



IBEI RESEARCH SEMINAR

13 February 2015, 2pm
Room 24.120 – IBEI (1st Floor)

Prof. Juan Díez Medrano
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid / IBEI

Fluency on Foreign Languages and European Identification

This seminar focuses on the causal impact of speaking various languages in the development of cosmopolitan identifications and develops a theoretical argument that highlights the mediating roles of communicative and socio-psychological processes. At the empirical level, it analyzes a rich dataset that includes information on European identification and chronologically organized biographical information on the skills and experiences accumulated by individuals over the life course. The data originate in a web-based survey of a randomly selected sample of married and cohabiting individuals in national and European bi-national couples in seven European cities. The statistical results convey that European identification is still at more a matter of awareness than emotion. Furthermore, it reveals that speaking various languages strongly contributes to making it available in people's minds. Finally, the statistical findings are consistent with an interpretation that emphasizes both communication—through strong transnational bonds—and socio-psychological processes linked to the subjective experience of multiple selves.

Prof. Juan Díez Medrano

Juan DIEZ MEDRANO is a Professor of Sociology at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and Coordinator of the Research Program "Institutions and Networks in a Globalized World" at IBEI. He obtained his PhD. from the University of Michigan (1989) and was formerly employed by the University of California, San Diego (1989-2003), the International University Bremen (2003-2004), and the Universitat de Barcelona. He is the author of *Divided Nations* (Cornell University Press, 1995), *Framing Europe* (Princeton University Press, 2003), and numerous scientific articles. He has been the main Project Coordinator of the ESF sponsored Project EUMARR on binational marriages between European Union citizens, and the Spanish leader of the EUCROSS project (7th Framework Programme, European Commission) on the Europeanisation of Everyday Life: Cross-Border Practices and Transnational Identities among EU and Third-Country Citizens

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