



NISE

CALL FOR PAPERS

The politics of difference in 1919 Europe. Minorities and border populations

28-29 May 2019

German Historical Institute, Warsaw

See: <http://www.dhi.waw.pl/>

CfP deadline: 15 March 2019

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Convenors: Joep Leerssen (University of Amsterdam) and Hanno Brand (NISE administrator)

This conference welcomes reflections and case studies from across the field of the social sciences and the humanities. The aim is to publish an edited volume or a themed issue of an international academic journal and to collect and collate data within the NISE digital research environment *DIANE*.

Subscription

Successful applicants for the 2019 Warsaw conference will have their accommodation costs covered and their travel expenses reimbursed. In exchange, participants will give the right of first publication to the organizers of the conference.

Please send a 500 word abstract of your paper and a short academic biography of 5 lines to Hanno Brand : hanno.brand@nise.eu

Successful applicants will have to send in a draft paper of max. 10.000 words (that has not been published or is under consideration for publication elsewhere) by 15 May 2019. These drafts will be circulated among the participants of the workshop.

Overall questionnaire

Who belongs to the nation and who does not? This question lies at the core of every nation-building effort. Nationalism is by definition internally inclusive and externally exclusive and how nations deal with the us-versus-them divide is traditionally one of the crucial issues in nationalism studies. There has been much scholarly debate on the degree of cultural homogenisation demanded by national elites and the specific criteria for belonging to the imagined community of the nation. Sub-state nationalism, in particular, has a curious relation with the question of diversity. The ‘nations within nations’ function both as minorities within the state and as nations that deal with their own minorities. Whereas diversity stands for inclusion, sub-state nationalism seems more connected to exclusion. In fact, many national movements in Europe have been found to be diverse and open. Ethnic and religious minorities have been allies in the struggle for state recognition, and movements have been known to

open their membership as they gain institutional power. Moreover, the ways nationalist and independence movements have dealt with minorities is often a reaction to the policies toward minorities of the nation-state they contest.

The relation between sub-state nationalism and diversity, with the latter serving as a guiding perspective to consider the composition, ideologies, social practices and policies of national and regional movements in Europe need a diachronic and synchronic exploration. When, how and why have leaders of national movements opened or closed membership of their movements and nations to specific minorities? And how have they interacted with and reacted to diversity in their societies? How has that evolved through time, with new diversity issues arising from immigration and gender equality and evolving degrees of autonomy of the subnation? What is the relationship between sub-state nations' on-going political and constitutional struggles with the central state, on one hand, and their relationship to minority groups in their midst, on the other hand? Is there a difference between state nationalism and separatist nationalism in the handling of diversity issues (women, migration etc.)?

The Warsaw conference

The year 1919 is an interesting starting point to look at the relation between national movements and the umbrella-concept of diversity. Although empires and states dealt with ethnic minorities and related inequalities long before 1919, minority rights became urgent issues of (international) concern in the formation of new states after the First World War. The 'national' nature of these states meant that in the immediate aftermath of the war ethnic minorities and borderland populations were a point of concern for the Versailles / Trianon / Sèvres diplomats, and that institutional, diplomatic and cultural initiatives were taken to safeguard these. Sub-state nationalisms became institutionalized and wide-ranging questions of diversity came to the fore, with the rights of minorities addressed in a range of unilateral, bilateral and multilateral treaties. The redrawing of Europe created new diversity questions in the new post-1918 nation-states.

NISE looks at those issues over two conferences, in 2019 en 2020, as part of its annual gatherings. For the conference in 2019 in Warsaw, the focus will be on ethnic minorities and borderland populations. So for the 2019 conference in Warsaw, contributions are sought dealing with for example the negative consequences of the reframing of diversity (as formalised in the Minority Treaties) and the ways in which they contributed to the turn toward nativist authoritarianism rather than, as intended, preventing it; the emergence of minority rights as a specific discipline of international law dealing with the protection of ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity, as well as the concurrence of transnational projects for the solution of the minority issue; the claims for schooling in the own language a.s.o.

In 2020 in Santiago de Compostela, the emphasis will lie with substate nationalisms and regionalisms.

About NISE

The scientific association NISE (National movements and Intermediary Structures in Europe, www.nise.eu) brings together experts from different countries and disciplines to explore the many ways national movements have dealt and engaged with other minorities within and beyond their nations. Looking at how nationalism interacts with ethnic and religious minorities, migration and diaspora, women, gender and sexual minorities, socioeconomically

disadvantaged groups (class), intergenerational differences, the urban vs. rural divide etc., enables quantitative and qualitative comparative-historical analyses of specific case-studies carried out by researchers from various disciplinary and methodological backgrounds, nationalities and generations, from a historical, pan-European cross-country and regional perspective. Many national movements have a long history dealing with diversity, and it is key for our understanding of diversity and nationalism to look at their composition and policies from a long-term and empirical perspective. What is missing however is large-scale diachronic and synchronic research on nationalism and diversity, based on a strong common theoretical framework.

About DIANE

The projects mentioned above will be partially integrated in the Digital Infrastructure for the Analysis of National movements in Europe (DIANE), a virtual research environment with innovative and collaborative research. This will enable large-scale data collection, which can be immediately shared and analysed in the research environment. Using an online relational database has the immediate benefit of enabling access to expertise and data. Collaborators can examine the coherence, parallels and transfers existing between individual persons and organisations and their cultural, social and political endeavours. Separate projects will be entered in a common design, with fixed categories (e.g. persons, networks of persons, events) and descriptors (e.g. name, gender, keywords, community). This means that the data from these independent projects is gathered and can be connected in a main structure. The virtual research environment will provide researchers with a user-friendly toolkit that will them to explore connections between entities and visualize their data in timelines, on geographical maps and social graphs.