

Marinna Heimbach Steins: Integration – a Magic Formula? Socio-ethical explorations into migration politics

Integration as a new emphasis in German immigration politics is a many-faceted and controversial concept. This essay distinguishes between the facets of different concepts of integration and asks for the socio-ethical problems related with it. For a normative orientation the criteria of *acknowledgement* and *participation* are introduced and central fields of political and social implementation are identified. For reasons of justice integration politics focussed on the interests of the host society should not be isolated from the political aspects of migration and third-world aid.

Markus Babo: German Immigration Law in European Context. Current situation and socio-ethically relevant problems

The European Union offers its citizens an area of freedom, security and justice, while third country nationals both are subjected to a set of restrictions and stand under general suspicion, if they even succeed in entering this privileged area. The right to asylum has been precariously limited, the right to family reunification has been restricted and immigration for economic reasons has been limited to highly-qualified employees and financially strong investors who, however, find little attractive conditions of admission. Such a migration law does not cope either with the humans concerned or with the responsibilities in relation to other states or with the own demographic development of the European Union.

Katja Neuhoff: Integration by Education. Challenges for school and vocational education

The group of female and male migrants in Germany is heterogeneous, as the problems it meets with are accordingly manifold. It is united, however, by its relation towards the host society in

matters of integration. Integration, in fact, is regarded in Germany still as a duty to be fulfilled by the immigrants and less as a genuine task of society as a whole. This uneven perception of integration is reflected not only by the unbalanced relation of demands and supplies in integration but also by the forms of structural discrimination in institutions of education. For education being able to unfold its integrative potential basic changes are necessary which not only relate to the educational sector in general but also the area of social and labour politics as well as home affairs. Integration by education requires a more comprehensive social integration.

Albert-Peter Rethmann: Shaping Integration. Models and criteria of a responsible integration policy

This essay deals with the theological and ethical foundations of the integration of migrants and discusses current questions of migration politics in Germany (integration courses, nationality law, family politics etc.). It concludes that integration is not a one-sided act of assimilation of the migrants. Integration depends on the good will of the members of the host society to shape immigration and integration in a such a way that all justified interests of all concerned are duly respected. An ethically responsible legal framework and the integration of migrants into the everyday life of the host society must complement one another in this.

„An Unruly Immigration Country“ – Interview with Helena Flam about discrimination and integration of migrants in Germany

Helena Flam was from 2002 to 2006 in charge of the German part of the EU-

Abstracts

sponsored eight-country research project on the discrimination of migrants. The comprehensive results (about schools, job market, political parties, among others) have been recently published in the book "Migrants in Germany: Statistics – Facts – Discourses", Universitätsverlag Konstanz, 2007. The following conversation refers to these results. It first deals with general questions: How has the interaction with migrants in Germany changed over the last years? To what extent are there still discriminatory attitudes? Which conditions are conducive, which detrimental to the goals of integration? Is there at all a guiding concept of integration? Can the possibility of democratic participation for immigrants be improved? The last part of the interview discusses the institutional forms of the discrimination of the children of migrants at school level and describes perspectives for necessary reforms.

Bringing about Human Relations – Interview with Father Ruedi Beck about integration and new ways of pastoral care

Is it at all possible that more than one hundred nationalities live peacefully together in a suburban community? What can a Christian community, what can its individual members contribute towards it? How are they themselves changed by a more open view – beyond the boundaries of religion and denomination – on the people who arrive as foreigners and look for a new home? What insights are there from the living in a multi-cultural parish for the pastoral care of the future? Ruedi Beck, a priest from the lower Kleinbasel, which has the reputation of a deprived area, reports about his commitment to the inhabitants there – a commitment which is both social work and pastoral care at the same time.