

## Call for Papers

Subject: CFP: Performing Policy – Enacting Diversity. European Summer Carnivals in Comparative Perspective, Berlin 05/2005

Dept. of European Ethnology, Humboldt-University Berlin and Dept. of Radio, Television and Cinema, Kadir Has University Istanbul

**Deadline for Submitting Paper Proposals: 20 February 2005**

**“Performing Policy – Enacting Diversity”**  
**European Summer Carnivals in Comparative Perspective**  
International Colloquium, Department of European Ethnology  
Humboldt-University, Berlin, 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2005

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce a call for papers for the international colloquium “*Performing Policy – Enacting Diversity. European Summer Carnivals in Comparative Perspective.*” The colloquium will be held at Humboldt-University from May 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and is organized by Prof. Wolfgang Kaschuba and Dr. Michi Knecht on behalf of the Department of European Ethnology in cooperation with Asst. Prof. Levent Soysal (Department of Radio, Television, and Cinema, Kadir Has University, Istanbul). Funding for the conference is granted by the Thyssen-Foundation, Germany.

The conference will explore some of the most recent anthropological and ethnographic contributions on contemporary urban summer carnivals in different European cities in a *comparative* perspective. It pursues three goals: First, by comparing various summer carnivals we aim to map out differences in development, aesthetic production and related social practices and analyse them in the context of their diverse socio-cultural, urban and political formations. Second, we will discuss the transfer of styles, organizational structures, discourses and actors between the various summer carnivals in Europe as well as elsewhere, and the production of larger contexts and networks connected to transfer practices. Third, by drawing on the method of “comparison of distant case studies” (Gingrich 2000) the colloquium aims to contribute in heuristic and explorative ways to a more pronounced theoretical understanding of urban spectacles of diversity and identity in the context of new forms of political regulation, changing migratory regimes and progressive processes of Europeanization.

A compelling characteristic of festivals and carnivals in the metropolitan centres of Europe and elsewhere is that they seek to cultivate a civic sense of plurality and advocate tolerance, multiculturalism, and diversity. Employing markers of ethnicity, culture, gender, youthfulness, hip- and coolness, these events delimit and present identities and celebrate cultural particularisms within an imaginary of diversity. It is no coincidence that the goals stated by organizers of the festivals and conveyed to the public through carnival slogans and publicity material correlate with the civic virtues the new Europe desires to foster: Understanding, tolerance, and cooperation among peoples within and without Europe. The colloquium will map out the contours of the newly emerging expressive culture of contemporary urban summer carnivals and festivals, delineate their affinities to Europeanization and interrogate the policies and processes that lead to their proliferation.

Authors of ethnographic case studies on “multi-ethnic” summer carnivals or *carnivalesque* urban events will discuss with colleagues from the social and cultural science, political science and history. Policy makers and artists of urban summer carnivals from several European cities are invited as partners in dialogue and for commentaries.

### **Prospective Panels:**

- 1. From Centre to Periphery and Back. The Expansion of the Carnivalesque**
- 2. Spectacles of Identity. Expressive Culture in Urban Public Space**
- 3. Affirming „Unity in Diversity“. Affective Europeanness and Emergent Forms of Participation and Regulation**
- 4. “Comparison and Transfer” Revisited**

### **Applications:**

**We particularly invite contributions on the basis of recent ethnographic or otherwise empirical research on summer carnivals or comparable spectacles of diversity and identity in London, Rotterdam, Brussels, Birmingham, Berlin and other European cities that attend to one or more of the following questions:** How does the expansion of urban summer carnivals and comparable “spectacles of diversity and identity” change our understanding and experience of public space? What do public festivals reveal about the relation of immigrants and minorities to the metropolis and the degree of their participation in the economies and social and cultural life of the city? What are the cultural properties and confines of the public displays of identity and diversity? In what ways do carnivals produce feelings of expectation and tension, belonging and exclusion, difference and identification and how is this connected to political programmes and forms of regulation? Which insights into the relationship between different national contexts of migration, various displays of diversity and specific forms of participation can be revealed through ethnographic case studies?

Papers are limited to 20 minutes; the conference language will be English and a publication is planned. Abstracts (in English) should not exceed the limit of 350 words and have to be handed in by 20 February 2005 per email ([michi.knecht@rz.hu-berlin.de](mailto:michi.knecht@rz.hu-berlin.de)) or mail (to Michi Knecht, see address below). The selection Committee will finalize its decision by 1 March 2005. Please include your academic affiliation in your letter. And please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

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