FEELING EUROPEAN TODAY: THE AIMS AND CHALLENGES OF CREATING A EUROPEAN IDENTITY AMONGST EU CITIZENS

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Do you still believe in European Stereotypes?
Lecture Outline

- Why does European identity matter?
- What is European identity?
- What do we know about European identity?
- How does identity impact support for integration?
- What are the challenges to creating a European identity?
- Who are the Europeans?
Why does European Identity Matter?

- **Overriding goal of EU project was reducing nationalism through Europeanism.**
- **Political systems gain legitimacy through “we-feelings.”**
- **Identity has an impact on support for integration.**
- **Enlargement and the Turkey question pose challenges to creating “we-feelings.”**
What is this sovereign remedy? It is to recreate the European Family or as much of it as we can and provide it with a structure under which it can dwell in peace, in safety and freedom. We must build a kind of United States of Europe...
(Zurich, 19 Sept 1946)
“I could see only one solution: we must bind ourselves inextricably to Germany in a common undertaking in which our other neighbors could join. A European-wide territory of prosperity and peace would thus be created.”

~Jean Monnet
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Democratic Deficit in the EU
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Social Identity

- Psychological link between individual and group
- In-group fosters feelings of mutual obligation, attachment, loyalty (Tajfel 1981 & 1982)
- Sharp boundaries drawn around out-group
- Negative feelings about out-group
- Identity integrates and divides
- Identity is socially constructed
- Identity is fluid
Relationships between identities

- Identities are SEPARATE from one another.
Relationships between identities

- Dual Identities are CROSS-CUTTING/Compound.
Relationships between identities

- Dual identities are NESTED.
What do we know?

“Willingness to grant the EU authority over daily life requires some identification with Europe, but not one that actually prioritizes Europe over the nation.”

Thomas Risse (2003)
Eurobarometer Surveys

In the near future, do you see yourself as:

(1). [nationality] only

(2). [nationality] and European

(3). European and [nationality]

(4). European only
Territorial Identities in the EU

- National Only
- National First, European Second
- European First, National Second
- European Only

Percentages are not specified in the image.
Explaining Support for Integration

- Integration supposed to eradicate nationalism — clearly hasn’t.
- Inclusive identitarians are more supportive of integration than exclusive identitarians.
- People with primary European identity less likely to feel attached to country.
- Exclusive nationalists have lower levels of EU pride.
- Exclusive nationalists more hostile towards minorities.
% Afraid of Integration

Source: Eurobarometer 54.1 (2000)
% Afraid who think EU membership is bad
Challenges to creating a European Identity

- Cultural Factors
- Political Factors
- Economic Factors
- Immigration, particularly from Muslim countries
CSAK A NEMZET!
Challenges to creating a European Identity

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- **Political Factors**
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Europinions

"My voice counts in the EU", % of respondents who:

Source: Eurobarometer, spring 2011
He used to ignore immigration...

...now he lives on a reservation.

UK Independence Party


Millions of people agree with our common sense policies on immigration, education, crime and taxation and our insistence that Britain should be run by the British, not the European Union.

At this general election, it's time to remember that charity begins at home.

Our country's infrastructure is struggling, instead of funding the European Union to the tune of £45 million per day we need to invest in:

- Our hospitals
- Our schools
- Jobs and Pensions

Vote UKIP

Freephone 0800 107 0304
www.ukip.org

SAY No to paying the EU £40 MILLION a day.

He'd get our money back!

VOTE UK INDEPENDENCE PARTY ON JUNE 4th
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“BRITISH JOBS FOR BRITISH WORKERS”
Challenges to creating a European Identity

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Front National in France

*Les immigrés vont voter...*

*Et vous vous abstenez ?!!*

Front National
“If we give them a minaret, they’ll have us all wearing burqas,” said Julia Werner, a local housewife. “Before you know it, we’ll have sharia law and women being stoned to death in our streets. We won’t be Swiss any more.”
Common identity based on

- Shared symbols: EU flag
- European anthem: Ode to Joy
- Common Currency: the Euro
- Functional Benefits: Passport, free movement
- Common values: peace, democracy, social justice
Who are these Europeans?

- Those most likely to see benefits of integration
- Young
- More mobile
- More educated
- Wealthier
- Not employed in industrial or agricultural sector
- Overall more cosmopolitan
Concerned With the Living Conditions of Fellow Countrymen

Source: European Values Study (2008)
Concerned With the Living Conditions of Europeans

Source: European Values Study (2008)