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AFFILIATED PARTNERS

The research project **POMIKU** is coordinated and implemented at the Department of Social Work at the **HAW Hamburg**, Northern Germany's largest University of Applied Sciences. As part of the family studies and research programme, this project aims at making interdisciplinary contributions to the study of family in postmigrant societies and transferring this knowledge to professional practice.

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The study of multilingual and intercultural communication has a long standing and fruitful tradition in both research and education at the **University of Hamburg**, Northern Germany's largest university. What roles does communication play for families? How is it shaped by norms, values, practices and traditions? These and other questions will be the focus of this linguistic subproject.

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Lenzsiedlung e.V. has over 40 years of experience in supporting the residents in one of Germany's most densely populated social housing complexes. A broad range of services, education and training programmes, leisure activities and counselling have provided a variety of opportunities to residents of all generations and cultural backgrounds. Low-threshold access in terms of language, administration and space have established a high level of trust between residents and staff and helped to improve the life quality in the entire neighbourhood.

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POMIKU

Postmigrant Family Cultures in the Lenz Quarter in Hamburg



GEFÖRDERT VOM



CONTENT AND GOALS

Situated in the social housing complex „Lenzsiedlung“ – Lenz Quarter – in Hamburg Eimsbüttel, the research project „Postmigrant Family Cultures“ (**POMIKU**) looks at family cultures in a postmigrant setting. The research aims at making new contributions to the study of culturally diverse forms of family living and their impact on social cohesion and community in this densely populated neighbourhood.

The project is particularly interested in the variety of norms and values in terms of family, rituals, family climate and health which shape everyday life in the quarter. Another important aspect is language use and communication within and between families, but also with stakeholders and public authorities, particularly in the process of integration and living together in the neighbourhood.

Focusing on family cultures also implies taking a closer look at daily challenges, problems and strategies which have been dominating the social and communal work in the area. The study allows detailed insights into ways of everyday life which can later be applied in counselling and participation programmes.

The focal point of the project consists of a series of workshops, activities and exhibitions on family cultures in the Lenz Quarter. These activities will be designed and implemented by all researchers, community workers and residents alike. After evaluation, the results will be presented to relevant stakeholders and public authorities in different municipalities in Hamburg and beyond.

METHODOLOGY

Research methodology consists of a broad range of both qualitative and quantitative approaches, including exploratory interviews, participant observation, guide line and expert interviews and network analysis.

A distinguishing factor of this research project is the close cooperation of academic researchers and the communal staff of the Lenzsiedlung e.V. where the numerous projects will take place. In order to provide an adequate and easily accessible setting, the already existing Café Büchner will be transferred into a place for exhibitions and workshops and thus serve as a new meeting point in the neighbourhood, where residents, neighbours, communal workers and researchers come together and learn from each other.

BACKGROUND AND FUNDING

The research project POMIKU is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) as part of the national support programme „migration and social change“. Its thematic framework is entitled “diversity and cultural change through immigration“.

THE LENZ QUARTER

The social housing complex „Lenzsiedlung“ (Lenz Quarter), erected in Hamburg Eimsbüttel between 1974 and 1984, is one of Germany’s most densely populated urban neighbourhoods. Due to its demographic features – more than 70 percent of its residents have migratory background and more than 30 percent of the over 1,200 households are families – it is the perfect setting for research on postmigrant families and cultural change. The 1990s witnessed numerous conflicts between residents of different ethnic, social, linguistic and economic background which provided the urban quarter with the reputation of a socially disadvantaged area. However, a good social local infrastructure, adequate services (e.g. Lenzsiedlung e.V.) along with urban renewal programmes have helped to solve many issues, prevent further escalations and thus improved the area’s reputation since the early 2000s.

Due to its clearly defined geographic boundaries and its historic function as an immigrant quarter characterised by multi-ethnic and culturally diverse residents, the Lenz Quarter and its surroundings are well suited to study the diversity of postmigrant cultures and family life. Experiences of migration and adjusting to a foreign environment go hand in hand with maintaining and establishing local, national and transnational networks which connect the neighbourhood to the wide world.

