



**BeEUTOPIAn
Students Conference
CY Cergy Paris University**



Theme: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Research on Cultural Understanding and Cultural Heritage in Global Academic Collaboration

„Beyond Culture“ Cultural Understanding and Cultural Heritage



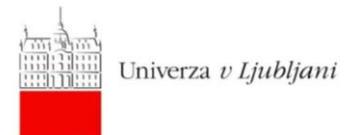
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Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage includes artefacts, monuments, a group of buildings and sites, museums that have a diversity of values including symbolic, historic, artistic, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological, scientific and social significance. It includes tangible heritage (movable, immobile and underwater), intangible cultural heritage (ICH) embedded into cultural, and natural heritage artefacts, sites or monuments. The definition excludes ICH related to other cultural domains such as festivals, celebration etc. It covers industrial heritage and cave paintings.

UNESCO Institute for Statistics,
2009 UNESCO Framework for
Cultural Statistics

The concept of Multiculturalism, Interculturalism and Transculturalism*

- **Multiculturalism**

(internal homogeneity, minimization of the foreign, external differentiation, no contact production and communication)

→ Insight into the conditions *within* the society

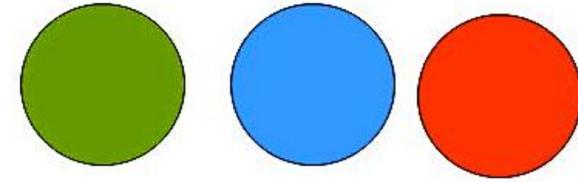
- **Interculturality**

→ Insight into the relations *between* societies

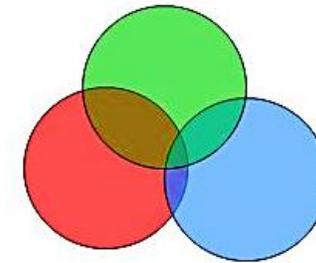
- **Transculturality**

Cultural hybridity, interconnections and transitions, transnational cultural overlap

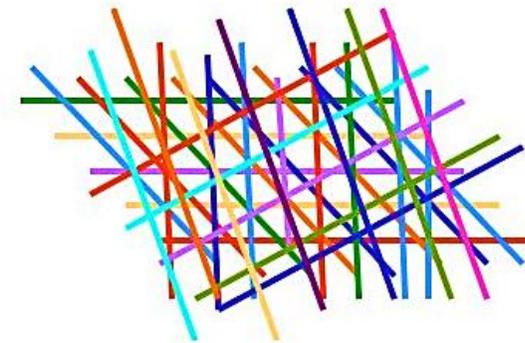
The "third space" is by no means only a place or condition between different cultures, but also a **strategy of multiplying non-homogeneous stratifications within a respective culture.** (Bachmann-Medick 1999, p. 521)



1+1=2



1+1=1



1+1=3

Spatial Expressions of Culture



Cultures = open systems → culture-mixed contact zones; intermediate spaces (overlapping and mixing processes)



Intermediate Area = transition from the foreign to the own cultural interdependence, exchange, cultural differences, conflicts and hierarchies (cf. Bachmann-Medick 2003, p. 445)



The own + the foreign = so-called third (no dichotomy)
→ Construction of a Hybrid Identity in the „Third Space“
(Homi K. Bhabha)

