

Super-Diversity: Comparative Questions

27-28 September 2012

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity
Göttingen, Germany

The notion of super-diversity underlines a call to re-evaluate concepts and policies surrounding diversity by way of moving beyond an ethno-focal understanding of diversity and adopting a multi-dimensional approach. In this two day workshop, participants will explore how this notion has been operationalised in empirical research on urban areas around the world.

Assuming that processes and manifestations of super-diversity are varied in different contexts, one goal of the workshop is to chart a variety of (new?) forms of urban diversity as well as to assess the impacts of these forms or urban social contexts. The Workshop's emphasis will be on developing a global comparative perspective on the various constellations and ways of studying super-diversity in cities around the world. The term itself will also be interrogated with regard to its usefulness, or not, in working towards better understandings of contemporary urban settings and migration dynamics.

Questions to be posed at the workshop include:

- What are the links between changing migration patterns and changing patterns of super-diversity?
- Are there other aspects of social and spatial differentiation that ought to be part of how we understand migration-driven urban diversity?
- What are the consequences of applying a super-diversity lens to the challenges of social and economic integration of migrants in cities?
- How can super-diversity variables such as new migration flows, legal statuses and labour market trajectories be better conceptualised for social science research?
- What are the most suitable approaches to, and methods for, studying super-diversity?

THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2012

08:30-08:45 Coffee

08:45-09:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks – Steven Vertovec and Fran Meissner (MPI-MMG)

09:00-11:00 Session 1 - Old and new destinations old and new diversities Discussant: Marco Martiniello - CEDEM, Université de Liège

Jozefien De Bock - European University Institute Florence
Super-Diversity: 21st Century phenomenon or useful research tool for past migrations?

Jessica Sperling - City University of New York (CUNY)
The relevance of superdiversity in new immigrant destinations

Paul Spoonley - Massey University
New diversity, old anxieties: The complex identity politics and engagement of cities in settler societies

11:00-11:15 Coffee

11:15-13:15 Session 2 - Old and New Diversities - Conceptual Challenges Discussant: Janine Dahinden - MAPS, Université de Neuchâtel

Piia Varis - Tilburg University
The sociolinguistics of super-diversity

Beatriz Padillia - ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa
Ethnography of super-diversity and conviviality: Useful frameworks for analysing migration in global cities?

Fran Meissner - MPI-MMG
Migrations in post-migration? The nexus between super-diversity and migration studies. Reflecting on conceptual challenges

13:15 -14:45 Lunch

14:45-16:45 Session 3 - Identifying and Acting in Super-Diversity Discussant: Darshan Vigneswaran - Universiteit van Amsterdam

Jens Schneider - IMIS, Universität Osnabrück
São Paulo & Rio de Janeiro: Migration, diversity and the Brazilian self

Rojan Ezzati - Peace Research Institute Oslo
"Where are you from or when did you come?" Urban migrants' transnational practices and considerations of return through a super-diversity lens

Kirsten Biehl - COMPAS, University of Oxford
Encounters with "super-diversity": Migration and emergent minoritizations in a globalizing space of Istanbul

16:45-17:30 Concluding Discussion Day One

19:00 Dinner

FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2012

08:45-09:00 Coffee

09:00-11:00 Session 4 – Governing and providing services in super-diversity Discussant: Kristine Krause - MPI-MMG

Jenny Phillimore - University of Birmingham
Using superdiversity to shape social welfare provision in global neighbourhoods: new migrant maternity in the West Midlands, UK

Raul Acosta - ITESO University, Guadalajara
Challenges of new immigration and super-diversity in Guadalajara and Mexico City

Paolo Boccagni - University of Trento
Super-Diversity and the Migration-Social Work Nexus: A new lens for mapping the field of access and inclusion?

11:00-11:15 Coffee

11:15-13:15 Final Discussion – Super-Diversity: Future Questions Chair: Ralph Grillo – Sussex University

Summary Statements: Steven Vertovec, Marco Martiniello, Janine Dahinden, Darshan Vigneswaran, Kristine Krause and Fran Meissner

13:15-14:30 Lunch and Departure



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