



ECCM Symposium2007
the productivity of culture

Acculturation and Citizenship
Catalysts for the European Urban Space

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Rethinking Cultural Relativism

- Nowadays we are urgently invited to **rethink** on the philosophical perception of “**Cultural Relativism**” due to the opening of the national borders in Europe, the facilitation of transportation and movement of the European citizens (either for work or tourism) or due to the **immigration of people from outside the EU borders**.
- My standpoint is that through the basic concept of Cultural Relativism one could formulate an efficient argument which enhances the societal unification of the multicultural, multilingual, multinational, multiracial, multi-facial and complicated European urban Space



The basic point of Cultural Relativism

C.R. enhances Tolerance

- Different societies have **different** moral codes; no objective standard can be used to judge one societal code better than another
- Customs of other societies are not inferior to our own (only **different!**)
- Our feelings towards the *Other* are not necessarily “perceptions” of the truth



Acculturation and Citizenship

Catalysts for the European Urban Space

- ◆ Acculturation: osmosis through integration
- ◆ European citizenship: Supra-national
- ◆ Local Tradition+ Values: contributors to European Culture
- ◆ Supranational Identity towards Europeanization

● ● ● | The European Stake: **the unification**

- **A nascent non-ethnic identity in a Pan-demos Europe: conceiving the world under a wider (mainly cultural) perspective**
 - the common language
 - the universality of arts
 - the museums
 - the global environmental crisis issue
- **Need for the deconstruction of the homogenous “national space”**



A pan-demotic consciousness

- Education- Arts- Media
- Mobility of working citizens
- The projection of paradigms of a common citizenship all over Europe
- Access to Public Discussions
- Access to Information and Knowledge

The educated and well informed citizen is the nucleus for the democratic society



Towards Europeanization

- The **familiarization** of children with the idea of globalisation and the **continuity of cultures** (both historically and geographically), by highlighting the similarities and the divergences
- The exposure to **common rituals**, myths and symbols and the creation of shared experiences.
- The internalisation of the following set of **values**: on equality, respect for differences, cooperation and solidarity in a European framework and perspective



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Thank you

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