



Embedded Diversity: Discrimination, Door Policies, and the Management of Difference at Berlin Nightclubs

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This paper examines how Berliner nightclubs enact exclusive door policies while still maintaining crowds that appear to be diverse and "bunt" (colourful). It argues that door staff at these clubs do so by curating a sort of controlled eclecticism among its clientele, which provides an image of diversity without being inclusive of all forms of difference. Door staff are thus charged with discriminating between desirably benign variation and threatening/unwelcome difference, which has implications for racial/ethnic, sexual, and class difference. I describe this as "embedded diversity" in reference to the Keynesian notion of "embedded capitalism," where a set of regulatory controls manage the risks and anxieties associated with a more open/free/chaotic system.