

INVESTIGATING THE BOUNDARIES OF WHITENESS IN CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

The Perception of the Identity and Integration of Muslims in Germany by Non-Muslim German Women

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OVERVIEW

- Where? - *Location*
- Who and Why? - *Sample and Existing Research*
- What? - *Findings and Analysis*
- So what? - *Implications*

“Well, you can practically draw a line through Godesberg, then, on the one side, there is the bourgeoisie, yes, the mansions in the old town, and the, and on the other side, really, there are the streets where they celebrated Ramadan now, but there, in my opinion, alas, they live completely separate lives.”

(Claire, respondent)

Langzeitdoku in Bad Godesberg Integration als Herausforderung

22.08.17 08:49 Uhr – 01:34 min

Bad Godesberg

Zwischen Wohlstand und sozialem Brennpunkt

Statistics vs. emotions

How safe is Bad Godesberg really?

Tod von Niklas P. Warum ausgerechnet Bad Godesberg? Eine Stadt mit zwei Gesichtern

'There's not much that's German here anymore'

Attacke in Bad Godesberger Bar Mutmaßlicher Schläger identifiziert

Hostility Between Muslims and German Nationalists Rattles a Former Capital

By MELISSA EDDY JUNE 4, 2012



GERMANY

Bad Godesberg mourns brutally beaten teen

WHERE?

WHO AND WHY?

Gendered nature of the debate → Interview **women**

Common assumption that high income + high education = liberal views → Interview **high income, high education individuals**

Problematizing and objectifying of immigrants and Muslims → Interview **White non-Muslims**

Need to understand both sides of integration → Interview **members of the majority**

WHAT?

“tolerant”

“punctuality, reliability, following rules”

“[the Catholic private school is] an upper-class organization, and, there, there you [the non-German] will quickly be excluded”

Culture

...us Germans

“scarecrows” and “sacks”

“those men, [who] really sit around in the city centre, and they are looking at my daughters”

“the less we Germans defend ourselves, the cockier the Arabs will become”

Religion

those Muslims...

BOUNDARY BRIGHTENING

Segregation

Economic inequality

Everyday racism

Lack of interaction

BOUNDARY CROSSING

the middle-class, assimilated, “educated”, secular Muslims

BOUNDARY SHIFTING

German
Muslims?

“she [German woman wearing a burka]
no longer wants to integrate”

BOUNDARY BLURRING



“the headscarf does not bother me, I am totally used to it”

Everyday Multiculturalism:
getting used to difference



“one gets used to that [mosques], but in the beginning, yes, it was a little odd”

SO WHAT?

THANK YOU
FOR LISTENING



Shisha Bar in Bad Godesberg, celebrating the German soccer team (photo by me, 2018)