Introduction to Transculturality

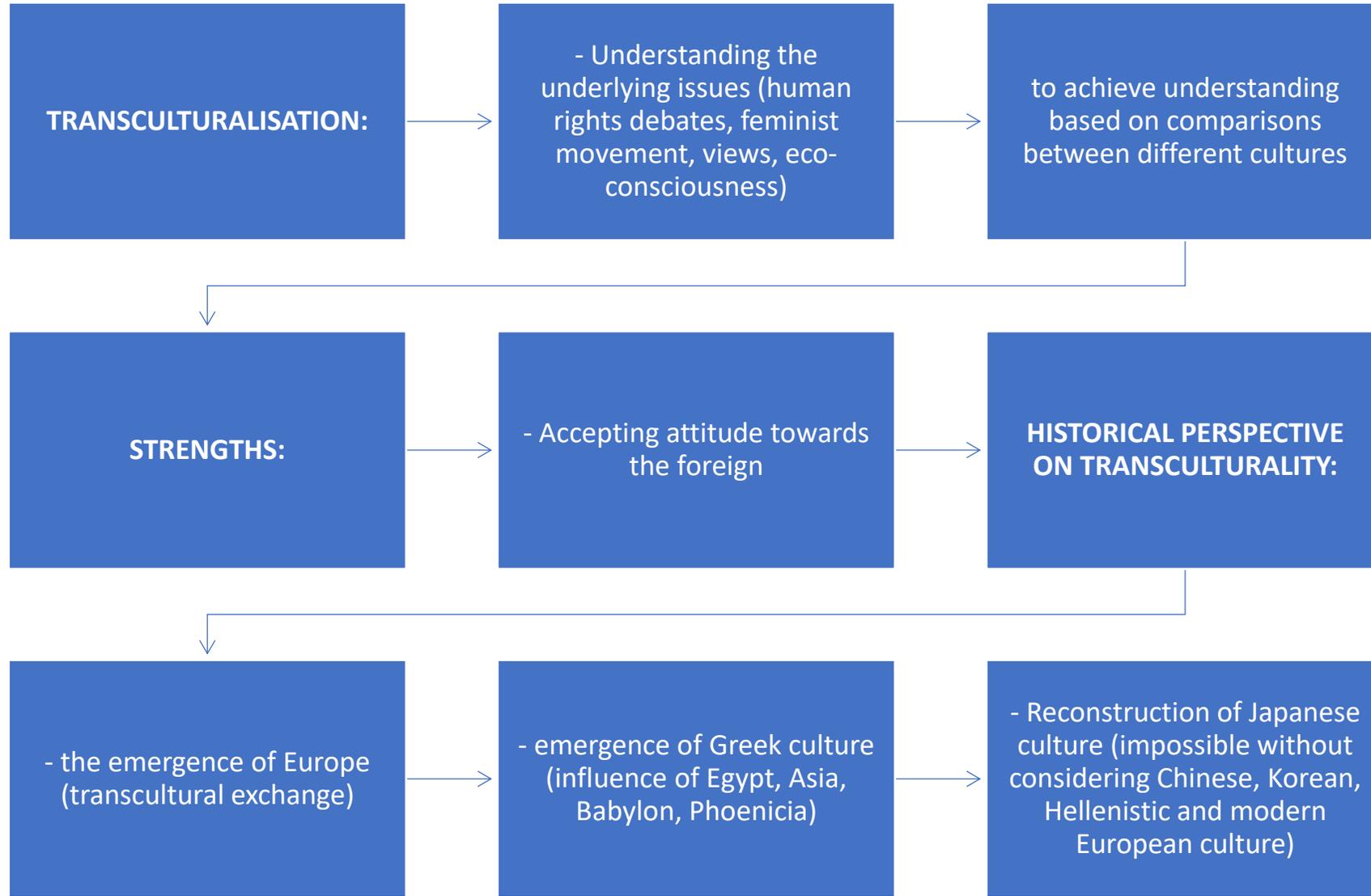


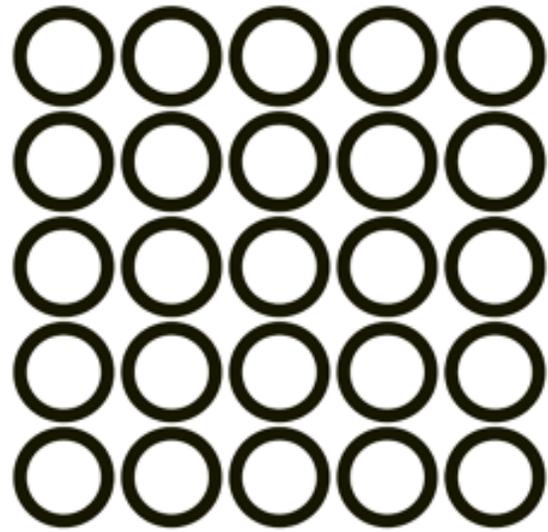
- Human = being of culture (individually and socially)
- Cultural Evolution → Formation of cultural capacities and belonging to a culture

The concept of culture has **two dimensions**:

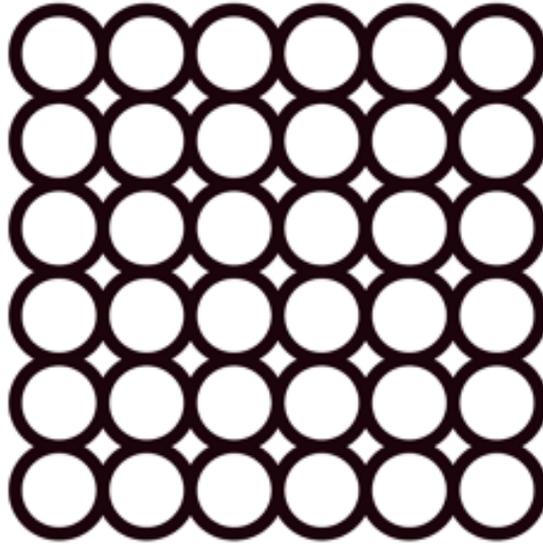
- the intrinsic "substantive" meaning of culture → "culture" as a term for those practices through which people create a typical human life includes *daily routines, competences, beliefs, behavioural forms, social regulations, attitudes, etc.*
- extensional meaning of "culture" → *geographical or national* meaning, ethical extension of the practices listed

