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Present Position

Professor for Qualitative Methods and Director of the Center of Methods in Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Goettingen

Education

- 1993 Habilitation at the University of Kassel in “Allgemeine Soziologie (General Sociology), especially Interpretative Sociology”
- 1986 Doctorate (Dr. rer. soc.) at the University of Bielefeld, Germany
- 1980 M.A. in Sociology and Psychology at the University of Konstanz, Germany

Field of Teaching and Research

General and Interpretative Sociology, Qualitative Methods, Biographical and Family Research, Conflict Studies, Ethnicity & Migration

Selected Positions & Teaching Activities

- Since 2001 University of Goettingen, Germany
Professorship for Qualitative Methods
- Fall 2017 Visiting Professor at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), Porto Alegre, Brasil
- Winter 2006 Visiting Research Fellow at the Department of Sociology, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana
- Spring 2006 Visiting Research Fellow at the School of Humanities and Social

Sciences, Nova Southeastern University, Florida, USA
 Funded by Alexander von Humboldt Foundation / Transcoop
 Program

- 04/1999 – 03/2001 Visiting Professor for General Sociology, University of Cologne,
 Germany
- 1999 – 2001 Visiting Professor for Interpretive Sociology, University of
 Vienna, Austria, Institute for Sociology
- 1989 – 1999 Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel
 Guest Lecturer for Qualitative Research
- 10/1996 – 02/1998 Visiting Professor for Social Therapy, University of Kassel,
 Germany

Selected Professional Involvements

- 2020 – 2024 Elected member of the review board 111 of the DFG (German
 Research Foundation) for the subject area „Empirical Social
 Research“
- 2019 – 2021 Member of the Board of the German Sociological Association
- 2017 – 2019 Member of the Council of the German Sociological Association
- 2016 – 2019 Member of the Board of Trustees – “Institut für Geschichte und
 Biographie” / Archiv “Deutsches Gedächtnis“, Fakultät für
 Kultur- und Sozialwissenschaften, Fern Universität in Hagen
- Since 2009 Member of the Editorial Board: *FQS. Forum: Qualitative Social
 Research*
- Since 2001 President of Quatext. Institut für qualitative Sozialforschung e.V.
- Since 2001 Member of the Editorial Board: *Sozialer Sinn. Zeitschrift für
 hermeneutische Sozialforschung*
- 2010 – 2012 Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Goettingen,
 Germany
- 2005 – 2012 Member of the Council of the German Sociological Association
- 2002 – 2010 President of the Research Committee “Biography and Society” of
 the International Sociological Association (ISA)
- 2005 – 2009 Member of the International Advisory Board of Sociology
 (British Sociological Association, BSA)

- 1999 – 2003 President of the Section Biographical Research in the German Association of Sociology
- 1993 – 2000 Member of the Editorial Board: *The Narrative Studies of Lives*; edited by Ruthellen Josselson, Towson State University and Amia Lieblich, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Selected Empirical Research Projects

Current Research

Biographies of migrants from Syria and West Africa in Brazil and in Germany – processes of inclusion and participation in the context of so-called irregular migration

Principle investigator: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rosenthal (University of Goettingen)

Duration of the project: February 2019 – January 2022

Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

How does the life of migrants from West Africa and Syria in Germany differ from that of such migrants in Brazil? To what extent is their situation influenced by their own collective history and life history, and to what extent by the fact that Brazil is a country that defines itself in terms of immigration, in contrast to Germany, which defines itself as being rather opposed to immigration? Do immigrants in Brazil experience relations with different groupings of established citizens differently from immigrants in Germany? To answer these questions, we will reconstruct the collective and biographical histories of people from West Africa and Syria who have been living in Germany or in Brazil for a number of years. Our main focus will be on those migrants who are generally labelled as “irregular” or “unplanned” in the dominant social discourses, and on how processes of inclusion and participation differ in Brazil and Germany. Our intention is to analyze how people settle in very different lifeworlds and in different official and social contexts.

