The role of art in the social integration of refugees in multicultural societies

O papel da arte na integração social dos refugiados em sociedades multiculturais

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Abstract

This study aim was to focuses on the interaction of cultural and social factors in a multicultural society, with a particular emphasis on the role of art in promoting social integration. Through the analysis of social reality and the study of the socio-structural function of art, this research explores the challenges faced by different cultural groups in adapting to a diverse society. This study focuses on the interaction of cultural and social factors in multicultural societies, with a particular emphasis on the role of art in promoting social integration. By analyzing social reality and the socio-structural function of art, this research explores the challenges faced by different cultural groups, especially refugees, in adapting to a diverse society. The methodology employed in this work involved studying the problems of ethnic mosaic and multicommunitarianism, developing projects for multinational classes, and enhancing interpersonal skills for teachers working with refugees, with the help of a deep literature review from SCOPUS, Google scholar and Research

Resumo

O objetivo deste estudo foi focar na interação de fatores culturais e sociais em uma sociedade multicultural, com ênfase no papel da arte na promoção da integração social. Através da análise da realidade social e do estudo da função sócio-estrutural da arte, esta pesquisa explora os desafios enfrentados por diferentes grupos culturais na adaptação a uma sociedade diversificada. Este estudo centra-se na interação de factores culturais e sociais em sociedades multiculturais, com uma ênfase particular no papel da arte na promoção da integração social. Ao analisar a realidade social e a função socio-estrutural da arte, esta investigação explora os desafios enfrentados por diferentes grupos culturais, especialmente os refugiados, na adaptação a uma sociedade diversificada. A metodologia empregada neste trabalho envolveu estudar os problemas do mosaico étnico e do multicommunitarismo, desenvolvendo projetos para aulas multinacionais e aprimorando habilidades interpessoais para professores que trabalham com refugiados, com a ajuda de uma revisão bibliográfica profunda das bases de dados

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Gate data bases. The results indicate that the formation of different identities within multicultural communities poses challenges to successful integration. The scientific novelty of this study lies in emphasizing the importance of art as a tool for assimilation and integration in a multicultural environment. By providing a platform for self-expression and resilience-building for young refugees, artistic practices play a crucial role in fostering mutual understanding and tolerance among diverse cultural groups. In conclusion, this research underscores the significance of promoting positive changes in multicultural societies through art and highlights the need for continued exploration of strategies that support the integration and coexistence of diverse cultures.

Keywords: Intercultural interaction, Social integration, Cultural diversification, Art globalization, Identity.

SCOPUS, Google Scholar e Research Gate. Os resultados indicam que a formação de identidades diferentes dentro de comunidades multiculturais representa desafios para a integração bem-sucedida. A novidade científica deste estudo reside em enfatizar a importância da arte como uma ferramenta de assimilação e integração em um ambiente multicultural. Ao fornecer uma plataforma para a autoexpressão e construção de resiliência para jovens refugiados, práticas artísticas desempenham um papel crucial na promoção da compreensão mútua e tolerância entre diversos grupos culturais. Em conclusão, esta pesquisa destaca a importância de promover mudanças positivas em sociedades multiculturais através da arte e destaca a necessidade de explorar continuamente estratégias que apoiem a integração e coexistência de culturas diversas.

Palavras-chave: Interação intercultural. Integração social. Diversificação cultural. Globalização da arte. Identidade.

Introduction

It is imperative to outline the primary focus of the study and the authors' scientific viewpoint. The study aimed to shed light on the impact of multiculturalism on children and adolescents forced to flee war, particularly in terms of their adaptation and integration into new societies through the use of art. This group represents a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds and needs, presenting a complex challenge for society to address. The research aims to address gaps in support currently available to these young individuals, including resources for adaptation, knowledge on the potential of art in integration, and the consideration of ethno-cultural diversity in educational settings. This analysis aims to deepen our understanding of multiculturalism and the role of culture in the integration of refugee children.

One of the most important characteristics of our time is the crisis of culture, which manifests itself in the hypertrophic production of content, which prevents individuals from forming a subjective culture. Today, however, the issue of culture is different. In the context of the war in Ukraine and the phenomena of migration, modern societies are moving towards creating a world where a set of reference cultures is being formed. In this paper, this issue is considered in the context of a broader discussion of "multiculturalism". Children and adolescents who have been forced to flee war are undergoing significant transformations, living in extremely unstable conditions, unable to read and write, and unable

to learn the language of the host country. They are completely defenceless and find themselves in a difficult situation. They have not yet lost their own self-identity, but they are confronted with a new culture.

