International Conference

“Post-immigration education of adult immigrants in international perspective”

19th – 20th July 2013, Göttingen (Heyne-Haus, Papendiek 16)

Why do some adult immigrants go “back to school”, while others do not? Individuals who immigrate as adults are no longer subject to compulsory schooling. Still, there are many reasons why they might want to obtain a school or university diploma in the immigration country or why they might participate in further professional training. They include the lacking opportunity to fulfil educational aspirations in the country of origin, a requirement by future employers or the vague hope that education attained and certified in the host country will enhance their employment opportunity and compensate for their devalued cultural capital. Which individual, social, and institutional factors encourage educational participation? This is the guiding research question of the international and interdisciplinary conference on post-immigration education of adult immigrants. It brings together scholars renowned for their expertise in this field and aims to assess the present state of the art in interdisciplinary perspective. In addition, this conference will offer the opportunity to discuss influential institutional and structural factors in international comparative perspective—a debate which has as yet not taken place. Invited speakers—sociologists, anthropologists, economists and educationists—come from the USA, Australia, Sweden, Great Britain, Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

Organizer: Dr. Janina Söhn
Sociological Research Institute (SOFI) / Georg-August University Göttingen

If you would like to attend the conference, please write a short email to janina.soehn@sofi.uni-goettingen.

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Programme

July 19th 2013

13:30-14:00
Welcome and Introduction
Prof. Dr. Martin Baethge (SOFI/University of Göttingen, Germany)
Dr. Janina Söhn (SOFI/University of Göttingen, Germany)

Post-immigration education of adult immigrants in ‘traditional’ countries of immigration: Canada and Australia
Chair: Dr. Janina Söhn
14:00-14:50
Prof. Dr. Maria Adamuti-Trache (University of Texas Arlington, USA)
“Post-immigration education: The experience of immigrants in Canada”
14:50-15:10: coffee break
15:10-16:00
Dr. Jaai Parasnis (Monash University, Berwick, Australia)
“Post-immigration investment in education in Australia”

Post-immigration education of adult immigrants in Europe I: UK & Sweden
Chair: Prof. Dr. Karin Kurz (University of Göttingen, Germany)
16:00-16:50
Inge Dahlstedt, M.A./Prof. Dr. Maja Povrzanović Frykman (Malmö University, Sweden)
“From professionals to pupils: post-immigration education of Bosnian refugees in Sweden”
16:50-17:10 coffee break
17:10-18:00
Otoe Yoda, M.A. (Oxford University, UK)
“Post-migration human capital investment of the UK immigrants”

20:00 dinner
July 20th 2013

Post-immigration education of adult immigrants in Europe II: Switzerland & Germany

Chair: Veronika Philipps (SOFI/University of Göttingen, Germany)

9:00-9:40
Dr. Janina Söhn (SOFI/University of Göttingen, Germany)
“Educational participation of adult immigrants in Germany: the influence of institutional context”

9:50-10:40
Dr. Ulrike Ofner (Helmut-Schmidt Universität, Germany)
“Adaptation and expansion of cultural capital with regard to migration”

10:49-11:00: coffee break

11:00-11:50
Dorit Griga, M.A. (Universität Bern, Switzerland)
„Post-immigration education of adult immigrants in Switzerland“

Adult immigrants, educational institutions and their personnel

Chair: Maria Richter (SOFI/University of Göttingen, Germany)

11:50-12:40
Prof. Dr. Sprung, Annette/ Brigitte Kukovetz (Universität Innsbruck, Austria)
“Widening participation in adult education. Participants and professionals with migration background”

12:40-14:00: lunch break

14:00-14:50
Eva Schmidt, Universität Duisburg-Essen, Projekt ProSALAMANDER
“Academic re-qualification of immigrants with foreign academic training: a pilot-project at two German universities”

14:50-15:45
Summary discussion and planning of publication based on conference contributions