Dynamic figurations of refugees, migrants, and longtime residents in Jordan since 1946: between peaceable and tension-ridden co-existence?

Principal investigator: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rosenthal (University of Goettingen)

Duration of the project: 01.04.2017 – 31.03.2022

Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

Jordan is currently again having to cope with the arrival of a very high number of refugees. We want to find out how this new situation is affecting relationships between different groupings within the population, which includes large numbers of refugees who have entered the country since 1947/48 in different phases of the regional history. By studying the social figurations of refugees, other immigrants and longtime residents which have continually changed since 1947/48, and the formation of various groupings and we-groups, we hope to be able to reconstruct the factors which enable or determine the formation of various tension-ridden and peaceable constellations of groupings which are socio-culturally diverse.

Joint research project: On the social contingency of educational and development chances through physical activity: empirical studies and transfers with a special focus on diversity

Members of the joint project: Prof. Dr. phil. Ina Hunger (joint speaker), Sports Education (Institute of Sport Science), University

Goettingen, Prof. Dr. med. Knut Brockmann,
 Social Paediatrics (Interdisciplinary Pediatric
 Center for Children with Developmental
 Disabilities and Severe Chronic Disorders,
 Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent
 Medicine, University Medical Center, University
 Goettingen

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rosenthal

Duration of the Project: April 2017 – December 2020

Funded by the Ministry of Science and Culture, Lower Saxony, under the research
 programme “Early childhood education and development”

In discussions on early childhood education and development, the importance of
 physical education is always underlined. Whether from a socio-political, academic or
 practical point of view, it is regularly pointed out that children’s health and motor skills,
 and their cognitive, mental, social and emotional development, are intimately connected
 with physical activity.

This joint research project considers the social constellations in which children spend
 their early years, and its goal is to paint a differentiated picture of the typical structures
 of socialization in respect of physical activities (and their potential), to reconstruct the
 parents action-oriented knowledge and their motives for encouraging their young
 children to be physically active, to analyze the social conditions that lead parents to
 encourage or discourage physical activity, and to relate these to the (regularly
 diagnosed) development of the child.

Previous Projects

The social construction of border zones: A comparison of three geopolitical cases

Principal investigator: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rosenthal (University of
 Goettingen)

Cooperation partners: Dr. Efrat Ben-Zeev & Dr. Nir Gazit (Ruppin
 Academic Center, Emek Hefer, Israel)

Duration of the project: March 2014 – February 2019

Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

The project examined the social construction of border zones and border activities as
 well as the processes by which they are transformed. In our selected cases, the borders
 gradually changed in recent years from being relatively porous for irregular migrants to
 their almost complete closure. In both cases, though, the border is made porous again
 through the pressure exercised by migrants and smugglers. We focused on two
 structurally very different geopolitical contexts: on the one hand, the border regions
 between African countries and Spain – the maritime border between West Africa and
 the Canary Islands and the border region between Morocco and the Spanish exclaves
 Ceuta and Melilla – and on the other hand, the border region between Egypt and Israel.

Child soldiers in context: biographies, familial and collective trajectories in northern Uganda

Project leader: Prof. Dr. Dieter Neubert (University Bayreuth);
Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rosenthal (University Goettingen)
Project collaborator: Dr. Artur Bogner (University of Bayreuth)
Duration of the project: March 2014 – November 2017
Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

The principal objective was to reconstruct biographies, life courses and (re-)integration processes of former child soldiers and underage abductees of the Lord's Resistance Army in the central part of northern Uganda. In contrast to previous research, data collection and analysis focused on embedding their biographical self-presentations and self-interpretations in the contexts of family histories and the histories of their local social settings and collectivities, interpreting them within these diachronic and collective contexts and taking into account their intertwining with the latter.