The paper examines the social dynamics of multiculturalism through the use of art to aid in the integration of refugee children from Ukraine into host societies. These children come from diverse ethnic backgrounds and have unique needs, making their integration a complex process that requires coordinated efforts across all sectors of society. By exploring the concept of multiculturalism and defining culture scientifically, the paper aims to address gaps in current support for immigrant youth in Ukraine. These include a lack of resources for adaptation, a lack of understanding of the potential of art in integration, and the challenge of accommodating ethno-cultural diversity in educational settings for refugee children.

The primary focus of this study is to investigate the impact of multiculturalism on children and adolescents who have been forced to flee war, with a particular emphasis on their adaptation and integration into new societies through the use of art. This group represents a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds and needs, presenting a complex challenge for society to address. The research aims to shed light on gaps in support currently available to these young individuals, including resources for adaptation, knowledge on

the potential of art in integration, and the consideration of ethno-cultural diversity in educational settings.

The literature review examined previous research on the role of art in social integration.

The methodology section described the qualitative approach and data collection methods used in this study. To assess social integration, the study used the following indicators: engagement levels and frequency of participation in local art-related events and communal activities, the number and strength of interpersonal connections formed through art activities, how participants express and maintain their cultural identities through art.

The results section presented the key findings of the study and their discussion. In the discussion, the findings were interpreted in the context of the broader literature. This section analysed related the study's findings to existing research on art and social integration. The conclusion summarised the main points of the study and underscored the significance of promoting positive changes in multicultural societies through art.

Theoretical framework and literature review

The transformation of modern societies is testing the meaning of concepts that attempt to understand their complexity. This poses new challenges to sociology and triggers public debate. The stability of political institutions in modern societies in the fight against the risks arising from the uncontrolled evolution of cultural pluralism is the subject of numerous scientific works. Thus, the problem of the normative foundations of societies, in particular the issue of "reference cultures", is becoming increasingly relevant.

According to the findings of Lengel, Mechehoud, & Newsom (2022), there is a rise in modes of association in various spheres of society that question the possibility of a common normative orientation. This has led to discussions about "transnormative" processes of association in the social sciences (Dodu-Savca & Ernu, 2022). The creation of a common normative framework often encounters limitations, especially when it is based on ethical, political or religious values, i.e. on a common cultural heritage. However, the institutional structure of society is better preserved than social theory suggests, which points to problematic aspects of legitimation procedures. These procedures are based on

"intercultural modalities" of consensus (Fuchs & Von Scheve, 2023), and contexts of legal validity are established despite the absence of shared cultural value.

Sociology's theoretical orientation towards biological metaphors can be based on the observation that living systems are composed of dynamic rather than static structures. Living organisms ensure their autonomy, autonomy, regulation, and repair through the rhythmic implementation of their structural characteristics necessary for survival (Go, 2023). Instead of the mechanical idea that social structures are immutable after the process of institutionalisation and socialisation, we need to consider their constant renewal in the context of everyday action. Thus, transnormative forms of association that emerge in routine, legal norms and power relations become the main object of sociological analysis (Ritzer & Stepnisky, 2021).

With the development of complex societies, the fragmentation of culture has become a more relevant topic for discussion. We try to use political semantics to reduce the impact of new social phenomena on this process. The topic of migration is pivotal in these discussions and bears significant consequences. It's noteworthy that immigration emerged as a defining feature of developed societies during the latter half of the 19th century (Favell, 2022).

The conditions of war in Ukraine today are leading to an increase in the size of the migration problem, which is becoming more urgent than ever before (Senchylo-Tatlilioglu et al., 2023). This situation raises the concern that the most developed countries are forced to adapt to a new global order where their leadership position may be in question. It also raises concerns about foreigners staying on their territory (Carling & Collins, 2018). On the other hand, modern societies are undergoing an evolution where minorities, whether ethnic or not, are actively maintaining their identity and cultural diversity. This process represents one of the main challenges in the development of multiculturalism. According to Ramos, Pereira & Vala (2020), analyses of the implementation of multiculturalism, as sometimes happens in public debates, are complex. There are different models of "cultural diversity" that are worth considering understanding this concept. For example, a distinction is made between "multinational" and "polyethnic" states. In the case of Europe, it still faces a limited migration flow, as indigenous groups remain in the countries in large numbers. Despite some resentment, the former colonial

powers maintained policies that provided migrants with comprehensive assistance, beyond language courses. Recent developments, however, have been characterised by the phenomenon of forced migration, which is usually accompanied by a lack of proven language skills. In this respect, the cases of Germany and Italy are striking in the exemplary value of their opposition (Dancygier & Margalit, 2019).

