

How to better understand social inclusion and exclusion?



# SOCIAL INCLUSION & WORK & POVERTY

- poverty as only one of the indicators of social exclusion
- nature and stability of work playing the most important role -> precariat
- towards broader definition work as a basic indicator of social well-being
- super rich facing the risk of social exclusion (gated communities)
- culture of poverty often mistaken for an ethnic feature



# SOCIAL INCLUSION & EQUAL TREATMENT

- Equal treatment (ET) often understood to be a guiding principle of antidiscrimination laws BUT inherent conflict between ET and social inclusion
- l. some groups need different treatment (e.g. pregnant women, disabled, etc.)
- 2. ET might cause "indirect discrimination" (e.g. starting position of some groups is already different)
- 3. preferential treatment is sometimes needed to redress a prior history of disadvantage (e.g. quotas for African-American Students in the '70s)
- 2 utopias: equal opportunity vs. equality of outcome
- -> social inclusion as a guiding principle of anti-discrimination laws
- -> in justifiable cases positive discrimination/redistribution/provision of specific help is acceptable



# SOCIAL INCLUSION & SOLIDARITY

- cultural sociological approach (Jeffrey C. Alexander)
- solidarity as "subjective feelings of integration that individuals experience for the members of their social groups" (Alexander 1988:78).
- an attempt to capture horizontal dimension of social exclusion core group/terminal group/out-group
- culture specific notion of social inclusion/exclusion
- Two axis of integration: 1. the structure of society; 2. the relationship between internal characteristics
- dilemma of nation building what kind of groups can be included so that we still remain one nation?



## SOCIAL INCLUSION AND NATION BUILDING

- civil vs. primordial definition of a state (France, Canada vs. Central Europe)
- jus sanguinis vs. jus soli
- who can be a member of the particular society?
- citizenship as a key precondition of social inclusion
- Alexander: assimilative movements vs. nationalist movements vs. ethnic secession



## SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SOCIAL CAPITAL

- Idea of different form of capitals (social, economic, cultural) Bourdieu
- Social capital & economic capital = unclear relation
- Amartya Sen idea of minimal income to "live a life one has a reason to value" (Sen 2000)
- Example of inclusive education



