

Abstract

The doctoral thesis compares and interprets the development of local integration policies of (West) Berlin and Vienna in 1971–2011 on the background of the transformation of Germany and Austria from ethnically homogenous to multicultural countries. Both metropolises first balanced between refusing the permanent integration of immigrants ("temporary integration") and selection of foreigners suitable for integration, later searched for a balance between the traditional concept of assimilation and the more modern multicultural approach; in the last decade they favoured the diversity policy, in more or less close connection to the concept of interculturalism. Although both cities represent essentially similar cases, this development was not straightforward and simultaneous, especially in the first phase before the migration crisis at the turn of the 1980s and 1990s. The research study focuses mainly on two questions: why the development of local integration policy in West Berlin started significantly earlier than in Vienna and why both cities started to support diversity policy at the beginning of the new century. The comparative framework derived from the „contrast of contexts“ method interprets the development of local integration policies in the context of the national and transnational political systems, local political constellations, the reactions of the majority society towards immigration, the role of immigration for the economic and demographic development of the cities, and the changing volume and structure of the immigrant population and its deficits in the field of structural-functional and culturally-identificatory integration. Two excursions to naturalization policy and the question of political participation of foreigners explore the boundaries of conflict and the consensus of interests between the national and local level of integration policy in relation to the fundamental issue of integration: who may be a full member of a society in liberal state and under what conditions.