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**Racism in Germany. A power-reflexive, biographical and discourse-analytical study, published as: Rassismus in Deutschland. Eine macht-reflexive, biographietheoretische und diskursanalytische Studie (Theorie und Praxis der Diskursforschung). Wiesbaden, Springer VS, 2018.**

## **1 Introduction**

## **2 Focus of the study**

- 2.1 Racist knowledge, racism as a discursive practice and discourses about racism

## **3 Theoretical and methodological perspectives on biography & discourse**

- 3.1 Theoretical perspective on biography
  - 3.2 Establishment of the discourse perspective for a biographical-theoretical approach
  - 3.3 Power in self-presentations and in the research process
  - 3.4 Considerations for establishing a self-reflexive perspective
- Excursus I: Attributing racism and relativizing racism. The power of research interpretation  
Excursus II: Self-reflection in white spaces or white spaces of self-assurance
- 3.5 Position and positioning as an analytical perspective

## **4 Reconstructing patterns of racism: Methods**

- 4.1 Part I of the study: life courses
- 4.2 Part II of the study: discourse analysis
- 4.3 The relationship between biography, discourse & interaction

## **5 Racism in Germany: A historical discourse reflection**

- 5.1 The construction of the concept of 'race'
- 5.2 From German colonialism to the 'Black Disgrace on the Rhine'
- 5.3 People of Color in national-socialism: Between invisibility and persecution
- 5.4 Racism after 1945: Between continuity and concealment

## **6 Dealing with racism I: A discourse-analytical view of racism in the present**

- 6.1 Short classification of a broad (scientific) field
- 6.2 Discourses about racism
- 6.3 Racist knowledge
- 6.4 Summary & preview of the interviews

## **7 Dealing with Racism II: Biographical patterns of dealing with racism**

- 7.1 Self chosen attention: Heide Abayomi GDR
- 7.2 Distancing oneself from the racist others: Sabine Pohl, FRG
- 7.3 Maintaining autonomy: Nadja Hausen, South Africa
- 7.4 Interventions: Mediation and enlightenment - Michael Mohabi, Cameroon & Liv Reiners

## **8 Rethinking racism from a postcolonial and post national-socialist perspective**

- 8.1 Reflections on the conception of a historical and critical research perspective

## **9 Patterns of dealing with racism: a summary**

- 9.1 Thematizations and dethematizations
  - 9.2 Discourse appropriations and negotiations
  - 9.3 Discursive positionings in biographical self-presentations
  - 9.4 Biographical patterns of dealing with racism
  - 9.5 Racism and its thematic entanglements
- Excursus: Migration and system transformation as entries into new discourse universes

## **10: Conclusion & outlook: Racism in discourse**

## Summary

Through racist attributions and practices, People of Color in Germany are still marked as different. Colonial attributions have continued to prove as powerful in Germany as biological attributions in continuity to Nazi ideology. At the same time, these historical continuities have proven to be largely not discussed in both parts of Germany. Linked to these ascriptions are rather diffuse practices of othering and exclusion, which are not traced back to their historical or social origin in the discourse and therefore constitutes disputable and individualized experiences. This field of tension is pursued from a knowledge of sociological perspective on three levels.

With a biographical approach, the biographical patterns of dealing with racism are brought into focus. Four types of dealing with racism have been reconstructed: the self-chosen attention, the distancing, the maintenance of autonomy and the interventions. This types of dealing with racism are focused in their genesis and their interconnectedness with familial, milieu-specific and socio-historical circumstances.

With a discourse-analytical perspective, the present ways German society deals with racism and its historical background of colonialism and National Socialism are made visible. Two discursive strands of dealing with and modes of speaking about racism are presented: racism as a marginal phenomenon and racism as an overall social phenomenon or an everyday experience. Those are the strands against which the biographers layer their experiences.

With a self-reflexive-power-critical perspective, power relations and the resulting positions and positionings in the interaction and the research process are taken into consideration and, in addition, the intersecting positioning on the level of the biography are focused.

Thus, this study makes power relations transparent on a wider scale: historically, biographically and interactively. In summary, a multi-perspective view of racism is taken. The study provides insights into the societal and biographical perception and the ways of dealing with racism in Germany, the power dimension of racist discourses, but also the possibilities of appropriation, the mechanisms of power in the life courses and in the interaction and the interdependency of racism and other mechanisms of exclusion at the level of biography.

In addition, the project attempts to further the triangulation of biographical research and discourse analysis in order to enhance empirical research methodology.