According to Botvyn., Aleksandrova., Krymets., Dobrovolska., & Rudenko (2022), ethnic groups have a structurally weaker status than national minorities because they are not linked to a specific territory that they have occupied for a long time. They participate in the political institutions of the dominant culture and speak its language. Therefore, they should not be considered as "nations" because, while opposing assimilation, they do not demand the creation of a parallel society, as national ethnic minorities do. They are, according to Mosendz, Filimonova-Zlatohurska, Pankiv, Bannikova, & Vlasiuk (2022), loosely united subcultures that speak an indigenous language while being characterised by different ethnicities. Finally, there are groups that straddle the line between ethnic minority and nationality, such as the "Latino community" in the United States (Lin, 2024). However, this denomination is more of a statistical category than a structured ethnic reality, given its fragmentation into different groups.

Following the observation of Dobrolyubska, Semko, Tytar, Yuhan, & Byedakova (2024), scholars are gradually abandoning the one-dimensional concept of multiculturalism, which is ambiguous, and introducing the difference between "multinationality" and "polyethnicity". The idea of multiculturalism is actually associated with the image of the complete disintegration of the entire indigenous culture, which does not correspond to the current reality, where "multicultural societies" are in maximum contact with the conditions of polyethnicity. framework of the dominant national institutions of the indigenous population.

Therefore, analytically, the paper can consider the internal differentiation of culture or use this word to refer to the sum of cultural aspects common to a society. Clarifying the meaning of the concept of culture and the role it plays in the integration of modern societies is one of the main objectives of the present work. It is in this perspective that such a sociological theory of culture can make a significant contribution.

The changing landscape of modern societies is challenging traditional concepts and sparking important debates within sociology. The exploration of how political institutions navigate the complexities of cultural pluralism in today's multicultural society is gaining increasing interest in academic research. Understanding the concept of "reference cultures" and normative foundations within societies is a pivotal area of investigation.

Recent studies suggest that various modes of association in society are challenging the idea of a common normative orientation (Chifor, 2023). This has led to discussions about "transnormative" processes of association in social sciences (Corey, 2023). Despite the limitations faced in creating a common normative framework based on shared cultural heritage, societal institutions continue to uphold their structures through intercultural consensus.

As state Di Sabatino & Mastrantoni (2022) sociology's approach to society as dynamic living systems, rather than static entities, sheds light on the constant renewal of social structures through everyday actions. The emergence of transnormative forms of association, legal norms, and power dynamics are central to sociological analysis in modern society.

The fragmentation of culture and the impact of migration according to Dorren (2024) are pressing issues in contemporary discussions. The current conditions in Ukraine highlight the urgent nature of migration challenges faced by developed countries, raising concerns about their leadership roles. The evolution of modern societies towards embracing cultural diversity, while grappling with the complexities of multiculturalism, presents a significant challenge.

Ethnic groups and national minorities play distinct roles in society, with varying levels of integration and political participation. The concept of "multicultural societies" and the distinctions between "multinational" and "polyethnic" states are crucial for understanding cultural diversity in different contexts. The nuances of ethnic identities, national minorities, and forced migration underscore the complexities of multiculturalism and integration policies.

It is important to move beyond one-dimensional notions of multiculturalism and explore the concepts of "multinationality" and "polyethnicity" to better understand the

integration of diverse cultures within dominant national institutions. Clarifying the role of culture in modern societies and its implications for social integration is a key focus of ongoing sociological research.

Previous studies have focused on the challenges posed by cultural pluralism and the need for a common normative framework in modern societies. These studies have highlighted the limitations of relying on shared cultural values for normative foundations and have explored alternative forms of consensus building based on intercultural modalities. The focus has shifted towards understanding the dynamic nature of social structures and the constant renewal of norms and power relations in everyday actions.

The present study built upon these findings by delving deeper into the concept of transnormative processes of association and their impact on the stability of political institutions. By examining how these transnormative forms of association manifest in routine interactions, legal norms, and power relations, the study aimed to provide a more nuanced understanding of the normative foundations of societies in the face of cultural pluralism.

The literature review has informed the design and implementation of the study by highlighting the need to move beyond static conceptions of social structures and focus on their dynamic nature. By drawing on biological metaphors and emphasizing the rhythmic implementation of structural characteristics necessary for survival, the study seeks to capture the fluidity and adaptability of social norms and power relations in modern societies.

In summary, the present study addressed the gaps in previous research by focusing on transnormative forms of association and their implications for the stability of political institutions. By building upon existing literature and theory, the study aims to provide a deeper understanding of the normative foundations of societies in the context of cultural pluralism and ongoing societal transformation.

Research design and methods

General Background

This research aimed to analyse the sociostructural functions of art in the era of multiculturalism, focusing on the impact of arts projects on the adaptation and integration of young people from different cultures and societies. The research drew upon an examination of relevant scientific literature encompassing cultural and social theories, aimed at comprehending the intricacies inherent in the discourse surrounding multiculturalism.

