

„Black“ or „White“ or something else?

Subjective Attempts at Positioning

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Structure

1. My difficulties in positioning
2. Attempting to theorise transitions
3. Problems inherent in this approach
4. What consequences do I take?

„Black‘ or ‚White‘ or ‚Other other‘



Theoretical framework

- „Mythen, Masken und Subjekte – Kritische Weißseinsforschung in Deutschland“
- Maureen Maisha Eggers, Grada Kilomba, Peggy Piesche und Susan Arndt (2005, Hg.), Münster: Unrast Verlag.

Theorising transitions

- loosening the dichotomy of ,Black‘ and ,White‘
- by introducing transitions defined by
 - share in ,White‘ privileges and at the same time
 - experiences of racism
- takes account of
 - passing
 - different positionings in the colonial system, in ,White‘ images
- similar to concepts of
 - hybridity (Bhabha), multiple belongingness (Mecheril)

Problems of this approach

- how to define transitions?
 - how much experiences of racism?
 - how much share in ‚White‘ privileges?
- how to prevent
 - ‚White‘ people from escaping into transitions?
 - too much differentiating?

Consequences

- How do I deal with my problems in positioning and theorising?
 - political positioning as ‚Black‘
 - abandon idea to theorise transitions?
 - adopt strategic essentialism?
 - work in different theoretical framework?
 - something else?

