

Digital Diasporas and transnational identities: Mediated space of the Spanish diaspora in Germany

Doktorandin: María Martínez

Betreuerin: Prof. Dr. Margreth Lünenborg

In the early decades of the 21st century, we are witnessing the emergence of a new intra-European demographic process: a new skilled migration to Germany, inscribed within the birth of the new intra-European Diasporas. As a result of the financial crisis that shakes Europe, young and highly qualified population from the most vulnerable areas of the continent is moving from their countries of origin towards European regions with enhanced professional development. In this context arises a new Spanish Diaspora in Germany, characterized by its high qualification and media literacy. In a period of profound social, economical and political changes, the Spanish case provides a great example of identity negotiation: just in five years, in terms of migration, Spain past from being a receptor country to an emitting country, while Germany, as the most powerful economy in Europe, becomes an attractive destination for young people seeking for personal and professional development.

Within this framework is placed this explorative research proposal, aimed to discern the role of media in the construction process of these new diasporic communities within Europe, investigating the relation between media consumption of deterritorialized users and identity transformations derived from migration processes. How do individuals symbolically construct a sense of we-ness, Spanish-ness and otherness through their media consumption and routines? How do diasporic communities develop their personal relations (family, friends) within the network? What kind of social contract is established among migrants and both origin and receptor country? This discussion aims to shed light on these and other related issues, underlining the increasing importance of social media in transnational communities' conception.