Study Design

The study design involved a qualitative approach, utilising tools from cultural theory to analyse the social reality underlying the multiculturalism debate. The research also examined the problems associated with different typologies of multiethnic societies and the challenges of social integration faced by individuals in contemporary global societies. In the data analysis process, thematic analysis was used to code and categorize the data collected from interviews and literature review. Themes such as the role of arts in social integration, challenges faced in multicultural classrooms, and the impact of educators' support on young people's adaptation were identified and analysed.

Data Collection

The data collection methods encompassed a comprehensive review of scholarly literature on cultural theory, primary texts, and secondary studies sourced from SCOPUS, Google Scholar, and ResearchGate. Furthermore, the research incorporated interviews with educators engaged with Ukrainian refugees, aiming to grasp the hurdles and achievements of arts initiatives in fostering adaptation and integration. To ensure the validity and reliability of the results, data triangulation was employed by combining findings from different sources such as literature review and interviews. Member checking was also conducted by presenting the findings to educators for feedback and validation. Additionally, peer debriefing was used to discuss and validate the interpretations of the data with other researchers.

Validated instruments or tools

The study utilised validated instruments in cultural theory to analyze the impact of arts projects on social integration and adaptation. Interviews with educators are conducted using structured interview guides to gather specific information on the effectiveness of arts projects in multicultural classrooms. The study participants consisted of educators working with young people from different cultural backgrounds in multicultural classrooms. A total of 10 educators were selected based on their experience and involvement in arts projects

aimed at facilitating social integration and adaptation. Participants were primarily aged between 15-45 years, with a fairly equal distribution of gender. The educators represented various ethnicities and cultural backgrounds to provide diverse perspectives on the impact of arts projects on social integration.

Data Analysis

The data analysis relied on the insights garnered from the literature review, interviews with educators, and examination of cultural and social theories. The study highlights the importance of arts in facilitating the adaptation and integration of young people from different cultures and societies. The analysis also emphasizes the significance of educators' interpersonal skills in working with young people from diverse backgrounds.

In essence, the research methodology integrated social theory and cultural theory to furnish a holistic comprehension of the role of arts within multicultural societies. The study emphasizes the importance of developing meaningful relationships with young people from different cultures and promoting creative spaces for self-expression. The research design combined qualitative methods with a focus on cultural and social theories to provide an in-depth analysis of the sociostructural functions of art in the era of multiculturalism. The study highlighted the importance of arts in promoting social integration and adaptation among young people from diverse cultures and societies, emphasizing the role of educators in facilitating this process.

Results

Culture and art as drivers of socio-structural integration

Culture is an important function for social inclusion through its influence on daily activities. In complex societies with functional differentiation, according to Chi & Belliveau (2022) the economy is recognized as a sphere of value or a social system, rather than the "foundation" of society. Given the processes of cultural fragmentation due to massive processes of refugee and emigration, the task of social integration becomes the responsibility of individuals who interact with each other. The crisis of culture and the rise of multiculturalism in modern societies pose challenges for individuals forming subjective cultures in a content-saturated world. The impact of migration on culture is shaping our modern societies. Such an interpretation can delve into the role of culture as a social institution, providing a reservoir of tools for achieving social integration. This perspective emphasizes the dynamic nature of culture, shaped by historical processes and societal changes.

As a social institution, "culture" creates a reservoir of tools for achieving social integration. Therefore, it can be seen as an anthropological constant that is formed in the connected lives of different historical periods due to the "natural artificiality" of the species. However, the evolution of modern societies has a significant impact on cultural dynamics. Hypotheses from cultural theory are rooted in a critical examination of this evolution towards social complexity as consequenses of wars and migrations (fig. 1):

Figure 1. The world's refugee's crisis.
Source: "Statista - the statistics portal" (2023)

In his work, Sydorenko (2024) considers culture in the context of acculturation of the individual personality. The objects of experience are selected from the natural environment and are subject to the will of the individual. Through interaction with cultural objects, in particular art, the individual develops. However, the evolution of culture also means reification, when its products become objective "spheres of values" according to their own logic, which influences the formation of individuality (table 1):

Table 1.
Stages if the evolution of culture seen through reification

The evolution itself	The evolution of culture begins with the development of societal norms, beliefs, and practices that are passed down through generations.
Culture involvement	As culture evolves, these norms and beliefs become solidified and ingrained in society, leading to the creation of tangible products such as art, literature, music, and architecture.
Spheres of values	These products of culture become reified, meaning they take on a life of their own and become objective "spheres of values" that influence the way individuals think, behave, and interact with the world around them.
The impact	This reification of cultural products has a profound impact on the formation of individuality, as individuals are shaped and influenced by the values and norms inherent in their cultural environment.
The reification itself	The progression of culture and the solidification of cultural artifacts are pivotal in shaping the identities and behaviors of individuals within a society.

