

Summaries

Susanne Kröhnert-Othman

The Cultural Weapon – Contemporary Configurations of Violence and Dialogue in Intercultural Relations

The incidents of September 11 have once again brought into conscious the simultaneity of violence and dialogue in intercultural relations. The problems and conflicts in intercultural dialogue in the context of asymmetric relations between societies and cultures are not a new issue to scholars of colonial and post-colonial settings. The idea of this contribution is, that September 11 has highlighted a recent qualitative shift in the configuration of post-colonial positions. The author maintains that the destructive, nihilistic and anti-human position of the terrorist perpetrators is nurtured by Western ambivalence and double-standards on dialogue and equality and does fit into a general contemporary pattern of strategic and cynical play with cultural identity. In order to move forward towards sincere dialogue the author does suggest not only to prevent an upcoming religious dividend for Non-Muslims by developing rules of intercultural dialogue and equal opportunity for political participation in a global context, but also to include the perspective of violence and inequality into the theory of intercultural practice.

Rainer Tetzlaff

Unilateralism of the Hegemonic Power USA as a Challenge for European Politics: A Pleading for European Multilateralism Based on Common Experience, Converging Interests and Equal Beliefs

As a response to September, 11, the US-American Government under President George W. Bush pursues a policy of hegemonic unilateralism which signals a new and paradoxical attitude of political leadership in the post-cold-war-world. While the USA need the international support for her fight against the global terrorism, her insistence on an unilateral proceeding (without consultation of her NATO partners and with only little respect towards the UN-security council resolutions) in her effort to bring down the regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq seems to be counter-productive. All the previous principles of concerted actions of Western countries against the „enemies of liberty“ and international terrorism seem to be devaluated by this new attitude of arrogance of the only super-power. Therefore it is prudent when European countries, and especially the German Schroeder-Fischer-government, continue with the policy of cooperative multilateralism and try to find a diplomatic solution of the Iraq-question. A high-tech-war of the USA against Iraq would not be justified by international law; it would intensify Anti-americanism in the Muslim world and would

also cause a lot of negative economic and political consequences for all European countries. The long-term effect of the Near-East-policy of the Bush-administration, its fatal support of the Sharon-government in Israel included, may result in some kind of „clash of civilisations“, what all Western countries up to now wanted to prevent.

Matthias Junge

Frames of interpretation for September 11th in selected German newspapers

September 11. was a challenge for the mass media all over the world. The article shows with a content analysis of leading newspapers in Germany in which way the system of mass media copied with the event: the system of mass media integrated the events in their work without any changes in their political framework understood as their position in the left-right-dichotomy.

Nils Zurawski

Defence and Violence: Legitimising Terror in Northern Ireland and further afield

This article presents a social-anthropological perspective on the relationship of violence and the narrative of defence in conflict zones. This presented analysis is backed on fieldwork in Northern Ireland that focused on violence, ie. physical, graphic violence, and its function for the structures of collective identities. The article points to the interconnection of violence and a narrative of defence for legitimising terror. It recounts the process from being under attack to the counter-attack and active terrorism of one group against another. The analysis focuses on the fact that these stories are collective accounts of events and contain a structure that provides essential meaning for the integrity of a group and its identity. These narrative structures as such are not restrained to Northern Ireland alone, but can be found in many conflict areas and contexts around the world, some of which are comparatively examined here. In discussing these issues the text wants to contribute to the debate of conflict resolution in the way that it lays open violent structures, mostly hidden from such analysis.