Modern and Postmodern Models of German Jewish Migration

The (Un)Making of a German-Jewish Diaspora

# Abstract (259 words)

German Jewish newspapers played an important role in the migratory process of the expelled German Jewish community in the 1940s. They not only distributed handy everyday knowledge regarding work and leisure or enabled the migrants engaging with the political surrounding in the new country. Their structural affiliation to political organisations made them also an important tool for promoting values, canonising the popular history of German Jewry and advertising favoured modes of coming to terms with one’s foreign heritage in a new country. Published in an era, in which the arrangement of passports and new citizenship but also visa application, travelling and cross-border communication belonged to the German Jewish everyday experience, German Jewry found different intellectual answers to its new migratory status. As my paper argues, the migration models advocated in the newspapers are not just born out of different ideological standpoints but are linked to material conditions such as technological developments, restitution payments and newspaper marketing. Developing this idea, I will present three different models of migration advocated by the German Jewish newspapers Aufbau, New York, Mitteilungsblatt, Tel Aviv, and AJR Information, London. Offering a typology of German Jewish concepts of migration, my paper adds to the discussion on the continuity of German Jewry after its dispersion from a Migration Studies point of view. It draws critically on postmodernist theorists (e.g. Bauman) and discusses the models articulated in the Jewish newspapers in a wider non-Jewish context demonstrating the epistemic value of the German Jewish case for understanding the underrated 1950s as the time “between times”, 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)