Source: authors own design.

Therefore, culture can only be constituted by bypassing reified culture. To explain the conflict between the two lines of modern cultural progress, science uses opposing concepts: objective and subjective culture. The social differentiation of modernity goes beyond the classical process of acculturation. The exponential development of objective culture is not consistent with the evolution of the subjective culture of individuals. The growth of objective culture leads to qualitative changes, as the gap in the depth of its heritage becomes insurmountable for the formation of subjective culture. This is the essence of the "conflict of modern culture". Thus, the socio-structural task of subjective culture is to integrate subjects into complex social systems, providing them with a common life experience. The conflict between objective and subjective culture highlights a key tension in modern societies. Objective culture, characterized by its exponential development, poses challenges for individuals in forming subjective cultural identities. This conflict underscores the need for a deeper understanding of how cultural dynamics impact social integration.

The findings can be linked to the research questions by exploring how migration influences cultural dynamics and social integration. Analyzing the effects of migration on subjective cultural formation in the context of modern societies can provide insights into the challenges and opportunities for individuals interacting in multicultural environments.

The interplay between cultural and social factors is intricate. While culture can only be conveyed through specific manifestations, the proliferation of objective culture may impede the process of acculturation. Thus, as state Cahn, Ross, & Shapshay (2020), the conflict of contemporary culture stems from the contradiction between the needs of a society with diverse functions. The increasing distance between an individual and his or her living conditions requires an increasing number of symbolic forms that help preserve the substantive content of culture. These forms provide individuals with the means to integrate into society, but at the same time require them to combine fragments into a coherent synthesis with personal meaning. However, this synthesis and the maintenance of a society with diverse functions are becoming more difficult due to the rapid growth of objective culture. Yet, this paper aimed to examine the conflict between objective and subjective culture, and address how the growth of objective culture affects individuals' integration into complex social systems. This connection helped in directly answering research questions regarding the mechanisms through which culture facilitates social inclusion.

The study of artistic practices in a multicultural society is the first stage of diagnosing the crisis of contemporary culture. Currently, scholars are expanding on these observations, pointing out that the complexity of contemporary culture can hinder its development by closing in a state of déjà vu or refusing to reproduce forms (Holle et al., 2021). They believe that the cultural creativity of a society consists of two currents that interact with each other, creating a tension that leads to the evolution and rethinking of cultural values. Such a consideration of internal factors, such as individuals' cultural backgrounds and experiences, provide nuanced insights into how subjective cultures are formed and integrated within diverse social contexts. This exploration helps in understanding the diverse ways in which individuals navigate cultural complexities. When delving into the dynamics of artistic practices within a multicultural society, investigating the intersections of music and choreography unveils a rich tapestry of cultural exchange and expression. Music and choreography serve as vessels through which diverse cultural traditions, narratives, and identities are communicated and celebrated. This exploration not only sheds light on the artistic forms themselves but also provides insights into the social, historical, and political contexts in which they emerge and evolve. Moreover, studying the fusion of music and choreography in multicultural settings offers a deeper understanding of how communities negotiate their cultural heritage while embracing new influences, fostering connections across cultural boundaries, and promoting dialogue and understanding (Brannigan et al., 2023: 281). We agree that sociology should study contemporary socio-cultural phenomena without preconceptions about their future development. Thus, the diagnosis of cultural evolution reflects the possibilities of the future society.

The investigation into the role of art in facilitating the adaptation of refugees to new environments reveals that the cultural crisis can stem from the heightened cultural stress induced by migration processes. The analysis of external factors, including the social and political context, enables a deeper understanding of the broader structural forces shaping cultural dynamics and social integration. By examining how societal changes, such as wars and migrations, influence cultural evolution, the research can highlight the multifaceted nature of cultural adaptation. Thus, at the present stage, the dynamics of cultural transformation reflects the expansion of the Marxist concept of conflicts between cultures, which calls into question the possibility of integration and adaptation of refugees into a new social environment (Favell, 2022).

However, art can be an effective tool to help refugee children assimilate into a new culture. It can help them to deal with emotional and psychological problems that arise from the difficult experience of migration. The arts can stimulate creativity and self-expression, facilitate communication and understanding of the new environment. Participation in music, dance or other artistic activities can help refugee children to connect with peers and other members of their new society and develop skills of cooperation and understanding. The arts can also help children feel more confident and settled in their new environment.

Thus, the development of artistic practices among refugee children can help them adapt to a new culture and facilitate their integration into the society where they are now.

