

Dear Denisa,

first of all this is a great issue to tackle in these days- Ukraine, that is the issue of these days! What I see behind this issue is the opportunity to touch the basic problems of the transnationalist studies. In the west among the majority the role of the religion is decreasing but can it be different for the other nations? The case of the Ukraine is the interesting one because it is still in the process of formulating its own identity. Thus to pick up to study the case of the Ukrainians which actually live abroad creates the added value for the transnationalist studies. I might suggest that the comparable case is the case of the Belorussia where the nation is still being constituted. Nevertheless, the exact point is to study the ambivalence of looking at the states of the west which are in the post-national and post-christian phase to compare it with the particular example of the states in the modernist, nation constituting phase.

I also appreciate choosing of the topic of the methodological nationalism. In the context of the issue I would even more stress the role of the social scientists who are mainly the intellectuals (thus even "more living" in the post-modernism and often from the majoritarian inhabitants).

What I would stress more is the problem of the emancipation of the people. I see the result of the identity politics to support the exclusivist identity of being the Ukrainian and what I perceive as the basic character of this pre- and modernistic thinking is the connectedness of the national and religious dimensions of the social life. Thus I believe the emancipation from „the Other“ is in this case from the Russian element and it is to be done via this particular identity politics.

Thought in the lines before I appreciated the role of the picking up the group of the group of the immigrants, I do not see that much sense in the choosing the group. I do not have a great theoretical background but I do believe that the identity processes are much different in the Ukrainians (or any other nation) living abroad than to study the identity processes of the Ukrainians living in the country. For me the more valuable is to concentrate on one junk of the topic and to take as much as it is possible, than to try digest more particular topics. Specially, if concerned is the topic of the essay not the big paper, but anyhow than I would chose a different research question.

My other point is that I would not be afraid to be even more radical than the methodological nationalism and try to formulate in what particular sense the western science is trying to take the monopolistic view and the monopolistic interpretation over the processes in the world and how it is shaping the world. From my perspective the methodological nationalism is only saying that we tend to see the world from the perspective of our country, but the true is that we tend to judge the world from the position of the western culture as it is the most powerful one.

I am looking forward to read your paper and I am sorry I won't be there to present my thoughts in person.

I am sorry if it is a bit mess, I did my best.

Best regards,
Miriam