

Summary

Despite its geographical distance and the specific ways in which the state of Australia came into existence two centuries ago, both Europe and Australia share a number of similarities in their recent cultural, social and political development, with Australia to some extent anticipating trends which later also appear in Europe. Two of the most widely discussed issues, that have dominated public and political debates in Australia for decades, are related to immigration and the politics of multiculturalism, both of which form the very pillars on which the national and cultural identity of Australia is based upon. Especially within the last years, the questions of immigration and multiculturalism have also entered with full force the public and political discourse in Europe, with both topics gaining a prominent place in the debate. However, while Europe has been made aware of these issues at last during and after the migration crisis of 2015, in Australia, they have been present for a substantial part of the state's existence, and more prominently since the 1990s when the One Nation Party, a political party in many aspects similar to the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) in Germany and the Rassemblement national (RN) in France, gained substantial electoral success.

The dissertation presents a description, analysis and interpretation of the development of the collective national and cultural identity of Australia, of its shared perception, of Australian nationalism and the associated shifts in the shape and course of the immigration politics and of the politics of multiculturalism throughout the Australian history, i.e. from the year 1788 onwards, with focus on the recent developments. The conclusions, where possible, are then compared with the recent sociopolitical developments in Europe, with Germany and France being the principal cases of this comparison.

Utilising an interdisciplinary approach, the dissertation gathers the most relevant data regarding the politics of multiculturalism in Australia, France and Germany, and provides a subsequent interpretation. The work follows on the author's previous theses focused on Australia, and with respect to the current events occurring in France and Germany also includes the author's recent media publications.

The dissertation focuses on the following areas of research:

- Immigration and multiculturalism in contemporary Australian society and their influence on shifting the political and popular discourse regarding the understanding of national and cultural identity in Australia, as well as its institutionally promoted form
- Acculturation and cultural change in the complex environment of the contemporary Australian society, and parallels to the developments in Europe on the examples of Germany and France
- Reasons and motivations for the changes of Australian immigration politics, gradual abandoning of the politics of multiculturalism, and the relevance of this development in the European context
- Symbols of ethnical belonging and cultural representation of identity, processes of creating a cultural identity and the role of media in its formation

The dissertation will connect theoretical and scientific data with interpretation of empirical research results, media content analysis, as well as with the data and knowledge gained through empirical research. The dissertation utilises personal experience, resources and conclusions gained through living, working and studying in Australia, USA and Germany. The analysis is based on holistic, comparative, and interdisciplinary approach, in accord with the principles of current sociocultural anthropology. It is the aim of this work to broaden the current discussion on how to peacefully manage cultural diversity in democratic states.

Key words

Identity, culture, ethnicity, multiculturalism, nationalism, migration, assimilation, integration