

## **Call for Abstracts for Edited Volume**

### **Intersectional Challenges to Cohesion? On Marginalization in an Inclusive Society**

Within a human rights framework, embracing diversity is a foundational element of social cohesion in an inclusive society. However, rather than seeing (super-)diversity as a strength of societies and intersectionality as a crucial lens for ensuring inclusion and equity, diversity can come to be pitted against social cohesion. Social cohesion on a societal level is also increasingly being challenged by polarization and social inequality. These developments, in turn, recreate and reinforce marginalization and discrimination and reduce inclusion. As a result, modern societies claim to be inclusive, despite generating and preserving many forms of marginalization.

This is evident in an inequality of access to resources, opportunities (e.g., health, education) and aspects of representation and participation that characterizes the current moment. Marginalization can be derived from singular stigmatized characteristics, but is also driven by interwoven – and mutually reinforcing – processes between various dimensions of stigmatization. This can be expressed in the aforementioned terms of super-diversity or intersectionality. Different life situations arise from diverse contexts over the life course, which may result in the ascription of certain characteristics and the attribution into different social sub-groups, categories and labels along different stigmatized characteristics. Age, geographic origin, nationality, culture, religion, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, precarity due to (mental) health status or living conditions and socioeconomic status are some of the many determining factors. In general, various forms of discrimination that are intertwined with these social categorizations, result in different levels of access to and equipment with resources – a process exacerbated by crises.

Inequalities and (negative) consequences can accumulate. Many of the aforementioned characteristics intersect and culminate in layers of discrimination. Discrimination intertwined with marginalization can be linked to various ideologies of inequality like all forms of sexism, racism, and ableism – present on different levels and in different forms. Discrimination and marginalization pose an inherent threat to social cohesion and their consequences are inevitably measured in forms of exclusion within a supposedly inclusive and equal society.

Having said that, more often than not it is precisely in these marginalized spaces that new possibilities of utopian societies are imagined and different approaches to achieve them are mapped out. Here as well, questions and debates about social solidarity as well as cohesion are at the center of discussions over the question, how we as (an international) society want to live and who “we” want to be. Possibilities, challenges and pitfalls of allyship as well as solidarity across various differences, sensitivities and communities have a crucial role to play on the way to achieving a more just world for all. Reflections on practical experiences with positive and negative potentials in practice and theory therefore greatly enrich debates not only for practitioners and activists but also for researchers and academics.

This call for abstracts based in the Research Institute Social Cohesion (RISC, in German Forschungsinstitut Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt, FGZ) strongly encourages reflections on societal or social cohesion considering diverse life conditions. The call is open to authors from within and outside the RISC. Contributions are not geographically restricted to any country or region. We welcome theoretical as well as empirical approaches, general or specific discussions. One of the aims of this book is to facilitate the transfer of knowledge from communities to academia and back. Therefore, we encourage contributions from practice partners and groups involved in collective action against marginalization to contribute their perspectives and to increase academia's literacy in lived experience.

The proposal for the edited volume will first be considered as part of the RISC book series. An internal application process will take place once all the abstracts are selected. Formal conditions pending, we intend to accept both a short format (around 20,000 characters) and a long format (around 40,000 characters, including spaces). Please indicate which format form – short or long – you are submitting in the abstract of no more than 400 words excluding references. Please send it to [inclusionbook@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:inclusionbook@uni-bielefeld.de).

### **Planned Timeline**

15.06.2022	Submission of abstracts
15.07.2022	Decision on abstract (i.e., invitation to submit full manuscript)
15.01.2023	Manuscript submission
30.04.2023	Review notification
30.06.2023	Submission of revised manuscripts

## **Proposed Selection Criteria**

- Fit to the outlined topics in this call for abstracts
- Balanced perspectives
- Reflective attitude, accounting for positionality
- New ideas and critical evaluations of current discussions and practices
- Practical implications (if possible) or teaching potential (clear argumentation, understandable language)
- Respecting the timeline
- English language

## **Editors**

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