The Center of Excellence has made the long-term enrichment of scholarly research into a central goal, and this through a series of concrete steps:

... developing new procedures for the autonomous and quality-oriented distribution of resources
... shaping organizational structures and research conditions in a framework of gender equality and in a family-friendly manner
... improving international visibility and cooperation and
... establishing transfer zones between scholarship and society.

Contact:

Speaker
Prof. Dr. Rudolf Schögl

Publicity work and knowledge transfer
Claudia M. Voigtmann
+49 7531 88-4741
claudia.voigtmann@uni-konstanz.de

Exzellenzcluster „Kulturelle Grundlagen von Integration“
Universität Konstanz
Fach 213
78457 Konstanz
– exzellenzcluster.uni-konstanz.de
A dynamic theme...

As its name already implies, research at the Center of Excellence is unfolding in the tense field demarcated by the concepts of “culture” and “integration.”

The Center’s participating scholars do not generally understand integration, one of the key concepts in social theory and system theory, in a traditional normative sense. Rather, they place “disintegration” alongside it as a concept of equal foundational significance. The Center generally understands “integration” as referring to the construction of patterns of social order having a binding impact. It is by no means certain that this process succeeds. Precisely in view of recent developments such as progressive globalization, it is important to discover new models for describing decentered organizational processes.

If integration is not privileged as an ideal case, the corresponding cultural concept has to be treated differently. In the Center’s understanding, culture should not be approached as guaranteeing social unity and closure — but rather as a heterogeneous force-field with diffuse borders. We here find a more intense focus on non-Western conceptual worlds and ideas of similarity that are viable in a culture-theoretical framework.

... with various points of entry

Four research fields render the Center’s theme concrete. By intention they do not represent organizational units, so as not to obstruct interconnectedness between the projects and the competencies of the various academic disciplines.

**Identification and the Politics of Identity**
How and under what circumstances do political, ethnic, and religious forms of affiliation determine integration? This research field investigates relevant processes and constellations.

**Practices of Knowledge and Non-Knowledge**
Narrating, demonstrating, performing — in what manner do such communicative processes form social knowledge and non-knowledge?

**The Cultural Modeling of Hierarchy and Violence**
This research field is focused on the unstable border-conditions of hierarchies and their dependence on situations marked by force and violence.

**Cultural Dynamics of Religion**
A range of differentiation processes stand at the center of this research field: How do religious communities develop, what institutional forms do they assign themselves, and how do they influence each other?