

Éva Biró-Kaszás:
Theories of Narrative Identity

The study explores contemporary narrative theories, focusing on the role of narratives in the forming of identity and in our concepts about action and responsibility. First, it discusses Ricoeur's three-level model of narrative prefiguration, configuration and refiguration, and evaluates the differences between Ricoeur's, MacIntyre's and Tengelyi's conceptions of narrativity. After discussing Jerome Bruner's cognitive approach and his distinction between "narrative" and "paradigmatic" knowledge, it interprets narratives as explanatory and normative theoretical frameworks, dealing also with the critiques (by Phelan, Strawson, Lamarque) of the narrative approach to identity.

Keywords: narrative identity, identity, action, responsibility, Paul Ricoeur, Alasdair MacIntyre, László Tengelyi, Jerome Bruner

Brigitta Balogh – Gusztáv Molnár:
Theory of Recognition

The paper explores contemporary theories of recognition from the point of view of their exploratory potential in understanding philosophical concepts of identity. Dealing with theories of recognition as intersubjectivity-based and essentially normative approaches, they focus on two major theories of Hegelian origin, namely those of Charles Taylor and Axel Honneth. Departing from an evaluative presentation of the original Hegelian concept of recognition, the authors analyse contemporary theories from three main perspectives: a) theories of recognition as theories of modernity; b) interrelation of the concepts of recognition and moral integrity and c) interrelation of the concepts of recognition and identity.

Keywords: theory of recognition, Charles Taylor, Axel Honneth, moral integrity, identity

István Bujalos:

Personal and National Identity in American Philosophy

The study explores the interrelations of personal and national identity in contemporary American philosophy, dealing with the issue of national identity in the context of American patriotism. After discussing the conceptual tension between individualistic and collectivist approaches by liberals as Hayek, Nozick, Dworkin, Rawls and communitarians like Sandel, Walzer, MacIntyre and Taylor, it analyses in detail some aspects of Rawlsian liberalism and its critiques, the relation between liberalism and communitarianism by Michael Walzer, and the differences between liberal and republican concepts of liberty and government according to Michael Sandel.

Keywords: personal identity, national identity, liberalism, communitarianism, John Rawls, Michael Walzer, Michael Sandel

Attila M. Demeter:

On Nationality

In this paper, I try to develop an alternative vision referring to the birth of a nation. According to my point of view, the nation is a product of late modernity; therefore, we could call this point of view “modernist”. I argue that before the age of the French Revolution there was no such thing as nation in the modern sense of the word. Nation (as a specific form of political community) and nationalism (as a certain type of self-interpretation) are the results of the French Revolution, both historically and politically (or ideologically). Still, contrary to the majority of “modernist” theorists (like Ernest Gellner, to name one), who are adepts of a sociological explanation and who consider – as a result – the birth of the nation a “sociological necessity”, I try to deliver solid arguments to demonstrate that the nation is nothing else but the incorporated form of an ideology, namely the ideology of national sovereignty. Therefore, it is not (or the birth of the nation was not) a historical or even “sociological” necessity. Beyond all these convictions, I also argue that there are certain mechanisms (mostly political by nature) which did not only stimulate the birth of a nation, but explicitly required the existence of nations. One of these is certainly the democratic governance – or the republic, as it was known at that time. It is not accidental that István Bibó, one of the greatest Hungarian political thinkers ever, had the strong conviction (expressed over and over through his work) that nationalism and democratism are twins because they came into the world at the same time and place.

Keywords: nationality, nation, nationalism, French Revolution, Ernest Gellner, István Bibó

Tamás Valastyán:

Europe and Modernity. Kant, Novalis and Nietzsche's proposals for an interpretation of Europe

Considering Europe as a symbol of modernity, the paper follows the interpretation of the process of modernisation, as well as Europe's status and role in this process, by three major authors of German modernity: Kant, Novalis and Nietzsche. According a central role to the critical activity and the *ethos* of self-formation, the conceptions about Europe of the three thinkers appear as formed by an "accumulative movement" of unity and plurality. In this regard, the paper analyses certain central concepts of the three mentioned authors: the notion of antagonism by Kant, the enthusiastic poetical form – the symbol of pluralistic religion – by Novalis, and the very special "asymptotic" character of the future European soul by Nietzsche.

Keywords: Europe, process of modernisation, Kant, Novalis, Nietzsche

Beáta Kassai:

European Cultural Identity

"European cultural identity – does it exist at all?" is a basic, although very complicate question due to the fact that cultural identity is traditionally defined by terms as common historical past, common language and common tradition, which are not applicable to the entire European community. However, a possible answer can be formulated in the context of the ideals of freedom and dignity, an answer which leads us to the image of a pluralistic culture and a permanent discourse about it. Departing from these considerations, the paper explores some characteristic conceptions concerning European culture, as well as globalisation and civilisation theory. In this theoretical context, it discusses also some aspects of the cultural policies of the European Union.

Keywords: European community, cultural identity, pluralistic culture, globalisation, civilisation theory

Attila M. Demeter:

Multiculturalism: its causes, possibilities and consequences

The aim of this study is to analyse the ideology of multiculturalism with special regard to its presuppositions and consequences. It starts with the consideration that the concept of culture has very different meanings within the discourse of multiculturalism, therefore the multiculturalism itself, or the “politics of recognition” promoted by it, could refer in the same time to very different demands: those of racial or ethnic groups, social classes and so on. The fundamental thesis of the study is that in order to integrate these demands in liberal and democratic politics we have to reconsider some of our fundamental political ideals, first and foremost we have to re-interpret the nature and limits of our political communities.

