

## Field for Dissertations

### **Conditions that promote and impede media competence in the learning and educational biographies of youths with a migrant Turkish background**

Today's youth is growing up in lifeworlds that are increasingly pervaded by the media. However, these media are not just there for entertainment. Computers and the Internet can provide young persons with opportunities to gain access to information and knowledge and to participate in a variety of social processes. However, it remains to be seen whether the "knowledge gap" between persons with different educational backgrounds will decrease, or whether this "digital divide" will tend to increase. In this context, the ability to acquire media and their contents becomes a key competence whose promotion and formation depend on a variety of different educational and socialization contexts. One population group that can be taken to be particularly disadvantaged for various reasons is young persons with a migrant Turkish background. However, up to now, there have been hardly any empirical studies able to deliver differentiated statements on the media behavior of this group of young persons growing up in Germany. In particular, there are still no systematic studies on the way they acquire the new media, what or who motivates them to use computers and the Internet, and in which settings they experience support or come up against barriers.

The proposed dissertation should examine whether it is possible to reconstruct constellations of conditions in the single settings that either facilitate or impede the acquisition of new media, namely, computers and the Internet, in young persons with a migrant Turkish background. It should focus on the social and institutional settings of the family, school, nonschool institutions, peers, and youth subcultures, because these may well function as central locations of media acquisition. Particular attention should be given to whether the two genders differ in how they perceive the way they get support from various settings in the acquisition of media competence, because of several indications of specific differences in the situation of German-Turkish girls.

In this context, acquisition refers to the ways in which young persons occupy both their real and their virtual surroundings and thereby focuses on the active individual. Acquisition describes how individuals learn the behaviors through which they make the society in which they live their own and through which they develop into social beings. In these terms, media acquisition is the integration of the media into the daily lives and experiences of youth. The opportunity for a productive acquisition of the media is given when young persons can go beyond

satisfying their immediate needs and also increase the possibilities of broadening their biographical perspectives or even develop such perspectives in the first place. Reciprocal interdisciplinary links could emerge to proposed dissertations that Isabell Diehm is supervising from the research perspective of "Capability and Interculturality."