

Name: **Erzsebet Csereklye**
Institution: Eötvös University, Budapest
Country: Hungary

Type of contribution: Presentation

Title: **Multicultural Discourses in Documentary Films on Migration**

My presentation will introduce short analysis of discourses on migration appearing in documentary films on migrants in several European countries. For my analysis I used the works of *Fatih Akin* (Germany), *Ximena Cordova* (UK), *Ingeborg Jansen* (Netherlands), *Martin Ryšavý* (Czech Republic), *Cheng Xiaoxing* (France), *Albert Folk* (Spain), and *Lind Sternö & Kristina Merton* (Sweden).

The theoretical basis of the presentation is my PhD research on social and educational discourses of multicultural-, intercultural-, and social diversity theories, such as *Banks* (2001), *Grant & Sleeter* (2002), *Castagno* (2009), *McLaren* (1994, 2010), *Jenks, Lee & Kanpol* (2001), *Ladson-Billings* (2004), *McDonough* (2008) and the *Council of Europe* (2008). All these approaches are describing multiculturalism and interculturalism as a gradual approach, from a more conservative to reconstructive descriptions for possible interactions among dominant and non-dominant groups.

In my paper I argue that on the basis of my comparative analysis three main approaches might be described that are present in all these discourses: a *compensatory approach*, where success strategies of both migrants and dominant groups are most commonly aim adjusting – often assimilation - to the canonized values of a dominant culture and at most keeping their non-dominant identities in an isolated, celebrational way. Secondly there is an approach to cultural diversity in a *static and pluralist* way: *tolerance-* and *cooperation-* *approaches* belong to this group, where there is a contact – in diverse forms and levels – among social groups, however their everyday practices and identities stay intact. The third approach is a *dynamic view of culture and society*, with critical, transformative approaches and practices, that might be discovered mostly within local communities and diverse personal relations.

I looked within this theoretic framework to documentary films, where members of the host and sending societies reflect to their experiences with migrants; and migrants reflect either to their own success strategies in their new home countries or the process of their re-integration in their country of origin. I found that while first generation immigrants upon their arrival accept easily compensatory approaches, where their own culture is looked at as a deficit, they often look at their stay in the host communities as temporary, even if it lasts for decades. Second and third generation immigrants have very different approaches, depending on their social status and connections to local communities. *Tolerance-* and *cooperation-* *approaches* appear frequently in strategies when local identities are not formed or missing, while those who are the most successful in creating binds to their close environment take initiatives for reconstructing their identities and environment in dynamic, *transformative* ways.

My presentation will show the framework of analysis and examples of multicultural- and intercultural discourses from films portraying various socially and culturally diverse settings.