

Inequality and ethnicity

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Structure of the lesson

Introduction - why ethnicity?

What is ethnicity - definition

Brief review of theoretical discussion on the topic

Different groups, different situations

Discussion



Difference between race ethnicity

Ethnicity

- Used more in continental Europe
- Seeks to reflect biological, social and cultural aspects

Race

- Is not widely used in Europe, but still dominant in the US and UK
- Refers more to physical aspects (skin color, other physical features etc.), recognized typically by other



Ethnic group

- ▶ An **ethnic group** may define themselves as different because of their language, religion, geography, history, ancestry, or physical traits.
- ▶ Ethnicity entails identification with a given ethnic group, but it also involves the maintenance of a distinction from other groups.



▶ **Concept of (un)equal chances**

From the sociological point of view equal chances means, that the family of origin does not influence destination of an individual.

Although the evidence from social research varies by country, minority group, and economic well-being indicators, there is a significant correlation between ethnicity and social disadvantages.



Integration

- ▶ Integration in both social and civic terms rests on the demand of equal opportunities for all. In socio-economic terms, migrants or ethnic groups must have equal opportunities to lead just as dignified, independent and active lives as the rest of the population.
- ▶ Integration is successful when minorities and migrants become part of the core in all aspects of life: social, economic, political, cultural, and symbolic ones. Integration is not successful when minorities/migrants have problems penetrating the core of society.



Question

What are the main areas of socio-economic integration?



Three-stage integration indicators

	Employment	Education	Health	Housing
1. Access	Labor force participation rate	Enrolment rate in pre-primary education	Possession of health insurance (rate)	Legal housing in a segregated neighborhood (as opposed to illegal housing) (rate)
2. Result	Unemployment rate (including self-employment)	Integration at classroom level in primary education (index)	Registration with a general practitioner (rate)	Legal housing in a non-segregated neighborhood (rate)
3. Success	Average hourly wage, occupational status (ISCO-88)	Share with (upper) secondary or tertiary education (ISCED 3+)	Life expectancy at birth, infant mortality rate	Φ net floor area (in m ²) per inhabitant (in legal housing in a non-segregated neighborhood)

For empirical data on the situation of minorities

- ▶ <https://www.oecd.org/els/mig/Main-Indicators-of-Immigrant-Integration.pdf>



Ethnic disadvantages and socio-economic integration

- ▶ Human capital theory
- ▶ Social capital theory
- ▶ Unfavourable attitudes (of employers or others)
- ▶ Theory of reference groups and acculturation processes



Human capital theory

- ▶ Emphasis on the relevance of education, skills, experiences, and language fluency for access to labour market.
- ▶ Particularly relevant for immigrants from poor countries (low level of education, little language skills).



Social capital theory (incl. the “Strength of Weak Ties“)

see Bourdieu, Granovetter

- ▶ Greater emphasis on the resources embedded in social relations and community structure.
- ▶ Immigrants/ethnic groups tend to have a rather restricted social circle of co-ethnics in the same position.
- ▶ Not having effective job-search networks.



Unfavourable attitudes of employers

- ▶ Statistical discrimination

please see this short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2E9HYDPX>

[CgQ](#)

- ▶ Direct discrimination

- ▶ Indirect discrimination

For evidence see OECD and ILO research (OECD

- ▶ *Indicators of Immigrant Integration, 2012)*

Theory of reference groups and acculturation/assimilation processes

- ▶ The first generation may be poorly educated and disadvantaged
- ▶ The horizon of the second generation may grow broader:
 - higher aspirations,
 - lower level of discrimination,
 - antidiscrimination legislation



Three images of the long-term situation of ethnic groups

- ▶ **Optimistic**

The example of the gradual reduction of gender differences, so it is hoped that similar processes may work on ethnic lines.

