

Das Eigene und das Fremde

By Joachim Matthes

Presentation by
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Seminar: Comparing Cultures
Prof. Dr. Martin Woesler
Prof. Dr. Matthias Kettner



Agenda

- Overview on Matthes' Theory of „Comparing“
- Matthes' Theory applied to our seminar
- Practical examples



Matthes' view on „Comparing“

- The act of comparing can't be seen independent from the institutional
neither the cultural context
- An old and a new concept of comparing
- The newer one demands a special method of comparison
- Underlines the absence of methodological and epistemological aspects
- Sociology focuses on western industrial societies

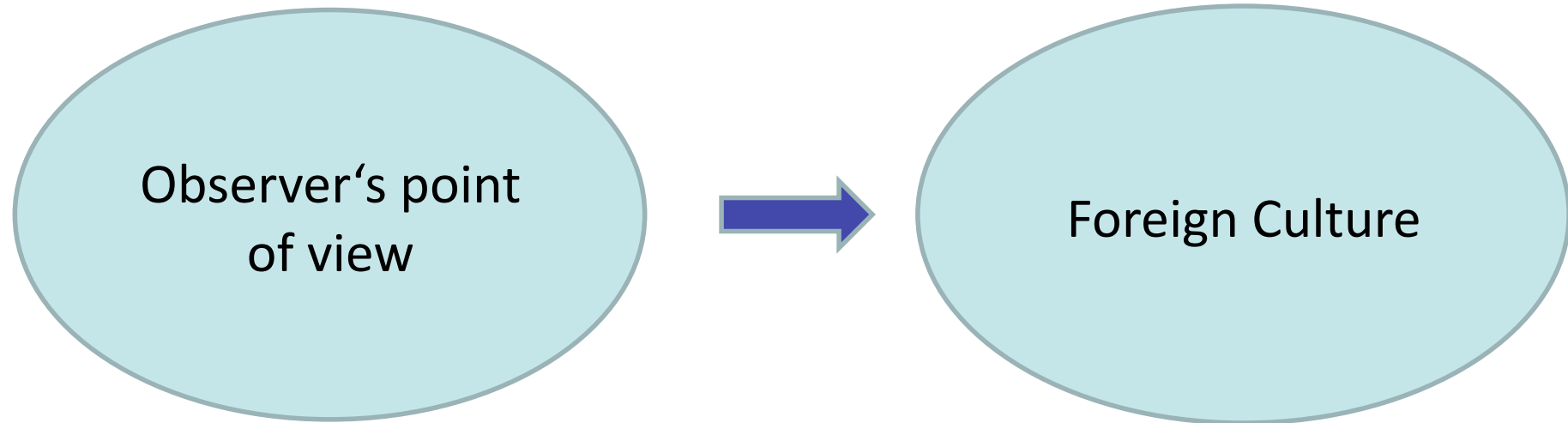


Matthes' view on „Comparing“

- Referring to the Durkheim Paradigm
 - Sociology *is* comparing – theorization releases comparing from cultural boundaries
- Matthes: lacks self reflection on the cultural imprint of the scientists



The Problem of comparing (cultures)



- Cultural context
- „Ways of doing things“
- Values
- Etc.

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The Problem of comparing (cultures)

- Vergleichen – (Ver-) Gleichen
- This operation may lead to a *selffulfilling prophecy*
 - The expected is going to be detected through observation
- To avoid this, the operation of comparing needs to:
 - Try to discover the basic assumptions that lead to certain terms/ideas
 - Avoid using „Forms“ in which an alien culture should fit or not
 - Forms: „Society“ , „Cultures“ , „Modernization“



The Problem of comparing (cultures)



Joachim Gauck



Xi Jinping

How can we properly try to compare these two persons?

- Trying not to compare them against each other, but by trying to explore why they are as they are.



Thank you for your attention!