Reactive Ethnicity and Oppositional Identity Disadvantaged Male Turkish Secondgeneration Youth in Germany

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Summary of the presentation



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## 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



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## 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.





- 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

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



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



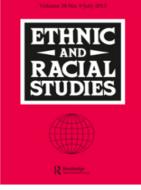


- Perceived discrimination heightens group consciousness and hardens ethnic identity
- The perceived denigration of ethnic culture plays an important role in turning 'reactive ethnicity' into 'oppositional identity'
- These youngsters do not oppose German culture but ethnoreligious hierarchy that relegates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

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## The info and the link to the article





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