

Mental religious borders in Europe

Enrique BANÚS

Abstract: *The cultural / multicultural heritage of the Europe has at its fundaments, among others, or rather has principally at its fundaments the spirituality, the religious ideas and convictions. Europe is firstly spirituality, and the great leaders of Europe manners' to rapport themselves to this spirituality was different in different periods. Actual European civilisation is an ancient one, funded on a dialogic spirit, and that is evident in all European acts and actions.*

Keywords: *Europe, Christianity, spirituality, culture, European civilisation Macedonia and the European mind*

La culture de l'autrui dans la pensée de Denis de Rougemont

Cristina DOGOT

Abstract: *The diversity of European space inspired Denis de Rougemont to create his own opinion about the attitude toward the peoples of Europe. In fact Rougemont don't think in the terms of "people", but that of human beings. For Rougemont each person is important as a God' creature, and any difference is important is these conditions. It is not tolerance, a term not very liked by Rougemont, it is a deep comprehension. Personal differences make European culture an original and specific one, and this particularity represent the fundament of European unity. So, unifying Europe became important not for the state or peoples, but for persons.*

Keywords: *Europe, culture, difference, person, personalism, federal idea Denis de Rougemont – essai bio-bibliographique*

The Promotion of Intercultural Dialogue in the Carpathian Euroregion States (Involvement of Civil Society in the Implementation of a Cultural Policy)

Margaryta CHABANNA

Abstract: *The main objective of the article is to examine the importance of cultural diversity and the need of intercultural dialogue in the context of cultural cooperation in the Carpathian Euroregion states. This paper also considers the opportunities connected with the declaration of European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008); and relevant contribution at national and regional level. Particular attention is paid to the analysis of appropriate legislation of the European Union, as well as documents adopted in the states discussed. In particular, the article contains the research of relevant issues of every state's National strategy and appropriate measures chosen by the states for the promotion of intercultural dialogue. This examination allows the comparison of relevant peculiarities and the evaluation of activities. The main issues*

of the article are studied in the context of the importance of civil society participation in cultural cooperation.

Key words: cultural cooperation, intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity, European Union, Carpathian Euroregion, civil society

Emigration, Immigration and Interculturality: The Meaning of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in Portugal

Teresa PINHEIRO

Abstract: Owing to its colonial past, Portugal has been confronted for centuries with cultural otherness. From the Age of the Overseas Discoveries until the end of the colonial empire in Africa in 1975, Portugal's policy, economy and culture were orientated towards the overseas colonies. Due to this and to the huge emigration during the 1960s and 1970s to European industrial countries, Portugal has been considered to be traditionally an emigration country. The loss of the colonies in Africa, the re-centralisation and the joining of the European Union brought to Portuguese society a rapid change. Portugal was no longer only an emigration country. It also became the destination of some thousands of immigrants, coming especially from Eastern Europe, Africa, and Brazil. Within this context, the Emigration Museum in Fafe seeks to keep alive the memory of emigration in Portuguese society, bearing in mind that the consciousness of having been an emigration country contributes to a better understanding of immigration *intra muros*. The activities of the museum during the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008) give an example of this social mission of mediating between the experience of emigration and immigration.

Key words: intercultural dialogue, emigration, immigration, Portugal

The First Step towards Intercultural Dialogue: Acknowledging the "Other". (Non)-stereotypical Representation of Migrants versus Ethnic Minorities Before and After the 2007 European Union Enlargement

Suzana ŞAPTEFRAŢI

Abstract: The present article provides a critical analysis of the mainstream media representation of ethnicity categorised as ethnic minorities and migrants in the context of the increasing inward migration flow due to globalisation and European Union eastward enlargement by challenging the current views claiming that migrants and national minorities are both under- and misrepresented. It points out that ethnic "otherness" cannot be treated as a single item and that proper categorisation of the concept has to be applied in order to test old theories or formulate new ones. In addition to that research outcomes identifying the lines along which representation takes place—ranging from inclusion and intercultural dialogue on the one hand to neglecting, marginalisation and stereotyping on the other—are presented. Last but not least, it offers key questions and issues for further debate.

