

Research Justice Methodologies and Limits of Solidarity in Approaching Radical Identity Differences

Sanja Petkovska, PhD^a

Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research, Serbia

This study primarily aims to examine the limits and potentials of the concept of solidarity while approaching the radical differences among the participants and practitioners in social science research activities. My basic framework follows the ideas of politics of difference while also highlighting the necessary common framework agreed upon by all the participants in research situations for solidarity to be applicable and effective. My study will elaborate on the concept of mutual recognition, coming from liberal political thought. I also claim that solidarity among the researchers and participating interlocutors is impossible in case both sides do not act as politically equally powerful, contrary to decolonial theory. The decolonial approach claims that if actors belong to marginalised groups, they should claim the morally superior position that necessarily negates the position of others, assuming that it is as superior and subjugating because of the given identity markers of the researcher or some other reason.

To go beyond the mutual recognition paradigm, this study will build on the strategies of establishing mutuality and commonality between the subjects of diverse identities and social and academic positions by using both solidarity and mutuality. It will analyse the possibilities of enhancing knowledge even when belonging to radically opposite or different social identities, and of establishing solidarity and mutuality as more important than decolonising the given structure.

Keywords: research methodology, radical others, politics of difference, politics of representation, limits of solidarity

^a E-mail: sanjalicica@gmail.com; ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4414-6469>