

ABSTRACT

FILEP, Tamás Gusztáv: Identity Theory 3

The author of the essay ponders the shaping of his identity, recollecting his growth in consciousness during his childhood and youth and significant features and moments of the past of his family. The conclusion he arrives at is that identity is shaped by the intertwining of various effects, and always manifests a unique variant. In his case, the most important moments include his membership in the largest minority denomination in the country, his village community socialization in spite of his having been born and raised in Budapest, his direct encounter with the continuation of historical tradition, his having been acquainted with the problems of the Hungarian minority communities in the neighbouring countries, and his father's imprisonment for having participated in the 1956 independence movement.

The Border as a Complex System and Identity

PAKOT, Ágnes and SŐRÉS, Anett: National Identity Beyond the Borders and Beyond... The Development of Hungarian National Identity along the Hungarian-Slovak-Ukrainian Borders 16

A border separates but also links together: it divides states, people, cultures, etc., yet it also enables activities which would not be possible in areas further away from borders (mobility, economic activity, etc.). How does this effect identity? This is the question the study seeks to answer. The framework of our quantitative analysis was Border Research 2011 at ELTE. Our researches focussed on revealing the identity dimensions of those living around the triple border area between Hungary, Slovakia and the Ukraine. We tried to find out the differences and similarities between Hungarians on either side of the borders in terms of identity, and what types of identity can be observed among them.

ÖRKÉNY, Antal and SZÉKELYI, Mária: Descent, Upholding Identity, Assimilation 44

The study attempts to draw up the ethnic identity map of the Hungarian, Slovak and Ukrainian border region. In certain cases, this depends on descent,

while, in other cases, identity can be a matter of personal choice. Decision is made easier by the inability to affirm a dual identity, to regard oneself as belonging to both the majority society of his or her country and his or her own ethnic group. In this case, however, it is not indifferent which identity one regards as primary and secondary. In our study, we first examine how respondents define their ethnic belonging. Childhood socialization is a major influence on assumed identity; in the second part of our study, we thus examine how the ethnic make-up of issuing families determines the assumed ethnic identities of respondents. In the next part of the paper, we seek to answer the question how far respondents transfer their assumed identity to their children. Finally, we draw up a complex model of transferring identity.

KOLTAI, Júlia: National Identity among various Geographical-Nationality Sub-groups

60

Defining national identity among the nationality groups living along the Hungarian-Slovak and Hungarian-Ukrainian borders is a complex problem. It is first of all determined by the nature of the sense of belonging to the country where one is a citizen; secondly, one's belonging to a national minority can likewise influence identity. Living in the vicinity of a border will obviously reinforce this duality, because, in the case of the Hungarians of Slovakia and the Ukraine who were studied in the research, the country of their nationality can easily be reached.

It can be said on the basis of the results that the concept of national identity as a latent variable is construed differently among the geographical-nationality groups surveyed. While life among the population of the country and the dimension birth are not important in shaping national identity for those less negatively influenced by the Peace Treaty of Trianon, Slovaks and Ukrainians; these factors have a more significant role in the case of Hungarians in Hungary and the Ukraine. The two factors seem to be most important among the Hungarians in Slovakia; in their case, both items have been demonstrated to be more influential than in the other groups.

Western Interpretations of Nation and Identity

GÖNCZ, Borbála: European Identity?

79

The concept of European identity is controversial from several respects, including its definition, content, becoming, and function, too. The issue of identity came to the forefront of scholarly examinations supported by the European Union in the early 2000s, applying mostly quantitative approaches. The recent rise of qualitative-methodology approaches has highlighted the complexity of the issue. The main finding of the most recent scholarly stud-

ies is that there is no Europeanness per se, being European is an extension of belonging to the nation.

The essay partly reviews the theories of European identity and partly summarizes empirical findings to give an overview of the subject matter, and, finally, sums up the Hungarian situation.

TÓTH, Annamária: France and the Overseas and Cross-border French 96

The minority policy of a state is fundamentally determined by its relation to the nation as a concept. The study treats the dichotomy that has evolved in the interpretation of the concept of nation by focussing on the national policy of France. The paper assumes that, parallel to the changes of the international system, the dominance of the traditional French interpretation of nation has receded. To demonstrate this, the author outlines how the cultural-nation concept arose in French foreign policy in the examples of the old autonomous region of the Aosta valley in Italy and Québec province in Canada. By comparing the two regions, the author seeks to show the logic behind official French discourse, and to reveal the factors justifying the combination of two purportedly contradictory concepts of nation in French policy.

