ABSTRACT

The process of globalization proceeds and economic, social, cultural, environmental and political systems formerly bounded by the borders of nation-states are increasingly denationalized. Politicians, civil society and other societal actors increasingly engage in publically debating these issues. Where ideological questions about the realization of justice at national and at global level used to be separate, such distinctions now increasingly blur. Consequently, we assume that the predominant national ideological conflict between liberalism and communitarianism and the international conflict between cosmopolitanism and nationalism increasingly become fused. This paper therefore explores how arguments in favor and against globalization made in the public sphere are embedded within cosmopolitan and communitarian political ideology. We develop a conceptual framework which can subsequently be used in support of sociological research analyzing the ideological foundations of globalization debates. These ideologies differ along four central themes: preferences regarding the permeability of borders, the optimal site of authority, the discursive representation of particular constituencies and the meaning as well as weighting of fundamental values of justice.

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