

Conflicts between social milieus and social cohesion

Overview

The project examines the form and extent of milieu conflicts over the "right" model of social cohesion. To what extent does cohesion constitute a resource for coping with social transformations - or does it lead to divisions and polarization that ultimately result in individual milieus turning away from overarching social goals?

Duration:

01 June 2024 - 31 May 2027

Research Team:

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Funding:

Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF)

Coordination:

[Forschungsinstitut Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt \(FGZ\)](#)

Details

Question

Using the concept of social milieus, the project subjects the thesis of a "drifting apart of society" to a systematic social science examination. Social milieus are latent large groups that share similar socio-structural situations and fundamental values and each cultivate specific forms of cohesion ("varieties of cohesion"). This results in a potential for conflict that is all the greater the more the social milieus differentiate themselves from one another and attempt to impose their own practices and ideas as a hegemonic model of social cohesion. The form and extent of such milieu conflicts over the "right" model of social cohesion also influence the extent to which cohesion is available as a resource for coping with social transformations or whether divisions and polarization deepen in the process, which can ultimately lead to specific milieus turning away

from overarching societal goals.

Methods

The project uses standardized longitudinal data from the German Social Cohesion Panel (SCP) and comparative survey data, in particular the European Social Survey (ESS). In addition, a mixed methods approach is sought in cooperation with the Qualitative Panel.

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