

Theme 3

Citizenship, Modernity, and Inclusion: How Gender and Nation Matter

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Key campus faculty:

Felix Elwert (Associate Professor of Sociology; affiliate Center for Demography of Health and Aging)

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Chad Goldberg (Professor of Sociology; affiliate Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies)

Kris Olds (Professor and Chair, Geography)

This theme group addresses the modern German state and its relation to its people from a mix of demographic, political, and social perspectives. Although the participants are all social scientists, they represent both quantitative and qualitative approaches and link these with concerns about the role of higher education, migration, citizenship, and aging populations. The central concern is to illuminate the dynamics of inclusion and exclusion at play in German social and political development in the past hundred years. These dynamics have been (and some would argue, still are): racialized barriers to full citizenship for Jews, Muslims, and non-European migrants; competition between gender norms and competitive economic demands in restructuring higher education; political competition between generations to meet age-specific social and economic needs; tensions about policing borders and identifying threats while maintaining civil liberties.

These challenges are by no means unique to Germany; they are the issues that modernity has created for industrial democracies around the world. However, Germany's economic power in Europe, as well as its historically-grounded sensitivity to the dangers in political, social, and economic exclusions of particular populations, makes it especially important to understand these processes. Moreover, the German state has been active in attempting to address these challenges in ways that other countries have not: it has initiated major reforms of its system of higher education to increase competitiveness while also mainstreaming gender inclusion in the professoriate; it has generated important new data resources on employment and the life course; it has been exceptionally open with archival data on state violence and promoted awareness of the continuing relevance of historical violations of human rights for contemporary politics. Both German scholarship and German data thus offer rich resources to social science scholarship on the dynamics of citizenship, understood not as a mere legal status but as the experiences of incorporation and exclusion that are fundamental to boundary drawing. In the modern world, the chief actors drawing boundaries remain nation-states, but their ability to include and exclude is shaped to an increasing degree by supranational norms and institutions.

Theme 3 brings together both the challenges and opportunities for understanding German social dynamics in a set of faculty research projects that are synergistic both by hosting prominent German scholars in Madison for collaborative work and exploring innovative uses of new data. The collaborative synergy is evident in how the focal work of each faculty participant connects with partners—both on and off campus:

1) Gender is the central question in Ferree’s collaborative project on the transformation of the German system of higher education, being done with external partners Paula-Irene Villa (Professor of Sociology, LMU), Susanne Baer (HU Berlin, on leave to serve as Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court), Dr. Karin Zimmermann (Institute for Research on Higher Education, Wittenberg), and Kathrin Zippel (Professor of Sociology, Northeastern University, Boston). As PI of the evaluation research on the *Professorinnen-Programm*, Baer has access to new data on the gender equity programs of all German universities, and Villa has data on the language employed for gender and inclusion in proposals for the *Exzellenzinitiativ*. Another key Madison participant, Kris Olds, has been collecting data on ranking systems and definitions of excellence in global educational competition and examining the role of faculty governance in defining excellence in specific countries and universities. External partners include Kurt Deketelaere (League of European Research Universities, Belgium), Janna Pukka (OECD, Paris), Susan Robertson (Professor of Sociology, University of Bristol), Nigel Thrift (Vice Chancellor, University of Warwick), Michael Gaebel (European University Association, Belgium), and Pavel Zgaga (Ljubljana University, Slovenia).

2) Europe in general and Germany in particular has rejected a discourse of “race” without eliminating the force of perceived racial-ethnic categorizations, especially those which rely on religious difference. Ivan Ermakoff and Chad Goldberg, as historically oriented political sociologists, consider German Jewish citizenship from two different but complementary angles. Ermakoff focuses on the state and its capacity to mobilize popular violence to complement genocidal policies, while Goldberg addresses how the issues of nationhood and the citizenship of non-Christian populations in Christian-majority states were framed by major Jewish social theorists in the early twentieth century.

3) Citizenship in modern welfare states is often defined by access to social opportunity, and quantitative demographic research explores the dynamics of contemporary religious-ethnic exclusions in education, employment, and unemployment. Felix Elwert contributes demographic insight into cumulative disadvantage and generational variation across the life course in conjunction with our former colleague and now external partner, Prof. Markus Gangl, University of Frankfurt. New German data sets with excellent longitudinal, cross-generational designs are at the heart of the quantitative aspect of this collaboration. Through this grant, we propose to bring key data experts here to work with our demography graduate students to use this German data. Parallel to this, Gangl’s pending ISAP grant will enable German graduate students to take advantage of our demography training program, in which we address gender, race, migration, and generational questions in cutting edge quantitative causal models.