing Moroccans during the colonial era in the Hollywood cinematic discourse. It deconstructs Arab/Berber stereotypes promoted in two Hollywood films, Josef von Sternberg's *Morocco* (1930) and in Robert Florey's *Outpost in Morocco* (1949). Further, it articulates the rationale for misrepresenting, vilifying, orientalisng and othering Moroccans in these films. This paper argues that these two films have contributed to the process of reeling the "bad" Moroccans and instilling the colonial visual pleasure. They perpetuate both the stereotypes as well as orientalist overstatements about gender, identity and space and the dominant racist discourse in ways, which are in tune with the colonial ideology.

Norman Gómez Hernández (Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany)
Language teaching and translation in Colombia and Argentina: shaping or distorting identities?

Despite the idea of Hispanic America being a huge monolingual bloc of nations where languages other than Spanish are irrelevant for communication, the continent enjoys a rich and multilingual diversity and has been strongly influenced both by individual national language policies and by the translations of important literary works. Policies adopted in terms of language and translators' training have driven the prevalence, permanence, or absence of one or another language in the countries of that immense territory.

In this talk, we will discuss concrete examples of language policies adopted in Argentina and Colombia, whether for the promotion/restriction of particular languages, or in the fields of language teaching and translation, during different moments of history. This information will present a close —though not exhaustive— view of the situation of language and translation teaching in Hispanic America to help us understand how language mediators are central in shaping and preserving our collective identity.

Andreas Hohmann (University of Siegen, Germany)
Professional self-images of social workers as narrative identities

The lecture discusses how social workers employ narrative identities to construct professional self-images in life stories by presenting basic theoretical assumptions and first empirical results of a current dissertation project. Theories of narrative identity raise awareness to the fact that the construction of meaning essentially is done by telling stories. It is argued that it is useful for the professionalization discourse to analyze the storytelling and stories of social workers in order to understand how certain impact factors lead to a self-understanding as a professional.

Liliia Hrytsai (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Lublin, Poland)

Environmentalism without borders or positive impact of the global citizen identity on the environmental awareness of people

With the greatest world's interconnections and growing globalization, individuals are tending to adopt a more inclusive identity – global citizenship. This research examines the relations between the global citizen identity and environmental awareness of people. The results show that global citizens have a higher environmental awareness and are more disposed to care about natural environment than the rest of population. Many scholars argue that to be a global citizen means to be a 'green', i.e. use renewables, save water and electricity, etc. People, who identify themselves as global citizens, have a broad and comprehensive thinking about humanity's impact on the planet.



Zhenya Koroleva (ITMO University, Russia)

Self-Presentation Theory Visualization

This digital interactive visualisation is intended to establish a new and optimal way of representing E. Goffman's self presentation theory as well as an attempt to present the author's self in an unconventional and open manner. Reflection, comparison and observation were used to complete the data pool for this work. Later, several key ideas of the theory were embodied in 3D model consisting of 5 masks with infographics. It is possible to rotate the structure and zoom in and out to explore the infographics' details. This memorable work makes Goffman's theory understandable and challenges the author to put their own identity in a framed digital format.

Sara Kusz (Jagiellonian University Cracow, Poland)

The Woman Knight – between Femininity and Masculinity. The Case of Poland

The purpose of the paper is to examine the relation of femininity and masculinity in a figure of so-called 'woman knight', an armed heroine, as she was presented in the Polish culture, especially in the literature, throughout the 18th and 19th Century. According to gender studies, a woman knight is an inherently ambiguous character whose patriotic intentions are not to be blamed but who, nevertheless, has to fall as she deprives herself of her femininity. On the basis of a few literary examples, concerning a historical character named Chrzanowska, I would like to argue that in the Polish culture this was only mostly, but not always the case.

Anita Kwiatkowska

Identity extension in social media in the context of the experiences of Polish high school students – between individual and collective identity

Although M. Castells several years ago wrote that Internet information and communication technologies, as never before, support social change and the emergence of new structures, it's the current high school students who are the first generation which doesn't remember analogue times and strongly adopted the use of social media that it became an extension of their identity. The presentation will show the preliminary analysis and conclusions of the project which is a study of what is the identity of young people in Poland and how they represent themselves when they participate in social media communities with relevance to constructing themselves.

Lena Schnapp (Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-University Bonn, Germany)

Creating Conflicts and Easing Tension – Personal, National, and Supranational Dimensions in the Construction of Identity; The case of Anti- EU and Anti-LGBT resentments in contemporary Poland"

How are identities constructed? Which actors participate in this construction? And how do we respond to collective identities like a national identity if they are in conflict with other identities we have? To answer these questions, we will examine the case of LGBT in Poland. For this, we will look at the role of different actors in Poland like the Catholic church, the governing party PiS and supranational institutions like the EU. Given the conservative anti-LGBT and anti-EU sentiment in Poland, our goal will be to identify the explicit strategies employed by LGBT to still express their identity in a national context that denies them.

Johann Friedrich Spindler (Royal College of Art London, UK)
Art, Algorithms, and Identity

With the emergence of social media sites like Facebook or YouTube, we have experienced a massive shift in the way we view ourselves and those around us. In my talk, I want to address some of the questions this poses to our collective sense of identity and discuss the role of art and design in this shift. I will look at the role of navigation, convergence and naturalization on the internet, both for their design and their impact, and expand into relevant conversations around art and identity, those that are new, and others that can be tied back to media theory of the 60s or Ancient Greek discussions over the value of tragedy.



