

Univ.Prof. Dr. Joseph Marko

Universität Graz

Institut für Österreichisches, Europäisches und Vergleichendes Öffentliches Recht,

Politikwissenschaft und Verwaltungslehre

Email: josef.marko@uni-graz.at

ABSTRACT

Ethnic Diversity as Source of Conflict?

Against primordialist theories of ethnic diversity as root cause of violent conflict, the presentation will demonstrate the ideological character of these theories and provide an alternative, constructivist theory of ethnic identity formation as social construction and boundary-making through an Us-Them dichotomisation in different social contexts. This approach will then be applied in two different conflict scenarios: First, the break-up of former communist Yugoslavia can be explained by ethnic entrepreneurship leading into a conflict spiral. Second, the problems of integration of migrants in host societies are very often based on "structural" discrimination whereby the effects of socio-economic stratification of society are multiplied through ethnic prejudice and inferiorisation.