



CIVIS Workshop for doctoral students

“Language and Identity in the Intercultural Encounter”

Bucharest, 6th-8th of June, 2022

Venue: University of Bucharest, Romania

Application Deadline: 30th April, 2022

Lecturers: Helena Bodin (University of Stockholm), Héctor Grad Fuchsel, (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid), Mădălina Guzun (University of Bucharest/University of Tübingen), Bogdan Mincă (University of Bucharest), Niels Weidtmann (University of Tübingen)

Topic

When reflecting upon identity, we must bear in mind at least two levels on which we can analyse this concept: on one hand, the level of personal identity, on the other hand, the one of collective identity. But, under both of these perspectives, identity can be put itself into question as a concept. In the philosophical tradition, identity stands for stability, sameness and unity as opposed to changing and multiplicity. But is the concept of identity understood in these terms suitable for expressing our social being, or should we rather replace it with a notion that takes into account multiple allegiances and diversity, like for example the notion of “belonging” (*appartenance*)? On a personal level, one can belong to several groups or “social identities”, while on the collective level, we may ask the question of what insures the cohesion of a community, and what defines its belonging.

Such an endeavor leads us to the problem of language: is speech the foundation of this cohesion, in such a way that the *relation* between language and identity is constitutive for both terms? Or, on the contrary, is linguistic congruence only a type of identification among others, language itself being but one of several markers of identity, along with ethnicity, tradition or religion? However, unlike religion, language is not exclusive. One can be born in several mother-tongues, or one can displace oneself by learning other languages. Therefore, the question of a foreign language, just as the one of an identity translation, comes to the fore. In what our individuality is concerned, how does our relation to our mother tongue change, if we experience our belonging to a community through a foreign language? In what the community itself is concerned, does its perception of identity change, by any means, through the encounter of the foreign?

What kind of in-between develops itself, then, in the middle ground of different cultures, which may speak the same religion or ethnicity, but not necessarily the same language? What kind of intercultural undergoing takes place, for example, between countries like Turkey, Iran and Iraq within Islam, or within Switzerland as a plurilinguistic nationhood? Is plurilingualism itself an

indisputable reality, or should we all rather affirm, as Jacques Derrida invites us to do, that we have only but one language, which though never belongs to us? In this respect, the question of identity is set upon a new ground, opening an inner finitude proper to any inclusion, just as to any ownership.

Organisation

The workshop is organized under the umbrella of the “CIVIS – A European Civic University” program in which 10 Universities from all over Europe come together to collaborate in research and teaching (Tübingen, Aix-Marseille, Athens, Brussels, Bucharest, Glasgow, Madrid, Rome, Salzburg and Stockholm). It is part of a series of workshops aiming to establish an academic network of PhD-students who are interested in the general topic of “Intercultural Philosophy and Global Epistemologies”.

The workshop will last for three days. Participants are expected to arrive a day before and to leave the day after the workshop, so that the workshop itself allows for three whole days of work. Besides presentations and seminars held by the lecturers, all participating PhD students are invited to present part of their research projects related to the topic of the workshop (15-minute presentation followed by discussions).

The workshop is funded by means of the CIVIS Project. Therefore, all participants get a flat-rate allowance to cover their travel costs as well as a daily allowance. The participants receive these financial means from the Erasmus-office of their respective home Universities. The financial means of the workshop have already been granted, therefore we can assist you in the process of receiving your grant.

Application

This workshop is open to doctoral students from all disciplines (master students can be admitted on well-grounded argumentation). Applications should supply the following documents:

- Application form
- CV (2 pages max)
- Cover letter with the expression of interest (300 words – maximum)
- Paper title and 300-word abstract

Applications should be sent until the **30th of April, 2022** to info@cof.uni-tuebingen.de or to our postal address:

College of Fellows
Geschwister Scholl Platz
72074 Tübingen
Germany

A letter of admission will reach successful applicants by the beginning of May.

**APPLICATION FORM: CIVIS Workshop for Doctoral Students Language and Identity
in the Intercultural Encounter (6th – 8th of June, 2022)**

Name:

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Citizenship:

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Address:

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E-mail:

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Fields of expertise:

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Academic degrees:

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Universities:

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Enrollment status:

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How did you become aware of
this event?

(Please be specific)

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