Alba Eugenia Vásquez Miranda (Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany)
New ethnicities: tactics of representation of indigenusness in Mexico

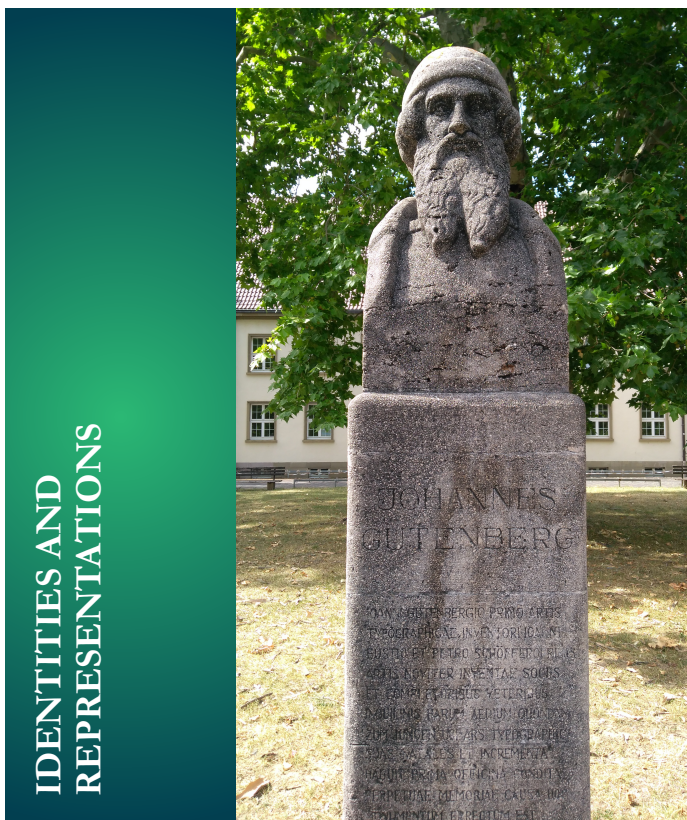
With different scopes, indigenous cultures and their languages have been globally recognized as the pivot for democratic participation. In Mexico, public policies recognize multiculturalism and interculturality as paradigms for promoting ethnic relationships. With an interdisciplinary approach from discourse and visual studies on cultural objects such as portraits, musical performances and street art, the notion of new ethnicities unpacks the complex identities, whose discursive representations pose new challenges for the analysis of intercultural social dynamics.

I will discuss instances of representation and self-representation as tactics that explore the complexity of current indigenous Mexican identities, beyond historical hegemonic representations of indigenous identity.

Malin Christina Wikstrøm (University of Aberdeen, UK)

The Search for an Identity: Trans and Non-binary Gender Representation in Literature

In the last few decades, there has been an increase of representation of trans and gender non-conforming individuals in media and arts, but it has often been negative and increase the stigma towards people who do not fit into the stereotypical view of gender in society. In my presentation, I will look at three novels: *Tipping the Velvet* (1998), *The Danish Girl* (2000) and *I Wish You All the Best* (2019). Through discussing the representation of gender in these novels, I aim to contribute to the fight against social stigma and to introduce my audience to a new perspective on gender.



Johannes Gutenberg, Photo: Vanessa Möschner

Impressum

Studium generale, Icon-Team & Dr. Daniel Schmicking

Editorial Office: Nadine Heckmann, Melanie Kroska, Vanessa Möschner, Daniel Schmicking, Elena Syvokonyuk

Photos: Vanessa Möschner, Elena Syvokonyuk

Text: Melanie Kroska, Participants

Typesetting & Layout: Vanessa Möschner

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

SB2, Studium generale

Colonel-Kleinmann-Weg

55128 Mainz

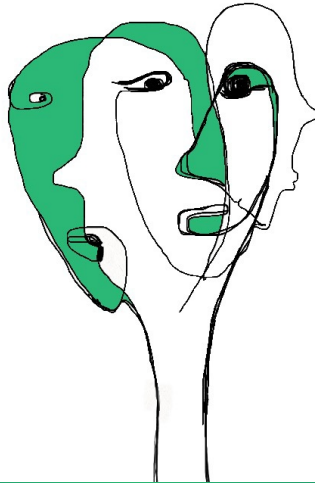
icon@uni-mainz.de

<https://icon.uni-mainz.de>



Portal JGU Mainz, Photo: Elena Syvokonyuk

IDENTITIES AND REPRESENTATIONS



© Elena Syvokonyuk

Identities and Representations

ICON Mainz is an interdisciplinary and international students' conference at the University of Mainz. It wants to offer students from all over the world a platform to exchange ideas about their research projects, to get to know current topics from other fields of research and to broaden their horizon by exchanging ideas with other students.

A further goal of **ICON** is to raise awareness that students can make a valuable contribution to research worldwide. This is why **ICON** gives students the opportunity to present their research and discuss it with a wider audience.

What is special about **ICON** is that the organization team is made up of students from different disciplines and nationalities: It is a conference organized by students for students.