

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rosenthal

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Curriculum Vitae and List of Selected Publications

**(May 2019)**  
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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**

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| 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**

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| Since 2001  | University of Goettingen, Germany<br>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<br>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**

Since 2019	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, FernUniversität in Hagen
Since 2009	Member of the Editorial Board: <i>FQS. Forum: Qualitative Social Research</i>
Since 2001	President of Quatext. Institut für qualitative Sozialforschung e.V.
Since 2001	Member of the Editorial Board: <i>Sozialer Sinn. Zeitschrift für hermeneutische Sozialforschung</i>
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: <i>The Narrative Studies of Lives</i> ; 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 – 31.03.2020

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 – March 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*

Rosenthal, G. (2018): *Interpretive Social Research*. Göttingen: University Press. (in German 2015).

Bogner, A. / Rosenthal, G. (2018): *Kindersoldat(inn)en im Kontext. Biographien, familien- und kollektivgeschichtliche Verläufe in Norduganda*. Göttingen: University Press, Göttinger Series in Social and Cultural Anthropology.

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.

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. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

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*, Vol. 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: Volume 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.