

## **Doing National Identity through Transnationality: Categorizations and Mechanisms of Inequality in Integration Debates**

At a very general level the notions of national identity and social integration of immigrants in public debates refer to the inclusion of heterogeneous parts into a national whole. Public as well as academic discourses addressing issues of integration often espouse a disjunction between the social integration of migrants and the overall integration of society on the national level, on the one hand, and a transnational realm which seems to be a site of potential disintegration, populated by transnational communities, diasporas and cross-border networks, on the other. The specter of transnational disintegration has significant implications for resource, status and power inequalities.

The juxtaposition between national integration and transnational disintegration, sometimes connected with binaries such as liberal and modern vs. illiberal and traditional, is mirrored in debates on national identity, for example regarding dual citizenship and religious practices. This distinction between national integration and transnational disintegration is itself at the root of inequality-producing processes on a discursive level. This analysis asks about the function and effects of "doing" national identity for discursively produced social inequalities. It strives to trace the process of the production of discursively visible inequalities out of heterogeneities, with a particular focus on transnational social and symbolic ties, that is, transnationality.