- ▶ **Pessimistic**

It may take decades for minority groups to catch up, if they ever do. The link between the ethnicity and social class (see rationally adaptive strategies)

- ▶ **Segmented**



Explanation of different outcomes

Concerning the relationship between assimilation process and social mobility, please see this video by Alejandro Portes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLmKM4c3fJs>



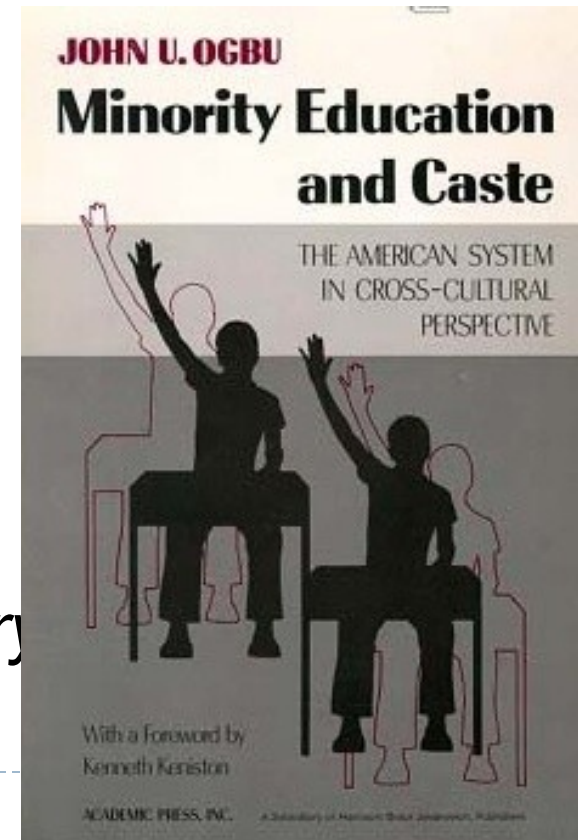
Segmented assimilation

- ▶ See Portes&Zhou, Portes& Rumbaut

Different ethnic groups, different generations can achieve quite different outcomes (eg. in the context of US different pathways of Asians, Mexicans, Black Americans).

The importance of specific cultural factors in the case of various ethnic groups.

Examples of *voluntary* and *involuntary* minorities (Ogbu & Simons).



Different types of Minority Status

Indigenous minorities	Who are present for centuries but not assimilated
Voluntary (Immigrant) Minorities	Those who have more or less willingly moved (to another country) because they expect better opportunities
Involuntary (Nonimmigrant) Minorities	People who have been conquered, colonized or enslaved
Refugees	

→ Dominant patterns of belief and behaviour as focus of analysis



Seven principles of labour market integration for migrant youth (in the US)

1. The context of migration matters
2. Immigrant youth come in many types
3. Today's migrants are socio-economically diverse
4. Gender matters
5. Immigrant children are unlike their parents
6. Just as populations differ so too do institutional arrangements
7. The mechanisms linking immigrants and immigrant offspring to labor markets take various forms

*Source: OECD Working Papers 2011/09
see References*



To discuss

- ▶ Please give the examples of relevant ethnic or immigrant groups in your country.
- ▶ Give examples of policies and programmes aimed at eliminating/reducing discrimination or ethnically based disadvantages.



Sources

- ▶ **Galbraith, J. K. (2016). „Inequality: What Everyone needs to know“ (Chapter 3. Categorical Inequality, pp. 32-44). Oxford University Press.**
 - ▶ Froy, F. and L. Pyne (2011) “Ensuring Labour Market Success for Ethnic Minority and Immigrant Youth”. OECD Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Working Papers, 2011/09, OECD Publishing.
 - ▶ Li, Y. (2010) “The Labour Market Situation of Minority Ethnic Groups in Britain and the US”. EurAmerica, Vol. 40, No.2, pp. 259-309.
 - ▶ K. F. Zimmermann, M. Kahanec at al. (2008) „Study on the Social and Labour Market Integration of Ethnic Minorities.“ IZA Research Report No. 16.
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Thank you for your attention!