

Science-Society Dialogues on Migrant Integration in Europe

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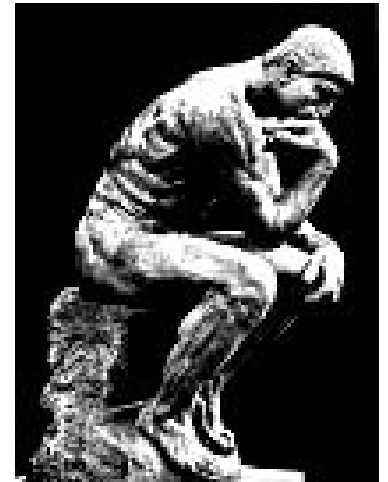
*Presentation for IOM/EMN conference
'Linking research and policy
in the field of Migration, Asylum and Migration'*

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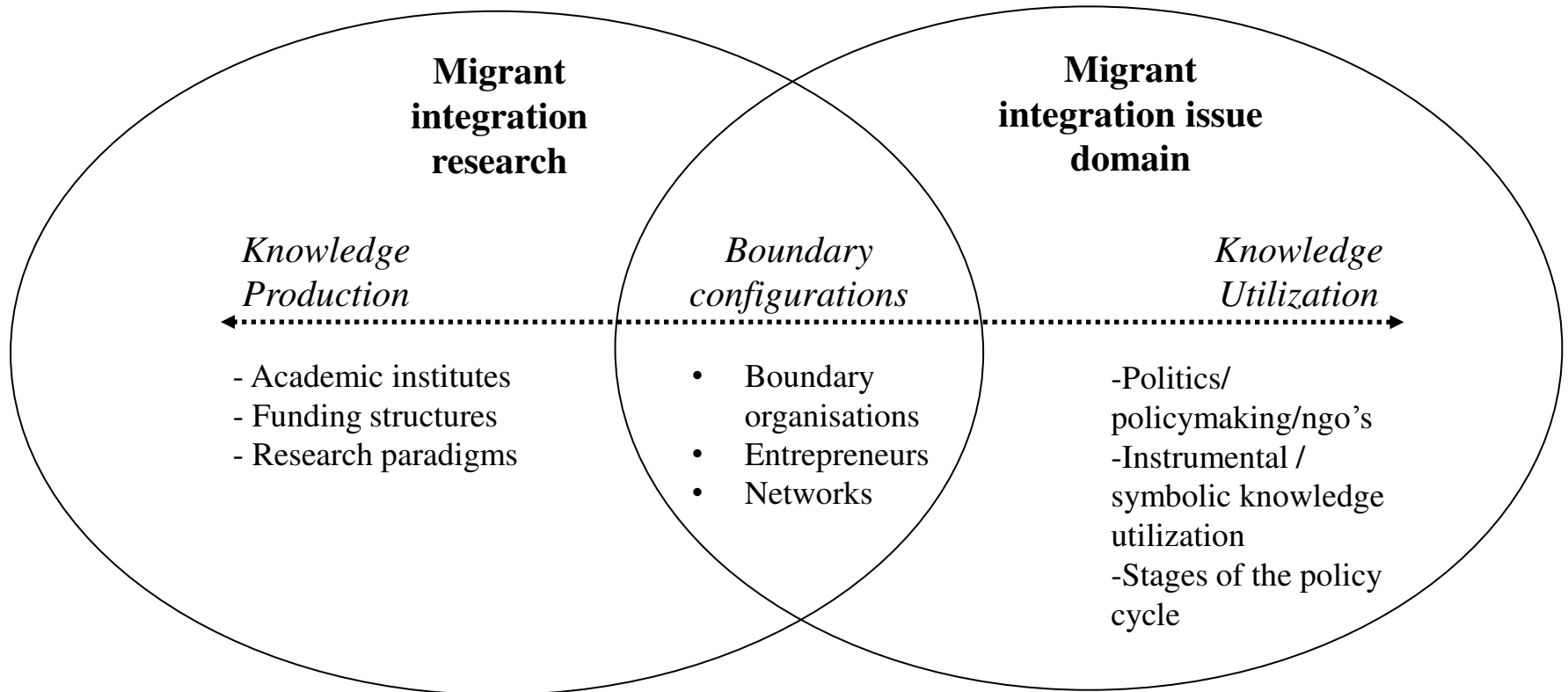
- Background
 - Evolution of migrant integration policies
 - Evolution of migrant integration research field
 - Growing disenchantment in research-policy dialogues
 - Lack of relevance of evidence-based policymaking
 - Lack of leniency for policy-based evidence making
 - Expansion of migrant integration research has not equally benefited the theoretical development of the field
 - Changing public attitudes toward science
 - Risk society (reflexivity, uncertainty, contextuality)
 - Scientification of politics, but also politicization of science

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- **Science-society dialogues**
 - Research-policy relations as ‘dialogues’
 - From *‘speaking truth to power’* to *‘making sense together’*
- **Aims:**
 - Contribute to a better empirical and theoretical understanding of science-society dialogues
 - Making a normative contribution
- **Case studies**
 - Austria/Germany/Italy/Netherlands/UK
 - EU-level
- **Integration issues**
 - Education to immigrant children in primary and secondary education
 - Naturalization of newcomers
 - Accommodation of (new) religious pluriformity



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Research model: the hypothesis

Traditional model of 'rational
societal steering'



New modes of science-society
dialogues?

- *Dialogue structures*
- *Knowledge production*
- *Knowledge utilization*

- Institutionalized actor networks
- Knowledge consensus
- Direct knowledge utilization

- *Growth of reflexivity*
- *Recognition of contextuality*
- *Recognition of uncertainty*

- Open actor constellations
- Diversity of knowledge claims
- Indirect knowledge utilization

- *Macro level factors*
- *Meso level factors*
- *Micro level factors*



Preliminary findings: shifts in dialogues

- **Institutionalization of research-policy relations**
 - Primarily instrumental knowledge utilization: ‘Evidence-based policymaking’ seems succesful and effective
- **RP Dialogues rarely have an impact on the conceptual/paradigmatic level**
 - Paradigmatic closure on national level (national discourse coalitions)
 - Politicization complicates paradigmatic reflection
 - Growing diversity of knowledge claims and intensity of knowledge conflicts
- **Internationalization of research (and policy?)**
 - Comparative research
 - Rethinking national models
 - EU promoting horizontal policy learning on national and local levels

Some suggestions

- **Also focus on the local level**
 - Migration/Asylum shifting ‘upwards’
 - Migrant integration shifting ‘downwards’
- **Accept and appreciate the diversity of knowledge claims**
 - Never monopolize research-policy relations (objectivity redefined as independence)
 - Researchers don’t define policy models, they study policy models
 - From ‘speaking truth to power’ to ‘making sense together’
- **Academic culture**
 - ‘Publish or perish’ versus policy relevance
 - *Ivory Tower versus technocracy versus mutual dialogues*

Thank you for your attention!

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Also:

- My book '*Framing Immigrant Integration: Dutch Research-Policy Dialogues in Comparative Perspective*' available now.
- Expected next summer: Penninx and Scholten (Eds.) *Research-policy dialogues on migration and integration in Europe*.

