

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue Project: “The Europeanisation of identities through everyday practices”

Editors:

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Planned authors’ workshop in spring 2021

So far, most analyses of how Europeans imagine, narrate, and discursively construct “Europe” cast the issue of an eventually emerging European identity in more strictly political terms. Consequently, knowledge of, and allegiance towards the EU/Europe, merging news agendas across different European media contexts, or overlapping values and shared political self-understandings are at the centre of gravity of these traditional studies. We aim at something different in that we put people’s everyday (and supposedly non-political) activities, their resulting patterns of identification and identity change centre stage. Our starting point are lifeworldly contexts and phenomena in the realms of sport, culture, literature, movies, fandom, leisure time activities, job and student mobilities, tourism, as well as transboundary experiences associated with forms of “normal” life. The special issue aims at discussing different and new ways of European identity formation and the question of how citizenship in the context of Europe is formed.

We invite **brief paper proposals of up to 500 words before 30th Nov 2020**. Please send the proposal including an abstract, relevant information on the context from which suggested contribution emanate, and contact details to all three editors (emails below). We will notify all potential contributors before the end of the year. More on our expectations as regards topics, and a tentative plan for our publication project you will find below.

Whereas the more traditional research has largely focused on the formation of consciously political identities geared towards institutions and the integration project of the EU, we rather want to zoom in on how interactions and experiences in *everyday life* contexts shape perceptions of, and identifications with “Europe” in a wider socio-cultural understanding. Such unconscious, subliminal identity work is undoubtedly of political significance, too. Although there some few relevant research projects, however, it has not been comprehensively analysed so far (and only rarely in systematic fashion) how much important (and politically relevant) everyday activities truly are in this regard.

Such a change of research focus, however, is warranted given the growing popular discontent with Europe and especially the European Union in quite a number of European countries, in combination with an often lamented elite focus in research on European discourses and identities.

We hence invite papers which:

- zoom in on a particular set of everyday activities across Europe, and European societies a/o supposedly less or non-political contexts such as, among others,

- culture, incl. cultural initiatives (bottom-up, and how people react to such initiated through political authorities);
 - literature;
 - music;
 - movies;
 - sport
(in all instances above: active, as well as passive as spectators, consumers, fans);
 - job and education-related mobilities;
 - tourism and adjacent leisure time activities;
 - and everyday life/culturally based phenomena within diaspora communities (*not*, in stricter terms, forms of political organisation).
- seek to elucidate how such activities, phenomena, interactions shape and impact on discourses and patterns of identification among people throughout Europe;
 - ideally have a transboundary and cross-societal approach in doing so, rather than one predominantly focused on a nationally defined setting a/o community.

We encourage submissions from all academic disciplines and across Europe (and beyond) so that readers of the finally selected contributions will benefit from a comprehensive and interdisciplinary analysis. However, we want to highlight that the *socio-political relevance of the phenomena under study* must play a prominent role in the proposed contribution. Equally important, we expect a willingness to engage the concepts of either “Europeanisation” or “European identity”, or both.

Our plan is to select and bundle a collection of up to ten papers in a Special Issue proposal for an academic journal. Alternatively, we may also seek to publish the collection as an Edited Volume. In order to ensure high quality and coherence among the selected papers, we aim at hosting an authors’ workshop during the European spring 2021: online, if need be, or in person, if circumstances will allow for this.

Tentative plan

30 November 2020 – Interested authors submit a brief paper proposal

31 December 2020 – Potential contributors have been selected and informed

Early Spring 2021 – Editors start approaching journals

Spring 2021 – Authors’ Workshop (discussion of draft papers)

Around Fall 2021 – Submission of paper for peer review

Our best wishes

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