

ETHNICITY AND MIGRANT GROUPS

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Ethnicity and culture

- cultural practices perceived as “typical” for the community, or on myths of a common historical origin, or on phenotypical similarities indicating common descent (Martiniello, 2013)

Ethnicity and subjectivity

- ‘a subjectively felt belonging to a group that is distinguished by a shared culture and by common ancestry’ (Max Weber)
- **not based on objective differences** between groups,
- but on the perception of the importance of these differences in social relations.
- Ethnicity is a **social and political construct of perceived difference** (Martiniello, 2013).
- The ethnic dimension is not always as relevant in all social relationships and contexts (Martiniello, 2013), since people may emphasize it in certain situations, while trivializing it in other contexts. → superdiversity
- Self categorisation

Ethnicity and polity

- Ethnic expression depends too on the state's impact on the perception developed by about dominant and sub dominant ethnic groups members, the resources for community organizations and the collective mobilization as well as the reciprocal recognition of ethnic groups in the political process
- Pluralist policies of migrants integration vs assimilationist policies of migrants integration

Ethnicity and social inequalities

- Martiniello (2013) defines ethnicity by means of political and **social differentiation** on the one hand, and structural **inequality in contemporary societies** on the other hand.
- Ethnic boundary making and consequent ethnic identity seen in terms of power, networks, institutions (Wimmer, 2013)
- Some ethnic identities are more legitimate
- Social imputation

Ethnicity and social scales

- Individual level:
 - ▣ largely subjective
 - ▣ the feeling and the consciousness of belonging to an ethnic group possibly because of a shared migration background but also imputed by, for example perceived discrimination which can cause 'reactive' ethnic identity (Hagedorn, 2008).
- Meso-social level: ethnic mobilization and ethnic collective action, structured by a collective ethnic identity (e.g. in community organisations).
- Macro-social level, the structural constraints that shape ethnic identities, and provide individuals a determined social position depending on their attributed belonging to an ethnic category.

- Ethnicity and migration generally linked
- Ethnicity and the country of origin are variably linked:
 - ▣ Ethnic diversity and different ethnic groups in the country of origin
 - ▣ Frequency of the contacts and visits with the country of origin
 - ▣ symbolic ethnicity of migrant descendants
- ethnicity and acculturation coexists

Ethnicity and community

- Ethnic mobilization
- If ethnic identification, higher probability of ethnic pressure conformity in certain social spaces and practices