Keywords: ethnic groups, media, under-representation, stereotype

New spatial theories and their influence on intercultural dialogue observing relational space in Oradea

Martin HOFMANN

Abstract: *Conflicts, present and past, have often a link to questions of borders, territories and space. In newer sociological theory the concept of relational space has been developed, to overcome the weak aspects of the absolute and the relative perception of space. This concept allows us to have a second glance at territories and place that are controversial. A result of this process is the insight, that several spaces can exist at a particular place. This concept of a relational space is exemplified on the street and information signs in the Romanian city of Oradea that has a strong Hungarian minority. In conclusion, proposals are given on how this theory could influence the practical work in the field of reconciliation and politics in areas in which the definition of space is crucial in the understanding the tensions that are occurring. The thesis is that the concept of relational space offers new possibilities in this field.*

Keywords: *intercultural dialogue, relational space, sociology, Oradea*

Intercultural dialogue and diversity within the EU¹

Joke SWIEBEL

Abstract: *The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008) aims at promoting the value of diversity. This paper explores the meaning of the concept of diversity in EU policies and legislation. Diversity among the Member States is a fundamental basis of the legal and institutional set-up of the EU. Diversity within the Member States is more ambivalent. Although the Copenhagen criteria demanded 'respect for and protection of minorities' from the accession states, the EU itself lacked a specific competence on minority policies and could not (or did not want to) demand the same from the 'old' Member States. Recent policy developments have replaced multi-culturalism by integration and have replaced group rights with individual rights. EU legislation against discrimination has been given a substantial impetus, but is still contradictory and unbalanced. EU anti-discrimination law discriminates between the various ground of discrimination. While the EU continues to demand comprehensive anti-discrimination policies from its external partners, it so far has failed to bring its own house in order.*

Keywords: *intercultural dialogue, diversity, European Union, minorities, anti-discrimination law, equality hierarchy*

The Roma Population in Slovakia: The Study Case of the Intercultural Dialogue

¹ This is an updated version of the paper presented at the Seminar on European Parliament to Campus for Intercultural Dialogue and the European Neighbourhood Policy in the Carpathian Area (4 – 11 June 2008).

Kristína MORÁVKOVÁ

Abstract: *The “Roma issue” had been gaining significance especially due to the attempts of the Slovak republic to join the EU. The international environment was putting still more and more pressure on the state to make some steps which were inevitable in order to improve the status of the minorities in Slovakia. To find solutions to such a complex problem has turned to be difficult especially considering all the circumstances which have been influencing Roma current situation. The opinion of the majority has remained throughout the history more negative than positive. Apart from the different culture and the entire lifestyle of Roma, the gap between the majority and Roma has been even intensified by the prejudices and stereotypes which have been prevalent in the Slovak society. Although the relations are considered to be bad, the cooperation exists and this creates a hope for more pleasant mutual coexistence.*

Key word: *Intercultural dialogue, Roma minority, discrimination*

The Trans Tisza Region within the Regional Division of the Carpathian Basin until the end of 17th Century

Gábor CSÜLLÖG

Abstract: *By social geographical analysis of the spatial organization of the early Hungarian statehood regional components and processes of the large area are identifiable. It appears much more as an interwoven system of area units of various levels and functions, organized onto the spatial organization lines by similar processes, yet in different ways according to various features. The process of regionalization, determinant in the construction of the country structure, was built on this regional operativity, with close interactions between these two elements of regionalism. Provinces representing larger spatial connectivity units and smaller spatial units connected to differentiated spatial utilization and spatial concentration were simultaneously present in the spatial forms of administrative authority with various functions. On the basis of the above, it can be stated that the determinant presence and function of the region, the spatial unit defining regional operativity has to be searched not at the level of regionalisation, but rather at the level of regionality/regionalism.*

