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«We Belong to Them»

Narratives of Belonging, Homeland and Nationhood in Territorial and Non-territorial Minority Settings



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This book explores what happens with ethnic and national identifications built on the same ethnocultural grounds, but under different socioeconomic circumstances. Territorial and non-territorial minorities have traditionally been considered not susceptible to comparison because it was assumed that groups organized on different grounds were distinctively separate phenomena. In this study, the comparative method is used to throw new light on how ethnic and national identifications are constructed, negotiated, and re-constructed in territorial and non-territorial minority contexts. The author investigates whether the ethnic and national identification and articulation processes of Hungarians in Slovakia and Hungarians in Sweden constitute different types of Hungarianness. Drawing on extensive interview material the empirical focus is on the interaction of self-narratives and public narratives. The author seeks to challenge the notion that national minorities and diaspora communities are fundamentally different in their understanding of nationhood and their relationship to an external national homeland.

Contents: Comparison between territorial and non-territorial minorities - Everyday ethnicity - Long-distance nationalism - Hungarian nation politics - Interaction between self narratives and public narratives - Ethnic and national identifications - Hungarians in Slovakia - Hungarians in Sweden - Doing ethnicity - Homeland narratives - Language ideologies and language dilemmas.

The Author: Tünde Puskás obtained an M.Phil. in Nationalism Studies and an M.A. in International Relations and European Studies from the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. She is a researcher at the Institute for Research on Migration, Ethnicity and Society, the Department of Social and Welfare Studies at Linköping University, Sweden.