Multicultural, Intercultural and Transcultural

Within the present context of multiple flows and exchanges made possible by new technologies, we offer a reflection on the concepts which have arisen in order to make sense of, interpret and direct cultural diversity. To what extent do these concepts act as accomplices in drawing up policies which favour or hinder interactions, in an urge to control rather than manage. For some it is a question of integration while for others it is simply a question of assimilation. Multiculturalism has come in for criticism from those who invented it. Interculturalism has often been considered a utopia which, at best, talks of dialogue without taking conflicts into account. And discourses throw up new terms, as in the case of “transcultural”, claiming a new channel of respect (or rejection) of the Other. And where is this Other placed in these different approaches?

We propose to take up the history of these concepts and the impact – the results or damage - they have had in order to see how and how far the products of these dynamics, identity or hybrid memberships, reveal a desire for inclusion or exclusion. How can differences communicate? In what way can intercultural relations address what is irreconcilable or incompatible, which in turn leads to withdrawal, exclusion and rejection? How can a critical awareness develop these multiple processes in their contexts, with their possibilities and also with their limits?

Or should we speak of transcultural processes in a globalised world, one which supposedly facilitates these flows? Is it possible to think up new categories in order to better develop interaction with a view to recognition and co-existence?

EXISTING MODELS

From “ghetto” to “intercultural”: Euro-Turkish experiences in France and Germany
Ferhat Kentel, sociologist, University of Bilgi, Istanbul

The lecture will be based on research on immigrants in France and Germany who originally came from Turkey. The aim is to show the multiplicity of identity formation according to generations, but especially the new experiences of the “Turkish communities”, ranging from isolation to total assimilation and from the case of “French Republican citizenship” to the case of “German culturalism”. Within this range, it is mainly identities in movement, perceived until now as indexes of the actors’ inability, which enrich the debate on identities and the “issue of integration”. We shall try to show that, far from being a question of inability, the issue is one of “new surmounting tactics” for overcoming modernist structures incapable of satisfying diasporic existence.

NEW PERSPECTIVES
Interculturality and globalisation: the challenges to solidarity
Danilo Martucelli, sociologist, University of Lille

This lecture will focus on a specific problem and the presentation of certain political and intellectual strategies which are presently being developed to address it. The problem is how to promote solidarity among dissimilar and distant actors in a globalised world. After a short critical overview of the principle current strategies and their limitations (emotional identification, common interests, world public opinion, cosmopolitanism) the aim is to sketch the initial outline of an alternative work project. The idea is to open up a “new” area in intercultural studies: to those studies which make reference to intercultural communication within the national space (multiculturalism, integration policies, recognition strategies, etc.), we have to add the problem of communication and the fostering of solidarity among distant and different social and cultural actors in a globalised world. In sum, a move from a limited, territorialized interculturalism towards a wide, global interculturalism.

Programme

Friday, October 14
15.00 Inauguration: Alfons Martinell. Director of AECI, Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional
Presentation of seminar: Yolanda Onghena, Intercultural Dynamics Programme. Fundación CIDOB
15.45 EXISTING MODELS
From “ghetto” to “intercultural”: Euro-Turkish experiences in France and Germany
Ferhat Kentel, sociologist, University of Bilgi, Istanbul
16.30 Coffee break
16.45 – 19.15 Debate opened and moderated by Yigit Aksakoglu, Research and Training, University de Bilgi, Istanbul

Expert invited for the debate:
Rik Pinxten, University of Ghent
Edgard Weber, University of Toulouse-le-Mirail
Teresa Lopez, SAM Social Research Centre, Istanbul
……… (pending confirmation)
Saturday, October 15

9.30   NEW PERSPECTIVES  
**Interculturality and globalisation: the challenges to solidarity**  
Danilo Martucelli, sociologist, University of Lille

10.45   Coffee break

11.00 – 13.30  Debate opened and moderated by Ilhan Alemdar, writer, journalist, former editor-in-chief of the journal, *Gozlem-L'observateur*

Experts invited for the debate:  
Noureddine Affaya, Mohamed V University, Rabat  
Burhan Ghalioun, Sorbonne University, Paris  
......... (pending confirmation)

13.30 Closing Speech:  Ferran Mascarell, Municipal Councillor for Culture

Place: Maragall Hall  
CIDOB Foundation  
c/ Elisabets, 12, Barcelona  
Dates: Friday, October 14, in the evening and Saturday, October 15, in the morning.  
Language of the seminar: French  
Participation by invitation.