

**Author:** Nelly Caroline Schubert

**Title:** Inter-ethno-religious Cooperation. Embedded manifestations of representative relations between religious communities on a local level in the German Ruhr Region  
*(Deutsch: Inter(ethno)religiöse Kooperation. Erscheinungsformen und Kontexte kommunaler Repräsentationsbeziehungen zwischen lokalen Religionsgemeinschaften im Ruhrgebiet)*

**Source:** eDiss repository of Göttingen University, online, 2022

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**Short summary:**

The dissertation describes and analyzes direct and indirect manifestations of exchange and reference between local religious communities in the cities Gelsenkirchen and Recklinghausen, located in the German Ruhr Region. It focuses on relations which constructively bridge ethnic as well as religious differences on a community level (i.e. relations are enacted in the name of or with an effect on representative parts of religious communities or entire religious communities). These relations are called interethnoreligious cooperations. Pragmatically combining elements and tools of social network analysis and discourse analysis (Sociology of Knowledge), the author seeks answers to the question: How and why do representative interethnoreligious relations occur on a local level? By analyzing guideline expert interviews with official representatives of local religious communities as well as with local networking experts (e.g. integration agents), the author examines relations and references (networking relations) against the background of specific opportunity structures on the one hand as well as symbolic connections and boundaries (interpretative patterns) and underlying systems of reference on the other.

This study meets the challenge of translating the theoretical program of Relational Sociology into an empirical analysis by admitting the claim for differentiated contextualization of social phenomena. Following an intersectional understanding of ethnicity, the author illuminates connections between organized communities (contents and constellations of relations) and asks for systematic differences – regarding ethnic and religious classifications as well as contextual influences (opportunity structures and interpretative patterns). Categorical

interconnections and characteristic links between ethnicity and religion are paid particular attention. Altogether, Schubert offers a differentiated snapshot of local networking relations, symbolic connections and boundaries as well as framing context elements in representative interethnoreligious relations on a local level.