

RESUME

Patrik TÁTRAI

Ethnic Stratification system in Slovakia in the Context of the 2021 Census

The rise of nation-states in the 19th century and the rapid spread of nationalism brought new dimensions of power inequalities to the surface, resulting in the privileged position of the titular ethnic group. Thus power asymmetries manifested as ethnic inequalities. The direct consequence of this is that the declaration of ethnic affiliation (most notably in censuses) can have significant socio-economic implications (both at the individual and group levels), so that ethnicity also becomes a designated status, a position in the power hierarchy. Recently, there has been no significant attempt to comprehensively describe and analyze social positioning of ethnic groups (especially of Hungarians) in Slovakia, and to evaluate these characteristics in a longer-term context. The objective of the present study is therefore to examine the ethnic stratification system in Slovakia – with a special focus on the social positions of Hungarians – and to examine changes after the turn of the millennium using a quantitative approach based on the 2021 census. In this study, I argue that power relations are embedded in social positions and ethnic stratification systems. In Slovakia, too, institutionalized asymmetries within the nation-state (re)create the structures that sustain ethnic inequalities. The study shows that the different spheres of life in this system are not separable: the ethno-demographic, settlement structure and socio-economic positions of ethnic groups are interconnected and mutually determined.

Gabriel HARRACH

Identity Characteristics Associated with Hungarians in Slovakia

As revealed in the results of the 2021 Slovak census, based on the three main indicators of ethnic ties (primary and secondary ethnic identity, as well as mother tongue), 496,000 people in the country have some level of Hungarian affiliation. 85% of them are nominally Hungarian in the statistics, three-quarters of them belong to the so-called core group (i.e. not connected to any other ethnicity), and each of the groups that are only weakly connected to Hungarians represent around 5%. The proportion of those representing weaker identity groups is higher among younger age groups and those living in large cities and their agglomerations. The weaker the Hungarian connection in a group, the more frequent the connection with Slovaks, that is, assimilation takes place in the direction of the majority ethnic group and not the other large minority, the Gypsies. At district levels, the connection between the proportion of Hungarians and the internal ratio of the core group (within the local Hungarian population) is positive, which can be traced back to the fact that a higher local proportion of Hungarians boosts the stronger type of identity, and a lower local proportion triggers its weaker type within the local Hungarian population.

Dániel BALIZS

Local Conflicts and Community Strategies in the Hungarian-inhabited Settlements of the Bratislava Agglomeration

The effects of suburbanization can be examined from several directions, but in addition to the individual decisions that started it, the real estate market aspects or the transformation of land use, the effects of the process on local communities and the reactions to it are rarely highlighted in the professional sphere. In the course of my work in the agglomeration of Bratislava, the Slovak capital, I researched individual and collective opinions on suburbanization, as well as the questions and potential conflict situations arising among the members of the “host community”. A striking element of the character of the study area is that migration also means a change in the linguistic environment, as the newcomers often arrive from a predominantly Slovak-speaking settlement to an area mostly inhabited by the Hungarian minority; this adds additional components to suburbanization and the responses it generates. Experiences show that the municipalities affected by the process use independent, but in certain elements, similar strategies to control it, and as part of these - in relation to some topics - the ethnic factor also appears prominently.

András MÉSZÁROS

The Effects of Internal Migration on the Population of Slovakia

In the past thirty years, significant centralization and suburbanization have taken place around some economic centers, mostly in the catchment area of Bratislava, resulting in a substantial increase in population in the affected areas. The study aimed to quantify and demonstrate these processes, with particular emphasis on their impact on the Hungarian community, as several Hungarian-inhabited regions are affected by both inward and outward migration processes. To illustrate the consequences of population growth due to immigration, we cite the processes that took place in two neighboring municipalities, Hviezdoslavov (Vörösmajor) and Štvrtok na Ostrove (Csallóközcsütörtök), located on the western border of the Dunajská Streda District (Dunaszerdahelyi járás).