

CALL FOR PAPERS

Europe reframed: regionalisms, sub-state nationalisms and the redrawing of state borders in the interwar period

Date 2-4 June 2020

Venue Santiago de Compostela

See: <http://www.nise.eu/save-the-date-2-4-june-2020-nise-annual-gathering-in-santiago-de-compostela/>

CfP deadline: February 15, 2020

Contact: eva.bidania@nise.eu

Collaborators: [Council of the Galician Culture](#), Xosé Manoel Núñez Seixas; and [Nazioni e Regioni](#), Francesca Zantedeschi.

Convenors: Joep Leerssen (University of Amsterdam) and Hanno Brand (NISE administrator)

This conference welcomes reflections and case studies from across the field of the social sciences and the humanities. The aim is to publish an edited volume or a themed issue of NISE's international and peer reviewed academic journal *Studies on National Movements* and to collect and collate data within the NISE digital research environment *DIANE*.

Subscription

Successful applicants for the 2020 Santiago-de-Compostela will give the right of first publication to the organizers of the conference.

Please send a 500 word abstract of your paper and a short academic biography of 5 lines to eva.bidania@nise.eu

Successful applicants are requested to send in a draft paper of max. 1500 words (that has not been published or is under consideration for publication elsewhere) by 15 May 2020. These drafts will be circulated among the participants of the conference.

Overall questionnaire

The European political landscape of the post-WWI period was faced with a relatively new phenomenon: the geographical outburst of nationalist and regionalist movements. Among the many factors that contributed to this phenomenon, which were closely aligned with the resolutions adopted by the 1919 Peace Treaties two are worth stressing. First, the legal embodiment of the new problematic category of 'national minorities', amounting to 25-30 million individuals, in other words 20-25% of the total population of the new States. Secondly, the validation of the principle of national self-determination, especially among the victorious powers. The purportedly Wilsonian slogan of self-determination itself was ambiguous, as there was not always a genuine correspondence between the idea advocated by its official proponents and the actual self-identification of the people concerned, as was demonstrated by numerous plebiscites organized in 1918. Moreover, as Eric Hobsbawm rightly observed, whilst the principle of self-determination had been highly valued until then by nationalist unification movements at the expense of multinational States, from 1919 it impugned the very essence of 'nationalising States' (Brubaker), thus becoming source of legitimacy for independence movements.

As the voluminous historiography on the consequences of the 1919 Treaties has confirmed, the implementation of the principles of nationality and national self-determination were fraught with inconsistency, often leading to contradictory and unjust solutions. Whenever a new boundary was drawn, this raised intractable problems at the regional, national and international level. The impossibility of drawing politico-ethnic borders indeed, only served to exacerbate ethnic/national rivalry, especially in the most reframed part of Europe, the former Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires; national minorities in the western States of the Old Continent also voiced their new-found aspirations for autonomy or independence.

The Santiago de Compostela conference follows and complements the one held in Warsaw in May 2019 which focused mainly on the problematics of reframing diversity as formalised in Minority Treaties. This follow-up raises three issues:

1. How regionalisms and sub-state nationalisms evolved in the interwar period, from the establishment of the 1919 Peace Treaties to the outbreak of Second World War. In this regard, we welcome papers about the fault lines and the continuities in these movements vis-à-vis their emergence moment in the immediate aftermath of WWI.
2. The considerable increase of new 'irredentist' minorities –(those which became so after their incorporation in new states (e.g., Hungarians in Romania and Slovakia, Slovenes in Austria, Germans in Czechoslovakia)- as

the new dominant nations that applied the same uniformity policies which pre-1919 had been rejected by the minorities of that period.

3. The various subsidiary minorities within regions claiming self-determination, re-unification with the nation or with lost territories.

Topics may include (but are by no means limited to):

- self-determination in the interwar years
- from region to nation
- the construction of de-centralized and subaltern structures
- secession and independent states
- irredentism and state concurrence
- irredentism and dissident minorities
- irredentism and emerging states

The Santiago de Compostela conference

The year 1919 was an interesting starting point to look at the relation between national movements and the umbrella-concept of diversity. Although empires and states dealt with ethnic minorities and related inequalities long before 1919, minority rights became urgent issues of (international) concern in the formation of new states after the First World War. The 'national' nature of these states meant that in the immediate aftermath of the war ethnic minorities and borderland populations were a point of concern for the Versailles/Trianon/Sèvres diplomats, and that institutional, diplomatic and cultural initiatives were taken to safeguard these. Sub-state nationalisms became institutionalized and wide-ranging questions of diversity came to the fore, with the rights of minorities addressed in a range of unilateral, bilateral and multilateral treaties. The redrawing of Europe created new diversity questions and gave rise to new national sentiments in the new post-1918 nation-states.

NISE looks at those issues over two conferences, in 2019 and 2020, as part of its annual gatherings. For the conference in 2019 in Warsaw, the focus was on ethnic minorities and borderland populations. In 2020 in Santiago de Compostela, the emphasis will lie with sub-state nationalisms and regionalisms. So for this 2020 conference contributions are sought dealing with for example the negative consequences of the reframing the European Nations and sub-state movements and the ways in which they contributed to the turn toward nativist authoritarianism and various manifestations of irredentism rather than, as intended, preventing it.

About NISE

The scientific association [NISE](#) (National movements and Intermediary Structures in Europe) brings together experts from different countries and disciplines to explore the many ways national movements have dealt and engaged with other minorities within and beyond their nations. Looking at how nationalism interacts with ethnic and religious minorities, migration and diaspora, women, gender and sexual minorities, socioeconomically disadvantaged groups (class), intergenerational differences, the urban vs. rural divide etc., enables quantitative and qualitative comparative-historical analyses of specific case-studies carried out by researchers from various disciplinary and methodological backgrounds, nationalities and generations, from a historical, pan-European cross-country and regional perspective. Many national movements have a long history dealing with diversity, and it is key for our understanding of diversity and nationalism to look at their composition and policies from a long-term and empirical perspective. What is missing however is large-scale diachronic and synchronic research on nationalism and diversity, based on a strong common theoretical framework.

About DIANE

The projects mentioned above will be partially integrated in the Digital Infrastructure for the Analysis of National movements in Europe (DIANE), a virtual research environment with innovative and collaborative research. This will enable large-scale data collection, which can be immediately shared and analysed in the research environment. Using an online relational database has the immediate benefit of enabling access to expertise and data. Collaborators can examine the coherence, parallels and transfers existing between individual persons and organisations and their cultural, social and political endeavours. Separate projects will be entered in a common design, with fixed categories (e.g. persons, networks of persons, events) and descriptors (e.g. name, gender, keywords, community). This means that the data from these independent projects is gathered and can be connected in a main structure. The virtual research environment will provide researchers with a user-friendly toolkit that will them to explore connections between entities and visualize their data in timelines, on geographical maps and social graphs.