Belonging to the outsider and established groupings: Palestinians and Israelis in various figurations

Principal investigators: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rosenthal, Prof. Shifra Sagy
& Prof. Mohammed S. Dajani Daoudi
Duration of the Project: February 2010 – October 2015
Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG, Program for Trilateral German-Israeli-Palestinian Cooperation)

The research group studied present-day social constellations and the dynamics of interaction between members of different social groupings, which are mutually dependent on each other. We pursued the question, if and in which way the situation of a numerical majority corresponds with the constitution of an established-outsider figuration. In other words, if and in which way numerical minorities also form an outsider-grouping in the sense of Norbert Elias. We observe figurations of outsider and established and, respectively, of (local) majorities and minorities in Israel and in the Palestinian Authority (West Bank).

Collective myths and their transgenerational impacts

Principal investigator: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rosenthal
Funded from 2007 – 2011 by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

This study dealt with the family histories and life stories of three generations of ethnic German migrants from the former Soviet Union and their family members, who live in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and in the Ukraine. It examined the factual interdependence between the collective and family histories as well as its possible consequences regarding their past, present and future lives.

Biography and ethnicity

Principal Investigators: Prof. Dr. Rosenthal & Dr. Michaela Koettig

Funded from 2006 – 2007 by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation / Transcoop Program – Cooperation with the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nova Southeastern University, Florida, USA (Dr. Julia Chaitin & Dr. John Linstroth)

A collaborative effort of German-US research and teaching in the fields of biographical and ethnographic research and trans-nationalism, or in more general terms, an exploration of the shifting “sense of belonging to a socio-cultural collective.”

Biographical case studies of juveniles in the context of education programs

Principal Investigators: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rosenthal & Dr. Michaela Koettig

Duration of the Project: 2004 – 2005

Funded by Stiftung Deutsche Jugendmarke e.V.

The holocaust in the life of three generations

Principal Investigators: Prof. Dr. Fritz Schuetze, Prof. Dr. Regine Gildemeister
& PD Dr. Gabriele Rosenthal

In cooperation with: Prof. Dan Bar-On (Ben Gurion University of the Negev,
Beer Sheva, Israel)

Duration of the Project: 1992 – 1996

Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

Family interviews and biographical interviews with grandparents, parents and children in Jewish and Non-Jewish families in Germany and Israel. Case studies on the impact of the first generations' experience on the lives of later generations and on the structural differences between the dialog in families of perpetrators and in families of victims of Nazi Persecution.

Selected Publications

Author of books & editor of books

Bogner, A. / Rosenthal, G. (2020): Child Soldiers in Context. Biographies, Familial and Collective Trajectories in Norther Uganda. Göttingen: University Press, Göttinger Series in Sociological Biographical Research. Free download: <https://doi.org/10.17875/gup2020-1325>.

Rosenthal, G. (2018): Interpretive Social Research. Göttingen: University Press. (in German 2015). Free download: <https://doi.org/10.17875/gup2018-1103>.

Rosenthal, G. / Bogner, A. (Eds.) (2017): Biographies in the Global South. Life Stories Embedded in Figurations and Discourses. Frankfurt a. M.: Campus.

Rosenthal, G. (Ed.) (2016): Established and Outsiders at the Same Time. Self-Images and We-Images of Palestinians in the West Bank and in Israel. Göttingen: University Press, Göttinger Series in Social and Cultural Anthropology. Free download: <https://doi.org/10.17875/gup2016-997>.

Rosenthal, G. / Stephan, V. / Radenbach, N. (2011): *Brüchige Zugehörigkeiten. Wie sich Familien von "Russlanddeutschen" ihre Geschichte erzählen.* Frankfurt a. M.: Campus.

Rosenthal, G. / Bogner, A. (Ed.) (2009): *Ethnicity, Belonging and Biography. Ethnographical and Biographical Perspectives.* Münster: LIT Verlag.

Rosenthal, G. (Ed.) (1998): *The Holocaust in Three-Generations. Families of Victims and Perpetrators of the Nazi-Regime.* London: Cassell. 2nd revised edition in 2010 by Barbara Budrich, Opladen.

