

# Reactive Ethnicity and Oppositional Identity Disadvantaged Male Turkish Second- generation Youth in Germany

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Summary of the presentation

# Underachievement and reasons



- The descendants of Turkish immigrants achieve the lowest educational qualifications and leave school earlier in Germany (Song 2011).
- This is interpreted as evidence of this group's disinclination to integration in Germany : Ethnic retention causes disintegration

# Reactive ethnicity & Oppositional Identity



- When people experience discrimination they increase their ethnic identification with their ethnic group
- Empirical studies: **persistent educational disadvantage** and **perceived discrimination** particularly reinforces the valorization of shared religious or ethnic background among minority youth.
- Reactive ethnicity can take the form of oppositional identity when the dominant group denigrates the immigrants' culture.
- Unlike reactive ethnicity, which refers to simply maintaining ethnic culture, oppositional identity refers to a subculture acquired as a result of rejection by the dominant culture and which rejects not only dominant culture but occasionally even ethnic culture.

# The research gap



- There is persistent educational disadvantage for Turkish group.
- There is discrimination against Turks and the perceived discrimination is highly for this group (Mehrländer, Ascheberg, and Ueltzhöffer 1996:Goldberg and Sauer 2005:Kaas & Manger 2012: Fischer-Nuemann 2014).
- However, quite few studies on reactive ethnicity in the context of Germany

# Data and method



- In-depth interviews with twenty students and teachers in 2010-11
- Six months of participant observation in school and the neighborhood

# Data



- The interview quotes and the notes from the participant observation in the field

# Conclusions



- Perceived discrimination heightens group consciousness and hardens ethnic identity
- The perceived denigration of ethnic culture plays an important role in turning 'reactive ethnicity' into 'oppositional identity'
- These youngsters do not oppose German culture but ethno-religious hierarchy that relegates them to a lower position in society

# The info and the link to the article



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## **'Having a German passport will not make me German': reactive ethnicity and oppositional identity among disadvantaged male Turkish second-generation youth in Germany**

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