

SUMMARY

Förderprogramm Support Program

„Schlüsselthemen für Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft“ der Volkswagenstiftung Key Issues for the Sciences and Society of the Volkswagen Foundation

The Maghreb in Motion Performative-hybrid Diasporas (*Hospitality – Body – Belonging – Emotion – Desire*)

The *main goal of the project* is to analyze constructions and representations of ‘new diasporic’ formations. In the context of Maghrebian cultures and the ‘performative-hybrid’ diasporas that emerge from processes of globalization, the geographical foci are France and Spain. The project assumes that these ‘new diasporas’ are primarily characterized neither by diverse ethno-religious origins on the part of their members, nor by the mythos or project of returning, as has traditionally been the case; but rather by diverse social and pluricultural relations that foster and develop ambivalent and multifaceted feelings and positions. Within the project, this assumption will be investigated further. Therefore, the constitutive categories of ‘hospitality’, ‘belonging’, ‘emotion’, ‘body’, and ‘desire’ will play a central role in the project, acting as the core building blocks of a dynamic process that shapes cultural values, behaviors, and negotiations, as well as a sense of ‘finding one’s place in the world’. Thus, the concept of ‘integration’ contained in the current (linear) understanding and praxis of migration will be supplemented or even replaced by ‘reciprocal and dynamic interaction’ in the sense of ‘mutual recognition’, ‘hospitality’, ‘belonging’, and ‘shared responsibility’ in a ‘shared space’ and a ‘shared culture’. ‘New diasporas’ are formed in the course of this process as results of a ‘situation imperative’ or ‘situation dispositive’ that construct their own spaces, histories, and identifying practices. The *corpus* of the project consists of archives, statistics, and administrative reports concerning the history of Maghrebian migration; as well as literary texts, travel journals, autobiographies, testimony, diaries, interviews, film, media, and institutions. The project is based on synchronous, systematic, epistemological, and historical *approaches*. It draws on decades of experience in literary, social, and culture studies and the humanities, as well as culture studies from the privileged perspective of the mediation and translation of cultures. The synchronous approach uses theories and methods from the fields of postcolonialist, poststructuralist, hybridity, diversity, and diaspora research; the newer fields of media and gender research; *global history* or *histoires connectées*; and transcultural, transdisciplinary, ‘transversal’, and *trans-area studies*. The historical approach evaluates the hypothesis of the creation of new performative-hybrid diasporas as a result of a new outlook in the humanities on migration phenomena and processes in Maghrebian cultures. It pursues the question of what kinds of changes migrations undergo over generations; what kinds of relations migrating peoples keep with their countries of origin and countries of arrival; and how their goals, expectations, desires, the organization of their community life, familial roles, and social roles change, especially in the 21st century. It also investigates how they build their identities, develop a sense of double or plural belonging, and experience hospitality; as well as how the migrant’s view of the arrival society and the arrival society’s view of the migrant are transformed in the course of colonization, decolonization, and postcolonialism. Focus is placed on the description of how transitory settlements give way to long-term ones with multiple loyalties; transcultural, nomadic movements; and settlements in the countries of origin and arrival; and finally, on how Maghrebian diasporas develop into ‘networked diasporas’ with other diaspora groups in social, cultural, and professional contexts. This produces individual and collective, multiple, and interwoven ‘stories’, as well as new social and societal actors with self-determined and self-defined identities and new social constellations. An additional aim of the research is to contribute to the networked and international visibility of the humanities, especially literary and culture studies, and their integration into praxis in the form of *expertise* within cultural, social, and political institutions. This will promote a new cultural and political agenda that takes into account conflictive situations at societal interfaces and thus encourages a new mode of political thought.

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