Rosenthal, G. (1995): *Erlebte und erzählte Lebensgeschichte.* Frankfurt a. M.: Campus

Mansel, J. / Rosenthal, G. / Tölke, A. (Eds.) (1997): *Generationen-Beziehungen, Austausch und Tradierung.* Opladen: Westdeutscher Verlag.

Selected Articles

Rosenthal, G. (2019/1991): *German War Memories. Narrability and the Biographical and Social Functions of Remembering.* New edition 2019 in: *Oral History Journal @50. The voice of history 1969 – 2019.*

Free download: https://www.ohs.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/OHJ_50_full-min.pdf

Rosenthal, G. (2018): *Challenges in Biographical Research.* In: Schulz, M. S. (Ed): *Frontiers of Global Sociology.* Berlin/New York: Epubli, 268-275.

Bogner, A. / Rosenthal, G. (2017): *Biographies – Discourses – Figurations: Methodological considerations from the perspectives of social constructivism and figurational sociology.* In: Rosenthal, G. / Bogner, A. (Eds.): *Biographies in the Global South.* Frankfurt a. M.: Campus, 15-49.

Rosenthal, G. / Bahl, E. / Worm, A. (2017): *Illegalized Migration Courses from the Perspective of Biographical Research and Figurational Sociology: The Land Border Between Spain and Morocco.* In: Rosenthal, G. / Bogner, A. (Eds.): *Biographies in the Global South.* Frankfurt a. M.: Campus, 185-208.

Bogner, A. / Rosenthal G. (2017): *Rebels in Northern Uganda After Their Return to Civilian Life: Between a Strong We-Image and Experiences of Isolation and Discrimination.* In: *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 51 (2), 175-197, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00083968.2017.1306451>.

Rosenthal, G. (2016): *Die Erforschung kollektiver und individueller Dynamik – Zu einer historisch und prozess-soziologisch orientierten interpretativen Sozialforschung.* In: *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung*, 17 (2), Art. 13.

Rosenthal, G. (2016): The Social Construction of Individual and Collective Memory. In: Sebald, G. / Wagle, J. (Eds.): "Theorizing Social Memories: Concepts, Temporality, Functions". London: Routledge, 32-55.

Bogner, A. / Rosenthal, G. (2014): The "Untold" Stories of Outsiders and Their Significance for the Analysis of (Post-) Conflict Figurations. Interviews with Victims of Collective Violence in Northern Uganda (West Nile). In: FQS, 15 (3), Art. 4.

Rosenthal, G. (2012): A Plea for a More Interpretative, More Empirical and More Historical Sociology. In: Kalekin-Fishman, D. / Denis, A. B. (Eds.): Tradition and Renewal: the Shape of Sociology for the Twenty-First Century. Sage, 202-217.

Rosenthal, G. (2012): Methodische Herausforderungen interkultureller Studien. Mehrfach verschränkte Figurationen von Etablierten und Außenseitern im Westjordanland. In: ZQF Schwerpunktheft „Kulturvergleichende qualitative Forschung“, 13 (1-2), 125-150.

Rosenthal, G. (2004): Biographical Research. Seale, C. / Gobo, G. / Gubrium, J. F. / Silverman, D. (Eds.): Qualitative Research Practice. London: Sage, 48-64.

Rosenthal, G. (2003): The Healing Effects of Storytelling. On the Conditions of Curative Storytelling in the Context of Research and Counseling. In: Qualitative Inquiry, 9 (6), 915-933.

Rosenthal, G. (2002): Veiling and Denying the Past: The Dialogue in Families of Holocaust Survivors and Families of Nazi Perpetrators. In: "The History of the Family. An International Quarterly." Special Issue: Family History – Life Story, 7, 225-238.

Rosenthal, G. (1993): Reconstruction of Life Stories. Principles of Selection in Generating Stories for Narrative Biographical Interviews. In: The Narrative Study of Lives. Sage, 1 (1), 59-91.