ANDREIDES, Gábor: "Creating the Italian Soul is a Proud Mission": Fascist Attempts to Reinvigorate Italian Identity and Nationalism 119

Apart from creating a territorially and politically united Italy in 1861, the mental unification of millions of Italian speakers, a shared identity, was also to be forged. This proved to be extremely difficult. No wonder, the statement subsequently often quoted and celebrated was made: "Abbiamo fatto l'Italia ora dobbiamo fare gli italiani" (We have made Italy but now we must make the *Italians*). The vicissitudinous process meant attempting the unification of provinces with major differences in historical and social development and language (dialect), also demonstrating a strong regionalism. The trying task was also undertaken by fascism coming to power in 1922.

And Eastern...

MAKKAI, Béla: Bosnia-Herzegovina as an Area of Hungarian Emigration and Expansion 135

In 1908, Franz Joseph I declared the annexation of Bosnia- Herzegovina by invoking the legal continuity of his Hungarian royal predecessors. By this time, the area, the only colony of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, saw the establishment of half a dozen Hungarian enclaves by way of emigration.

The paper outlines the secret operation started in 1909 in which the Hungarian government tried to strengthen the national identity of the handful of

Hungarian immigrants in the area to obstruct Southern Slav separatism by way of mostly cultural means (a network of schools and libraries run by the Julian Society; the Big Picture Calendar of Hungarians in Bosnia; the Mostar Hungarian Cultural Society; the Sarajevo Hungarian Association; and training in mother country, etc.). The efforts of a quarter of the Hungarian political elite to rebuild the framework of the mediaeval Hungarian empire by preserving the integrity of the two provinces and thereby fulfilling the mission of mediating between East and West proved to be unrealistic.

VLAISAVLJEVIĆ, Ugo: Ethnic Identity and War

147

The study examines the characteristics of Southern Slav ethnic communities, and focuses on the three peoples living in Bosnia: Bosnians, Croats and Serbs, which were constituted on the basis of the ideology of ethno-nationalism in the course of the history of the region. Ethnic identity here is regarded not as non-historical and given formerly, but as a variegated result of collective survival strategies. Local ethnic groups have a constant fear of being wiped out of the region. The reason for this is that they lived under the oppressive rule of various empires. In the case of these small peoples of the Balkans, all wars threaten with their disappearance from the area; however, periods of peace brought along no lesser danger: their disappearance through assimilation in the alien culture.

SÁFI, Csaba: Cross-border Russians in Russian Political Thinking in the period from Yeltsin to Medvedev: Different Theoretical Approaches 160

It is reasonable to ask why Russia was so late in shaping its policy toward Russians left in the successor states when the largest European ethnic/linguistic minority and community came into being in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet state. One of the reasons for the delay might be the differences in theoretical approaches, a direct consequence of which was that the Russian political elite could not formulate a coherent political concept concerning cross-border Russians/Russian speakers.

Also, no unified concept evolved on whether Russia had a strategic need for cross-border Russians, or it wished to use them for short-term political purposes, thereby renouncing the undoubted potential the Russians/Russian speakers living in the neighbouring, post-Soviet countries had.

The same holds concerning the protection of Russian compatriots living in the successor states; it has been a question to be decided on for a long time whether the Russians/Russian speakers living beyond the borders of Russia needed the protection and support of the Russian state, or should this be left to the care of international organizations, law and mechanisms. The dilemma and the questions remain unanswered to this very day.

ZAHORÁN, Csaba: The Hungarian Heart of Romania: Images of Székely Land in post-1989 Hungarian and Romanian Public Discourse 170

The essay examines how Hungarians and Romanians see Székely Land, i.e. what images of the region developed in Hungarian and Romanian public discourse in the period following the changes in 1989. As the region has a different meaning for both Hungarians (both in Hungary and Transylvania) and Romanians, and, as one of its defining characteristics is ethnicity, there is small wonder that the different representations of Székely Land might have no correspondences whatsoever. Certain images contrast not only along national lines of fracture; the region has many variant representations within both Hungarian and Romanian public discourse. The paper seeks to outline individual representations and approaches.

Review**PETHŐ Sándor: Posthumous Smiley**

Zelei Miklós: *Situs inversus. Az Isten balján*, Komp-Press – Korunk Kiadó, Kolozsvár, 2013

205

BARÁTH Gergely: Czech Migration, Economic Expansion and the Czech Communities in Hungary in the Dual Monarchy

Mészáros Andor: *Cseh elem a magyar polgárosodásban*, Budapest–Piliscsaba–Esztergom, 2011

209

Editorial: HU 1055 Budapest, Falk Miksa u. 6.

Phone: +36-1-445-0473, *fax:* +36-1-445-0479

Internet: www.prominoritate.hu

E-mail: redactio@prominoritate.hu