



On the interdependence of power dimensions

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Motivation

- power critical approaches
 - like racism theory, gender theory, queer theory, disability studies, etc.
- deal with unequal power relations
- focus on one dimension
- Rommelspacher's concept of 'dominance culture'
 - gives a possibility to think together
- Erel et al. make a critical intervention
- Walgenbach et al. go further
 - interdependent categories

Dominance

- dominance works through acceptance
- rather than repression
- through knowledge, social structure and internalised norms
- reproducing hierarchies in subtle ways
- relatively invisible

Interdependence

- power relations are
 - everywhere
 - multi-dimensional
- and they are interlocking / interdependent

No simple order

- no simple dichotomy of powerless and powerful
- no clear hierarchy
- no obvious centre of power
- no obvious control of power

Dominance and inequality

- relative invisibility of power
- makes it possible to negate inequality in power
- inequality
 - is reproduced through stabilising ,normality‘
 - not (necessarily) by intentional acts
- stabilising hegemonies and marginalisations

Example of complexity of interdependence

- Muslim test
 - excluding Muslims on basis of claiming to promote women and gay rights
 - at the same time disqualifying female politician on basis of doubts about her heterosexuality
- Warsaw Pride Parade
 - homophobia in Poland
 - support by German gay movement
 - reproducing anti-slavist discourses

Relevance for my research

- for topic of research:
 - how do racism and heteronormativity work together
 - try to capture this in ethnography
 - example: talking about arranged marriages
- for research approach:
 - reflect own positionality
 - try to see other power dimensions

Thank you!