Keywords: multiculturalism, politics of recognition, liberal politics, democratic politics, political communities

Gizella Horváth – Beáta Kassai:

About European Political Identity

Dealing with the concept of political identity as a characteristically modern idea, the paper explores the problem of European political identity in its relationship to other identity forms as national, cultural and religious identities. Reviewing the main relevant theoretical approaches, it discusses the possible rapports between European cultural and political identity, it explores the possible identity-forming function of European citizenship, and, finally, analyses the policies concerning European citizenship of Romania and Hungary.

Keywords: European political identity, national identity, cultural identity, religious identity, European citizenship, Romania, Hungary

Zoltán Zakota:

Region, regionalism, regionalization

The paper discusses the concepts of region, regionalism and regionalization operating with the concept of region as social construction. After reviewing a few general theoretical models and different sociological and political science approaches, it discusses, after Paasi, regional identity from two perspectives: as “regional consciousness” of a given region, and as the identity or an image of a

region. A third meaning is identified, after Detlev Ipsen, in the concept of the “image of space” (*Raumbild*). On this theoretical foundation, the paper analyses the characteristics of regional or regionalist movements and parties, the problem of regional autonomy, sovereignty and self-government, the functioning of regional civil networks, and their relation to the process of globalization.

Keywords: region, regionalism, regionalization, , regional identity, Anssi Paasi, Detlev Ipsen, regional autonomy, sovereignty, self-government, globalization

Zoltán Zakota: Regionalism in the European Union

In discussing regionalism in the European Union, the paper applies two main approaches: the examination of specific European regional structures and that of European regional policies. After a short review of the history of European regions and regionalization, it discusses regions as administrative structures, examining the concept and main forms of regional policy, focusing also on their relation to structural policies, to the principle of economic and social cohesion and to the principle of territorial development. Finally, the paper offers a review of the European regional funds and institutions, as well as the main forms of cross-border cooperation.

Keywords: regionalism, European Union, European regional structures, European regional policies

István Bujalos: History of Modern Identity

In premodern philosophy, the problem of identity appears as a general metaphysical problem, either in the field of the logic, or in that of ontology. But in modern times, discussions about identity concern mainly the human, personal identity, constituted by the ego in its interrelation to others (the *alter ego*). The paper analyses four paradigmatic modern models of identity – that of René Descartes, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Immanuel Kant –, focusing on the Kantian distinction between the “objective” ego as the object of experience, and the “noumenal” ego, the proper subject, which is the foundation of all experience, although it cannot be object of any experience.

Keywords: identity models, personal identity, René Descartes, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke Immanuel Kant, “objective” ego, “noumenal” ego

Brigitta Balogh – Gusztáv Molnár:
The Problem of Identity by Hegel

Identity as a characteristic modern philosophical problem is essentially shaped by the modern idea of freedom, because this idea of freedom is what makes identity problematic. Forasmuch as self-consciousness is the main field where the dialectics of freedom and determination evolves, this paper examines the Hegelian concept of identity in the context of Hegel's theory of self-consciousness. First, it explores the general, ontological concept of identity in the Hegelian logic, then it analyses the interrelations of identity, self-interpretation and self-consciousness in Hegel's philosophy of spirit. In this process, the focus is settled on two aspects that make the Hegelian approach a very specific one: first, the "dynamization" of the modern subject, and second, the replacement of the idea of the direct self-relatedness by the idea that our relation to ourselves is, to a high degree, a mediated one.

Keywords: identity, freedom, theory of self-consciousness, Hegel

Tamás Valastyán:
Construction and Deconstruction of Identity:
Schelling and Nietzsche

The problem of identity in modern philosophy is highly related to that of self-consciousness, as long as, according to modern principles of theoretical legitimation, both thinking and being must be deduced from the certainty of self-consciousness. This paradigm reaches its apex by Kant, Fichte and Schelling, but the idea that the world of objects manifests itself through the transparency of the subject appears by no thinkers so evidently as by Schelling. At the same time, by Schelling, the terminus of this process is the identity of the Self with the world, so that he concludes to an idea of identity as a construction. On the contrary, by Nietzsche, the deconstructive movement will be the dominant one, although there are many ways to think about identity in Nietzschean philosophy. By Nietzsche, there are no essential entities that would serve as centres for perceptive and cognitive processes. Rather, there are these forces from which are originating centralities like consciousness and soul. In that way occurs the validation of perspectivity, plurality and centralities in Nietzschean philosophy.

Keywords: identity, self-consciousness, Schelling, Nietzsche

Éva Biró-Kaszás:
The Democratic and Cosmopolitan Idea
of Europe by Habermas

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The paper explores some of the central concepts of Habermas' political philosophy, such as constitutional democracy, post-national condition, and the possibilities of democratic politics beyond national states. First, departing from the Kantian idea of "world citizenship", it discusses the relationship between post-national condition and world state, dealing also with the problem of the challenges of economic globalization and that of the solidarity between members of the political community. It analyses also the tension between the theory of "the crash of civilizations" and Habermas' theory of communicative action. In a second step, the paper explores Habermas' ideas about the relationship between European identity and a possible European constitution, evaluating the arguments that support Habermas' view.

Keywords: constitutional democracy, post-national condition, democratic politics, Europe, globalization, European identity, European constitution, theory of communicative action, Jürgen Habermas