

On the very idea of transculturality

The concept of transculturality as I developed it since the early 1990s focuses on the contemporary permeation and mingling of cultures that once were considered to be separate and deeply different. In this respect the concept of transculturality differs from the concepts of multiculturalism and interculturality. Today the majority of persons is characterized by a plural, hybrid type of identity. People draw on sources from various cultures when developing their identity. Not only migrants' but literally everybody's identity tends to be transcultural rather than monolithic. The fact that different transcultural identities always have some elements in common while differing in other respects allows for much more communication and mutual understanding than it would be possible if the concepts of multiculturalism and interculturality were appropriate. This is one reason why the concept of transculturality is able to cope with contemporary social situations and problems. One of the main tasks of cultural learning today is to recognize one's own inner transculturality and to face the transculturality of other persons - instead of falling prey to age-old stereotypes. Transculturality fosters a practice of recognition instead of demarcation.