Keywords: *Carpathian Basin, Hungary, regional division, regions, historical space structure*

The tourist niches of Hungary as the scenes of interculturality

Gábor MICHALKÓ, Sándor ILLÉS

Abstract: *Due to the continuous mobility of society, people are concentrated where the living conditions are able to fulfill their expectations. The world is full of niches in which living standards and living conditions make people happy and satisfied. These secure niches are in the focus of both migrants and tourists. As a consequence of the disappearance of state borders within the EU, it becomes more and more difficult to distinguish tourists from migrants. These two figures of international mobility often put on each other's costume, so their real status is not established easily. It is the hypothesis of this paper that the new global tourists go on a*

journey searching not only for tourist experiences, but also with the aim of finding the new niches.

Hungary has long been in the focus of international mobility. Year by year approximately 30–40 million foreign citizens cross the borders, among whom probably many people arrive to Hungary to find their niche. In the lack of periodical collection of data we can only assume that several visitors who first visit Hungary as tourists, after exploring the values of the country, decide to remain longer next time, perhaps over one year, and some of them may even purchase real estate here. Hungary is considered as the source of the welfare and well-being by many foreign citizens who prefer to visit a Central European country.

In the paper we are focusing on the relationship of real estate purchase-oriented mobility and interculturality. We examine the nexus between international tourists, migrants and real estate purchasers arriving to Hungary and make an effort to explore the presence and specific activities of new tourists in Hungary.

Keywords: *interculturality, tourism, migration, tourist niche, Hungary*

Methods of the analysis of integration effect on border areas – the case of Hungary

Gergely TAGAI, János PÉNZES, Ernő MOLNÁR

Abstract²: *The most important and popular methods in analysing the effect of economic integration are represented in the current study primarily focusing on border areas. One of the most spectacular methods – the potential model – is investigated in order to analyse the theoretical effect of the most important economic centres on the border areas of Hungary.*

Keywords: *accession, borders, employment, integration, potential model*

Moldova between the Near Abroad Policy of the Russian Federation and the Neighbourhood Policy of the European Union

Octavian ȚÎCU

Abstract: *The present paper is focused on the complex analysis of the foreign policy of the Republic of Moldova after independence, taking in consideration especially its oscillating and evasive attitude between the Near Abroad policy of the Russian Federation and the Neighbourhood Policy of the European Union. Unlike the Baltic States which had clearly expressed the willingness to join the European Union after being annexed by the Soviet Union, Moldova showed a mixed policy in this sense. From one side, the Republic of Moldova became a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a reformed substitute of the Soviet Union, and continued to be viewed by the Russian Federation as a part of what has been called the “Near Abroad”, a region of its “special” and “vital” interests. From another side, Moldova expressed many times its desire to be viewed as a European state and announced its political decision to have*

² The current study is modified version of a former article written by the authors (Pénzes - Tagai - Molnár 2008).

closer relationships with the European Union. The ambiguity of the Moldovan foreign policy caused many problems and difficulties in assessing the country's internal and external stability.

Key-words: *Moldova, Near Abroad, Russian Federation, Neighbourhood Policy, European Union.*

Culture et civilisation. Images et représentation des concepts

Georges CONTOGEOGIS

Abstract: *The attempt to definite the concepts of culture and civilisation don't offered until now a clearly result concerning their object and relationship. So, we approach these concepts by the point of view of the cosmo-systemic theory. The civilisation is so considered as an assembly of pragmatologic data, forming a particular kind of society, depending by the etape traversed by the cosmo-system where it integrate. In this construction the culture imply the level of the osmose between the society and concerned cosmo-systemic civilisation within in integrate, and that crystalize in mentalities, comportements, values, namely conceptions and way of life. Cosmo-systemic unification of humanity determines at the present that identitary confrontations develop on the fundament of different cultural representations of a single civilisation, the anthropocentric one, and not on that of the different cosmo-systems.*

Keywords: *cultural representations, mentality, liberty, Occident, cosmo-system*