- **INTERNAL TRANSCULTURITY** (today's society):
 - several different cultural models + influence of several cultural concepts
 - the multiplicity of cultural practices and manifestations
 - facilitated individual-to-individual communication
 - strong influence on the discovery of existing commonalities and the development of new ones
- Culture as a community (society or civilisation) for which the cultural concepts or practitioners are clerical
- **TRANSCULTURALITY** is based on the **extensional dimension of "culture"** (a model of the tunnel and intertwining of cultures)
- **CONCEPT OF TRANSCULTURALITY = Cultures flow into each other (so-called "Mix")**

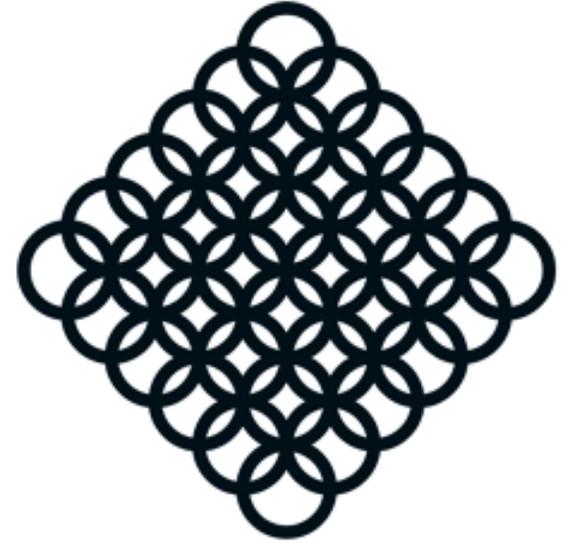




MULTICULTURALITY



INTERCULTURALITY



TRANSCULTURALITY

- there are links between cultures that are no longer homogeneous
- „Cultural Hybridisation" (H. K. Bhabha)

Macro Level

- changing cultures today
 - externally → today's cultures are deeply intertwined and interconnected, they do not end at borders (e.g., global influence on the life of a journalist, scientist; global communication system = global capitalism)
 - internal → hybridization (e.g., electronic communication technology = all information is identically accessible from a given moment)



Transcultural Daily Routine

- innovations are forced (discourse of power, economic dependency, inequality of distribution, migration processes, etc.)
- e.g., medicine is transcultural (Asian countries adopting Western medicine)
- pop culture, football → international influence
- theatre practices (classical - European)
- culture of consumerism



Michael Jackson, video: 'Black or White' (1991) - staging transcultural change through 'morphing'

Micro Level

- transcultural impact on individuals
- the cultural identity of today's individuals (the so-called "**patchwork identity**")
- the period of growing up (many cultural models available)

INTERNAL PLURALISM:

- mankind is adopting different cultures (Novalis):

„One person is at the same time several persons [...], because pluralism is our inner being.“

- people carry **different cultural elements within themselves**





- capitalist economy
- political domination
- Identity formation of the individual (constraints and pressures → discourse of globalization, postcolonial and postfeminist discourse and minority discourse = question of homeland)

TRANSCULTURITY in the context of
Economic and Political Power processes

Transculturality in Science and Education

- interdisciplinary approach
- plurality of methods
- interweaving of themes



Conclusion

- Transculturality as advantage and solution for tasks of the Future
- „Patchwork-Identity“
- Cosmopolitan side
- Importance of Transgressive Character
- **Puzzling Form of Cultures**
- **Different picture of cultures:**
 - entanglement
 - intermixing
 - commonness

It does not promote separation, but exchange and interaction.

A decisive turn towards transculturality is needed in every area (in political and social, scientific and educational field).





- Bachmann-Medick, Doris (1999): 1 + 1 = 3? Interkulturelle Beziehungen als »dritter Raum«. In: *Weimarer Beiträge. Zeitschrift für Literaturwissenschaft* 4 (45. Jahrgang), 518–531
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- Welsch, Wolfgang (2009): Was ist eigentlich Transkulturalität? In: *Hochschule als transkultureller Raum? Beiträge zu Kultur, Bildung und Differenz*, hrsg. von Lucyna Darowska und Claudia Machold, Bielefeld: Transcript Verlag.
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Literature