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**Contexts and strategies for constructing  
Konkani identity in Kochi**

**Summary**

The doctoral dissertation aims to present the phenomenon of constructing Konkani identity in the city of Kochi, based on collected ethnographic materials. The work shows what the Konkani example says about the emergence of groups in the Indian multicultural environment. The dissertation combines many important anthropological theories about the modern world: theories of ethnicity, caste, multiculturalism and class with postcolonial studies and the phenomenon of modern class in the context of the studied phenomenon. As an ethnographic dissertation, it shows the living human experience gathered in the form of interviewees' statements and observations of the anthropologist from the research area. The work presents the cultural and social contexts affecting the current situation of the Konkani castes in Kochi, as well as the strategies and actions taken by the Konkani in order to construct their modern, ethnic identity. The dissertation shows the phenomenon of the coexistence of a sense of belonging to a local tradition and a local community known from everyday contacts of people, and the way of creating a new community of a completely different nature - an imaginary ethnic community based on a common language and a sense of similarity due to origin.

The Konkani live in the multicultural South Indian city of Kochi in the state of Kerala. The group consists of five caste communities. The Konkas migrated to Kochi in the 16th century, fleeing Goa from Portuguese missionaries. In the area of Konkani life that interests me, there is a huge regional and religious diversity. The diploma work presents the relationships between belonging to a caste and attachment to one's ethnic origin, as well as the relationships between individual Konkani castes. The dissertation tries to answer the question of what is the group identity of the people from Konkani - whether its interpretation can be limited to the common and simplifying phenomena of caste in Kochi, or rather it is an ethnic and class phenomenon at the same time. These theoretical constructs are operationalized in the thesis. The dissertation presents the contemporary processes of demarcation of social groups and strategies adopted to maintain identity. The research results present a contemporary, multidimensional reality, where various constructs influence multi-layered identity. The dissertation is also a voice in the debate on intentionality in creating belonging to a given group in a globalized world where identity becomes something fluid and formable.