Modern and Postmodern Models of German Jewish Migration

The (Un)Making of a German-Jewish Diaspora

# Abstract (268 words)

German Jewish newspapers played an important role in the integration process of expelled German Jewish communities into their new countries in the late 1940s and 1950s. These newspapers distributed useful everyday knowledge about work and leisure, and enabled immigrants to engage with the political arrangements in their new homes. Notably, the newspapers’ structural affiliations to political organisations also made them an important tool for promoting values, canonising the popular history of German Jewry, and advertising favoured modes of managing one’s foreign heritage in a new country. Published in an era during which the German Jewish everyday experiences included arranging for passports, submitting citizenship and visa applications, travel, and cross-border communication, the newspapers provided German Jewry with a variety of intellectual answers to its new immigrant status. I contend that the migration models advocated in these newspapers were not simply reflections of different ideological standpoints, but were also linked to material conditions, such as technological developments, restitution payments, and newspaper marketing. I develop this position by analysing three different models of migration advocated by the leading German Jewish newspapers: Aufbau (New York), Mitteilungsblatt (Tel Aviv), and AJR Information (London). By offering a typology of German Jewish concepts of migration, this study contributes to the discussion of German Jewry’s continuity after its dispersion from a Migration Studies perspective. Building on the critical work of postmodernist theorists (e.g., Bauman), this paper explores the migration models presented in the Jewish newspapers in a wider, non-Jewish context. It thereby demonstrates the epistemic value of the German Jewish case for understanding the underrated 1950s as a time “between times”—namely, between modernity and postmodernity.

# Current state of research

## Modernist Approach

### Narrative of successful or failed integration

* Exilforschung between 1970 and 2000
* Emigrationsforschung

## Postmodernist Approach

### Narrative of transnational connections, dual identity

Newer works by Shir Ganor, ###, Atina Grossmann of German Jewry outside of Germany

# Models of German Jewish Migration

## Mitteilungsblatt: The Pluralist Model

Characteristics: narrative of integration and contribution to mainstream culture, non-hierarchal

Explanation: Inner Zionist opposition, emphasising liberal individualism in opposition to

## AJR Information: The Good Citizen Model

Characteristics: narrative of integration and contribution to mainstream culture, hierarchal

Explanation: influence of former CV-functionaries on AJR, Great Britain’s

## Aufbau: The Diasporic Model

Characteristics: Narrative of social bonds between globally spread individuals, non-hierarchal

Explanation: representative mission but also commercial advantage, ethnic and minority rights struggle in USA

# Conclusion

They are also results of specific material conditions regarding, for example, air traffic, restitution payments, media distribution and the condition of newspapers as business enterprises.

# Literature

Modernity and ambivalence / Zygmunt Bauman CB430 .B385 1991 Bauman, Zygmunt, 1925-2017 Cambridge : Polity Press 1991

Intimations of postmodernity / Zygmunt Bauman Bauman, Zygmunt, 1925-2017 London ; New York: Routledge 1992 (Haifa, Digital)

Postmodernity and its discontents / Zygmunt Bauman HM73. B295 1997 Bauman, Zygmunt, 1925-2017 New York : New York University Press 1997

Postmodern ethics / Zygmunt Bauman BJ319 .B28 1994 Bauman, Zygmunt, 1925-2017 Cambridge, Mass. : Blackwell Publishers 1993

Zygmunt Bauman Community. Seeking Safety in an Insecure World, 2001 (Polity Press, Cambridge).

Huyssen, Andreas: *After the Great Divide. Modernism, Mass Culture, Postmodernism*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986, p. 188. (zur Periodisierung) (After the great divide : modernism, mass culture, postmodernism / Andreas Huyssen NX456 .H89 1986 Huyssen, Andreas, 1942- Bloomington : Indiana University Press c1986)