

Multiculturalism, Islam and the State of Minority Political Integration in Germany and Europe

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

12:15-16:45

Location: Vertretung des Saarlandes beim Bund
Ministergärten 4, 10117 Berlin

AGENDA

- 12.15-13:00 Lunch Reception
- 13:00-13:15 Welcome: **Stephen Szabo**, *Executive Director, Transatlantic Academy*
Astrid Ziebarth, *Senior Program Officer, Immigration and Integration
Program, The German Marshall Fund of the United States*
- 13:15-14:45 Panel 1: Minorities in Politics = Better Politics for Minorities?

Even as experts and politicians decry failed integration, minority political participation is increasing with each generation of new citizens. In 2011, three Turkish-German woman politicians held office as Land-level ministers and a Turkish-German headed one of Germany's major political parties. Does this give an accurate impression of the minority voice in German politics? How representative is this experience of other European countries? This panel will address elections and political representation among minorities in Germany and Europe. The question of minority groups now becoming more relevant as voters and how this might change the way political parties deal with minorities could be an interesting additional point to raise – will we see an “American” development of interest groups?

Chair: **Rahsaan Maxwell**, *University of Mass Amherst, Transatlantic Academy ('09)*

Panelists: **Jonathan Laurence**, *Boston College/Brookings, Transatlantic Academy ('09)*
Wael El-Gayar, *Ministry for Labor, Integration and Social Policy, North Rhine Westphalia*
Kenan Kolat, *Federal Chairperson of the Turkish Community Germany*
Özcan Mutlu, *Member of the House of Representatives Berlin, Alliance 90/ Greens*

14:45 -15:00 Coffee Break

15:00– 16:30 Panel 2: After Multiculturalism, Populism?

One by one, the leaders of Europe's most important immigration destinations have repudiated policies of multiculturalism. Debates over national identity and the proper degree of accommodation of minority cultures and religions have intensified during the current economic crisis. What are the actual successes and failures of integration, and how does the rise of anti-Islam sentiment influence perceptions of integration? How have national debates, in turn influenced the performance of parties and candidates from the far left and the far right, or vice versa? In 2012, a paroxysm of racist violence – by a nationalist Norwegian and a jihadist Frenchman – reinforced the perception of an impending clash. Panelists will analyze German debates, transatlantic polling data and recent election results in France and the Netherlands to explore these urgent questions.

Chair: **Ines Michalowski**, *Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin, Transatlantic Academy ('09)*

Panelists: **Jeroen Doomernik**, *Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, University of Amsterdam, Transatlantic Academy (09)*
Kustaw Bessems, *Political Correspondent, Netherlands, TFMI Fellow*
Timo Lochocki, *PhD candidate, Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences, Humboldt University*