

Author: Johannes Zuber

Title: Present racism in Germany:
between biology and cultural identity

Source: Universitätsverlag Göttingen, Göttingen 2015

Summary

Within the last years, hardly any topic polarized the German society as strongly as the publication of the doubtful, biological, as well as racist theorems of Thilo Sarrazin in summer 2010. Therefore, racist resentments are present again in German public as the enormous sales quotes of Sarrazin's best-seller "Deutschland schafft sich ab" show.

This PhD-project focuses the today's biological and genetic racism-phenomenon in the German society from 2007 to 2013. It analyzes the spreading, the phenomenology and the biological reality of biological, racial argumentations in Germany. Therefore it uses a new type of a research project, which combines social and natural sciences in a promising way. This project seems to be matching for an analysis of racism with a main emphasis on the biological perspective. For all the difficulties of an analysis of racism of the 21st century, for example the large number of available definitions, this racism analysis from the perspective of the 21st century orientates itself at the narrow, biological definition of racism by Robert Miles. Nonetheless the project creates an own definition of the racism-phenomenon of the 21st century in the results. The empirical processing and evaluation of several qualitative and quantitative studies realize a disturbing scenario. This illustrates among other studies the newly analysed data materials of the general population survey of the social sciences. They identify a dangerous and alarming situation concerning the approval of the citizens to racist and socio-biological prejudices. We can diagnose a worrying development of the biological and cultural discrimination, devaluation and exclusion of 'the Others' within the German society. The main causes generate multi-layeredly from political, social, media and economic factors. Particularly, the economic uncertainties relating to financial policy since the year 2007 can be identified as substantial. Nevertheless, the modern evolutionary biology, the molecular biological research of the presence as well as the social sciences visualizes, that all amateur scientific combination of biology and racist ideology has to be rejected. The classification of so-called human races as well as the categorization of people because of genetic predispositions or allegedly specific 'people genes' remain unrealistic and utopian. Despite all scientific refutations, the phenomenon of racism remains a biological expression in the German presence and future.

Table of content

1. Introduction

1.1 Theoretical classification

1.2 Target and subject

1.3 Methodology

1.4 Structure at a glance

2. Theory of the present racism

2.1 Ideology of racism

2.2 Theories of racism: examples

2.3 Historical development of racism

2.4 Biological racism in the 21st century

2.5 Results: Term of racism in the 21st century

3. Biological racism in the present

3.1 Thilo Sarrazin – a racist of the 21st century?

3.2 Racial attitudes in Germany

3.3 Germany in the crisis

3.4 ALLBUS – Survey of the social sciences

3.5 Official reports 2008/2011 for the Federal Republic of Germany

3.6 Racism in Europe

3.7 Results: Racism as a daily phenomenon?

4. Phenomenology of today's racism

4.1 Racism in politics?

4.2 Racism and economy in the 21st century

4.3 Fundamental change of the German society?

4.4 Results: Phenomenology of racism into the 21st century

5. Natural sciences and racism theory

5.1 Charles Darwin: Evolution and racism

5.2 Misuse of a biological term: The phantasm of race

5.3 Racist resentments: Perspective of molecular biology

5.4 Connections between genes, environment and the phenomenon of intelligence

5.5 Results: Biology versus racism

6. Conclusion

6.1 Retrospective view

6.2 Evaluation

6.3 Outlook: Racism research in Germany

6.4 Outlook: Biology and racism

Bibliography