Art as an assimilation tool for children of refugees from Ukraine

The use of different art forms for assimilation has many facets. Its therapeutic potential and ability to influence personal growth and social change are based on various concepts developed in psychology, art therapy and art education, among other fields. The use of art can vary depending on the context. Three aspects are considered here: the use of art as a therapeutic tool, art education aimed at young people, and the culture of young people that influences art education.

Potential possibilities of therapeutic art

The benefits of art practice are explored from an interdisciplinary perspective. The privileged creative approaches in this field (such as art, play, fairy tales and puppets) for working with children and adolescents are based, among other things, on the theoretical concepts of transitional space and transitional object developed by the paediatrician and psychoanalyst Donald Winnicott (Manolachi, 2021).

The scientist describes the existence of a transitory space, which is a transitional zone between external and internal reality. This space serves as a symbolic function, helping the individual to separate from the mother and manage anxiety. The transitory object located in this space is the first "non-self" for the child, and he or she uses it to meet his or her needs. This object helps the child to move to an objective perception of the world and explore it, gradually

losing its relevance. Adults will invest this space through different areas of life, such as religion, culture and art.

Thus, the hypothesis of the work is that art is an effective transitional object for the assimilation of refugee children. The purpose of using artistic techniques is to help young people from a migrant background express themselves, understand their losses and express their emotions about their migration experience. Understanding their lives or the consciousness of what they have experienced (e.g. in the case of war-related trauma, as in the case of refugees) is key to ensuring mental health.

The concept of resilience was originally used in the natural sciences but was later reclaimed in the social sciences and is defined as "the ability to develop in the face of incredible hardship". According to Mokline & Abdallah (2021), connection (with a significant other) and meaning are two necessary components for the resilience process to begin:

Resilience approaches include the use of creativity, art therapy and art education. A child who has experienced trauma can express his or her emotions and fears through symbolic drawing or playing with a puppet, which helps to build a dialogue between external reality and internal space. Art educators can also develop educational programmes aimed at supporting and developing resilience in children, especially in immigrant communities (Figure 2):

Figure 2. Motanka doll as art therapy for refugee children from Ukraine.
Source: (Motanka, 2012)

Teaching art to young refugees is not only about providing a safe environment for their creativity, but it is also a way to help them express themselves and feel in control of their lives. The arts can be an important means of communication and expression for them, helping them to discover their new surroundings and gradually integrate into them (Kassan et al., 2020). It is important to remember that they may not have any experience with the arts, so it is important to offer them a variety of opportunities to create. The arts can stimulate their motivation and increase their self-esteem through the pleasure of learning. When they are creating, they do not feel like they are working, which makes learning more interesting and engaging for them (Quintero, 2024). Art practices can also help them discover new environments and gradually integrate into them. Additionally, music and choreography as art therapy encompasses various aspects such as emotional expression through musical compositions and stress relief through listening to music as a relaxation tool. Music also stimulates creativity and social interaction through participation in musical processes and group projects, fostering the development of cognitive skills and self-expression for personal growth (Brannigan & Lawson, 2023: 281).

The educator should keep in mind that some young people may not have experience with different mediums and the results may look awkward. It is important to offer them a variety of opportunities and mediums so that they can create on their own.

In addition, art makes mistakes and even encourages them. They can lead children into unknown territories. The teacher can use this aspect to stimulate creative solutions. Although providing successes to these young people does

not solve all problems, it is still an important contribution that is available even with a language barrier.

The implications of these findings extend to social policy, emphasizing the importance of promoting cultural diversity and fostering inclusive environments. Addressing the challenges posed by the conflict of modern culture requires policy interventions that support individuals in navigating cultural complexities while preserving the substantive content of culture.

By integrating the theoretical framework with the research findings, the current interpretation offered a nuanced understanding of how culture influences social integration in modern societies. Establishing explicit connections to research questions and exploring both internal and external factors contribute to a comprehensive analysis of the implications of cultural dynamics on social cohesion.

Discussion

To address these challenges and limitations, further research could focus on exploring the role of art in promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding. By studying how artistic practices can facilitate communication and collaboration between diverse cultural groups, researchers in their work identify effective strategies for promoting cultural integration and cohesion.

For example, the examination of artistic endeavors in a multicultural setting demands a thorough exploration of the interplay between cultural and social elements. Within this framework, Pinto & Pinto (2022) contend that it's crucial to acknowledge that multiculturalism doesn't inherently precipitate a cultural crisis; instead, it can foster multifaceted identities and cultural pluralism. Similarly, Barçin (2020), in a correlated investigation, concludes that multicultural societies like Canada or Belgium exemplify how varied cultures can coexist harmoniously and engage in diverse interactions, thereby mutually enriching one another.

