What Will We Remember?

Archive of the future - predicting and challenging historical narratives of the “refugee crisis” in Germany

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Part I

Understanding the emergence of a dominant historical narrative

“Creating a Recipe”

- Often perceived as passive resources: collection of records that provide ‘proof’ for narrative
- However, archiving itself is a subjective activity
- Archive of the holders of power → minorities’ perspectives are underrepresented

- Acquired in the context of a group
- Malleable for the benefit of adhering to a community
- Sum of memories detached from the group that created them → authority
- Does not contain counter-narratives
- History in favor of ‘the winner’/powerful
Applying the framework to the “refugee crisis” in Germany

Part I

Which communities are forming in contemporary Germany?

Whose narrative does the official archive support?

Who are the ‘Holders of Power’?
Microhistory

Contribution to an inclusive narrative of the "refugee crisis"

Part II

Deeper underlying structures

Small ‘object’ of study

Ethnographic Observations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Microhistory of Yasser’s life
Findings

*Observations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs vs. Microhistory of Yasser*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Ministry</th>
<th>Yasser’s Microhistory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creates policies that</td>
<td>Is impacted by policies that</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Are based on numbers &amp; figures</td>
<td>● Are ineffective and fail to respond to</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Are exclusive in their rhetoric and language</td>
<td>his individual needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>thereby inaccessible to the out-group</td>
<td>● Make language proficiency the entry</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Are created by an in-group with immense lack</td>
<td>ticket to German society and only</td>
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<td>of diversity (socio-economic background</td>
<td>defense against structural</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ethnicity</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>normativity</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Ensure a continuous exclusion on</td>
</tr>
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<td>the basis of education, ethnicity,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>upbringing, etc.</td>
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What to take away? // What to remember?

It is more crucial than ever to listen with open ears, minds and hearts to the stories that refugees living in Germany have to tell.

Alternative forms of dissemination of knowledge such as documentaries, photography or podcasts are crucial mediums to contribute to inclusive and open-minded narratives of the present and the past.

Germany is a country deeply and eternally marked by a past of atrocious racism and hostility towards minority groups.

It is our responsibility to ensure that similar discourses cannot become dominant or authoritative voices again.

We must remember, not forget.

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