

# 4th International ESS Conference

## Turbulent times in Europe: Instability, insecurity and inequality

### 15-17 April 2019 | University of Mannheim

#### D4. Ethnic and cultural diversity and integration

Europe continues to become more diverse, with increasing numbers of residents having a migration background, reaching 10 percent or more in several western European countries. There is also increasing diversity in terms of the range of countries from which migrants have come. The 2015/6 refugee crisis has further increased diversity. Meanwhile, most European countries also have long-standing ethnic or cultural minorities, such as Roma, Jews or cross-border groups, and some even regionally concentrated groups striving for independence claiming different nationalities and even discrimination by the majority.

While immigration and diversity bring potential benefits (both to the migrants and minorities themselves and to the host countries), diversity is also widely believed to bring integration challenges. On the one hand, migrants and their descendants tend to experience high unemployment rates and other economic disadvantages, while on the other hand increased migration has been accompanied by something of a backlash among majority populations, exemplified by the rise of populist far-right parties. Some internal minorities such as Roma face systematic and long-standing discrimination, while others are almost invisible and their differentiation from the majority is not very salient. However, there is considerable variation both between countries and between ethnic groups in the extent of these integration challenges. For example, residents of countries and regions with higher stocks of migrants have repeatedly been shown to have more positive attitudes towards migration than others, probably because of higher contact opportunities and extended periods of time (often decades) for oftentimes successful integration of migrants.

The proposed session invites papers which theoretically and empirically explore issues of diversity and integration in a European perspective. We take a multidimensional view of integration, including economic, social, cultural, religious and political dimensions. Papers could focus on ethnic minority populations, both long-standing or migration-related, or on majority populations, or – since integration is a two-way process – on both. Papers could e.g. base their analyses on the recently-developed ESS measure of ethnic and cultural origins (ancestry) available in rounds 7 and 8, or on the measures of own and parents' country of birth which are available throughout. Methodological papers comparing different approaches to measuring ethnicity and diversity are also welcome.

Session Organisers:

Anthony Heath, University of Oxford

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