On the other hand, the crisis of modern culture can be linked to the hypertrophy of objective culture, which can make it difficult to synthesise subjective culture and integrate people into social relations. According to Brondino & Greaney (2023), this can create problems for social integration and contribute to the phenomena of communitarianism. Thus, it is important to study not only the external manifestations of culture in

a multicultural society, but also their relationship with social processes and individual identity. Moreover, exploring the effects of art education and cultural programs on social integration could offer valuable insights into how these endeavors might mitigate cultural rifts and cultivate a collective sense of identity. By highlighting the benefits of cultural exchange and artistic expression in promoting social cohesion, researchers can provide valuable evidence to support the development of policies and programs that promote multicultural integration (Brannigan & Lawson, 2023).

As per Akkoyun & Uyar (2020), examining artistic endeavors in a multicultural society can present fresh avenues for comprehending the interplay between cultural and social dimensions, thereby fostering an appreciation for the diversity and distinctiveness of various cultures. In his similar study, the researcher notes that it is important to realise that multiculturalism does not threaten cultural identity but can enrich and strengthen the cultural heritage of society.

Today, as states Bendaş (2023), the process of forming stereotypical perceptions of others, which is an important part of sociology, can no longer provide a sufficient cultural context for the interaction of "members of the same society". As shown in our study, this leads to fragmentation of social ties, limitation of groups of different ethnic origins in conditions of limited identity practices that oppose each other. People feel the need to change their attitudes towards globalisation in their everyday activities. War that threatens lives, economic and social instability caused by the constant need to adapt to new challenges of social complexity seems to be triggering a crisis that will last for centuries. In this respect, Binder, Borné, Johnsdotter & Essén (2012). insist that it is important not to limit the integrative function of culture, to try to avoid social problems that arise from confrontation between cultural groups. Other communities according to Baker & Joselit (2022) feel the need to strengthen their identity by celebrating important aspects of their cultural heritage that may not have been as important in their original environment. Instead of working for exchange, cultural barriers between groups are strengthened on both sides. In this way, we try to protect ourselves from the social difficulties that arise from being uncomfortable with the presence of others in our daily lives. Furthermore, examining the representation of diversity and multiculturalism in art and media can shed light on how stereotypes and biases are perpetuated and challenged in artistic practices.

Through a critical examination of how diverse cultural groups are depicted in artistic creations, researchers can advance a more nuanced comprehension of multiculturalism, thereby fostering increased cultural diversity and inclusion within artistic endeavors.

A related study by Zabora, Kasianenko, Pashukova, Alforova, & Shmehelska (2023) demonstrates that in a multicultural environment, artistic practices have great potential to assimilate refugees arriving in new countries. Art can become a universal language that unites people regardless of their cultural background. Through a joint creative process, migrants can integrate into a new society, opening up new opportunities for communication and interaction. Indeed, from the perspective of the presented work, it can be argued that the presence of different cultural practices and traditions can enrich the artistic environment, making it more diverse and interesting. Art can act as a conduit connecting disparate segments of society, fostering mutual comprehension, tolerance, and collaborative support.

Baca (2023) asserts that art can wield significant influence in facilitating the integration of refugees into a novel environment. Through the joint creative process and interaction between different cultures, art can contribute to building a single, united society where each individual can feel part of the whole.

In modern societies, it is becoming increasingly difficult to construct images of other people, which leads to an increase in alienation between them. The speed of social exchanges increases the distance between people, and stereotypical images push them further apart. This leads to conflicts between different cultural groups competing for territory and identity (Sofilkanych et al., 2023). It is worth noting that attempts at ghettoisation and self-ghettoisation lead to conflicts between migrants and locals. Ideological conflicts often assume symbolic significance, exacerbating societal divisions along ethnic lines. Such circumstances can escalate into ethnic conflicts and, in extreme cases, civil unrest. Efforts to delineate clear distinctions between "allies and adversaries" can further polarize society into irreconcilable factions, hindering cultural integration and jeopardizing coexistence within a diverse society.

According to Ramos, Pereira & Vala (2020), in order to maintain the characteristics of functional differentiation, complex societies must integrate beyond the identity of the different communities that make them up. Socio-structural factors encourage the unlocking of identity dynamics and overcoming resistance to communitarianism. The danger of ethnic civil war can only arise as a result of a dramatic regression to stratification. In his study, Favell (2022). explains that by disrupting the process of social identity formation between groups in a community, we can observe a regression to stratification within ethnic groups, which is detrimental to integration at the societal level. In this context Abrudan (2023) states important tensions that arise between three levels of social integration: individuals, intermediate groups and society as a whole. The conflicts that arise have a significant impact on the social fabric, and even if they do not lead to open struggle, they remain significant for the dynamics of multi-ethnic societies.

