

Metamorphoses of National Identity in the Republic of Moldova: Between Imperialism of Power Discourse and Constructs of Collective Memory

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The project explores the metamorphoses of national identity in Moldova after the period of Soviet Union collapse and proclamation of a new independent state – the Republic of Moldova. As the identity of any ‘imagined community’ (Anderson, 1991) represents a communicative process that includes many voices and varying degrees of understanding and, importantly, misunderstanding (Bodnar, 1992), *the project will study the discrepancies between (1)the process of national identity re/construction from the perspective of collective memory constructs and (2)the projects of national identity re/construction elaborated by the discourse of political elites. The research will focus to identify, on one hand, which public symbols are significant for the identity feeling reflected in the vernacular memory and, on other hand - in the official memory reflected by power discourse.*

During the project implementation we will investigate how peoples translate identity’s power policies and practices into their world view (practices of collective memory and everyday life); examine the different frames in which power and ordinary people interactions take place (rural and urban, sacred and quotidian) illustrated by the acceptance or rejection of official meaning of monuments, participation or not-participation of different groups, the presence of officially invited guests or of the unofficial speakers at the ceremonies.