After mentioning the ethnic mosaic in the context of multicultural coexistence, it becomes possible to reveal the concepts of "multicommunitarianism". Mutual recognition between ethnic groups can be the basis for the effective integration of a multiethnic society, where each group has its own protected space for development while preserving its culture. However, according to Go (2023), this process may lead to the problem of marginalisation of migrants who find themselves locked in their ethnic community. The development of this problem according to Arnold (2023) may raise the question of the importance and role of institutions in modern society.

In this context, the findings of the presented study illustrate that artistic endeavors hold significance in facilitating the assimilation of refugees into a multicultural environment. Art can serve as a bridge between different ethnic groups, promoting mutual understanding, cooperation and exchange of cultural values. Exhibitions, concerts, theatre performances and other forms of art create opportunities for people to express their cultural heritage in a creative way, interact with others and form new identities.

By participating in art projects, refugees have the opportunity to discover new forms of expression, feel part of a new community and find their place in that community. Through art, they can build positive relationships with local people, share their stories and experiences through creativity.

Thus, it can be said that artistic practices play a key role in the process of assimilation of refugees in a multicultural environment, promoting their integration and mutual understanding between

different ethnic groups. Art allows for the creation of common ground, preservation of cultural identity, and the development of new forms of expression in a single cultural space.

Overall, by conducting research on the role of art in multicultural integration and addressing the challenges and limitations of cultural diversity, researchers can help advance knowledge and understanding in this important area, ultimately leading to more effective strategies for promoting social cohesion and cultural exchange in multicultural societies.

Conclusion

The overarching conclusion drawn is that employing cultural theory in the examination of multicultural societies enhances our comprehension of the dynamics involved in the interplay between cultural and social factors. It is important to avoid simplifying cultural horizons and create conditions for the integration of various ethnic groups into society. At the same time, it is necessary to avoid the trap of "multicommunitarianism", where individuals remain in their own ethnic communities without the opportunity to integrate into the diversity of society. An extension of this debate could be to find ways to promote integration and diversity in a multicultural society while preserving individual and cultural identity.

Thus, these findings significantly contributed to existing knowledge about the role of art in social integration within multicultural contexts by applying cultural theory. The study highlighted the complexity of cultural dynamics and their interaction with social factors, emphasizing the need to avoid oversimplification of cultural horizons. By exploring how individuals from various ethnic groups interact within multicultural societies, the research enriched theoretical understandings of cultural adaptation and integration processes. One theoretical model that could be used or adapted in the context of multicultural societies is the Multicultural Competence Framework. This framework emphasizes the importance of developing skills and knowledge to effectively navigate and work within diverse cultural environments. By implementing this framework in educational institutions, workplaces, and community settings, individuals can enhance their ability to understand, respect, and communicate effectively with people from different cultural backgrounds.

The results suggest the development of educational programs that promote multicultural competence. By incorporating the Multicultural Competence Framework into curricula, schools can foster skills and knowledge necessary for effective intercultural communication and understanding. Moreover, policy initiatives should focus on promoting integration and diversity while preserving individual and cultural identity. Measures to prevent "multicommunitarianism" can include policies that encourage interaction and collaboration among diverse ethnic groups, fostering a sense of belonging to the larger societal fabric.

The study has a limitation in generalizing findings due to a limited sample size and narrow geographic scope. Future research should aim for larger and more diverse samples to ensure broader applicability of results.

There also ere methodological constraints, such as the use of specific research methods or data collection techniques, could have influenced the results. Addressing these limitations through mixed-method approaches or longitudinal studies can enhance the validity and reliability of findings.

Specific areas for further research and policy development could include: the impact of multicultural policies and initiatives on social cohesion and integration within diverse communities; the effectiveness of cross-cultural training programs in promoting cultural competence and reducing cultural stereotypes and biases; the role of media and popular culture in shaping perceptions and attitudes towards multiculturalism and diversity.

Strategies for promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding among different ethnic groups within multicultural societies are also of great importance as well as the development of inclusive and culturally sensitive healthcare, education, and social services to meet the needs of diverse populations.

Future research could as well explore the impact of multicultural policies and initiatives on social cohesion and integration within diverse communities. Investigating the effectiveness of specific policy interventions can provide insights into strategies for promoting inclusive societies. Further studies can evaluate the effectiveness of cross-cultural training programs in promoting cultural competence and reducing stereotypes and biases. Understanding how individuals acquire and apply intercultural skills can inform

the development of more tailored training approaches.

Finally, investigating the development of inclusive and culturally sensitive healthcare, education, and social services is vital. Understanding the unique needs and experiences of diverse populations can guide the design of more responsive and equitable service delivery systems.

This study offered valuable insights into the theoretical and practical dimensions of social integration in multicultural societies. By addressing limitations and proposing future research directions, the study lays the groundwork for continued exploration of the complex dynamics of cultural diversity and social cohesion.

Acknowledgment and conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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