

DETERMINANTS OF SELF- IDENTITY: A STUDY OF POST- SECONDARY STUDENTS IN WINNIPEG

Natalia Aponiuk, University of Manitoba

John C. Lehr, University of Winnipeg

The Setting: Winnipeg, Manitoba



Winnipeg: Demographics

- Population 2001:
619,544
- Claiming Ukrainian ancestry:
102,635
- % Claiming Ukrainian ancestry:
16.6%
- Claiming both Parents Ukrainian:
34,325
- Claiming multiple origins
(including Ukrainian):
68,315

Questionnaire Objectives

- Determination of the construction of ethnic identity through structured and open-ended responses that examined:
 - Linguistic retention
 - Religion and ethnicity
 - Social affiliations
 - Food ways
 - Attitudes towards other groups

The Sample

- 700 Post-secondary students attending the Universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba in Winnipeg.
- Questionnaire administered to classes selected at random
- Voluntary participation but response rate high

The Results

- 32.8% males, 67.2% females
- 67.8% U of Manitoba
- 31.8% U of Winnipeg
- 87.1% Canadian born
- 72.9% of Canadian-born are second generation (i.e., father born in Canada)
- Over 60 ethnic origins listed
- Aboriginal students under-represented

Other Language Spoken (Other than English/French)

- Ukrainian 19.0
- German 21.1
- Spanish 20.8
- “Chinese” 5.7
- Tagalog [Filipino] 4.0
- Aboriginal Languages 2.3

Language Spoken Most Often at Home

- English 88.8%
- French 1.3%
- Other 9.9%

Other Language Used at Home

- German 2.0%
- Ukrainian 4.1
- Russian 0.7%

Religion/Spirituality (Total Sample)

- No religion 24.2
- Roman Catholic 28.6%
- United Church 10.7%
- Mennonite 9.7%
- Ukrainian Catholic 7.4%
- Ukrainian Orthodox 5.7%

Religion/Spirituality (Ukrainians Only)

- Identify with religion/spirituality 81.6%
- No religion 18.4%

Religion (Ukrainians Only)

- Ukrainian Catholic 35.3%
- Ukrainian Orthodox 26.5%
- Roman Catholic 20.6%
- United Church 5.9%
- Lutheran 4.9%
- Greek Orthodox 2.0%
- Other 5.0%

Religion/Spirituality Important in Life (Total Sample)

- 28.4% strongly agree
- 19.5% agree
- 25.1% neutral
- 14.4 % disagree
- 12.6% strongly disagree

Religion/Spirituality Important in Life (Ukrainians Only)

- 28.2% strongly agree
- 24.2% agree
- 26.6% neutral
- 13.7% disagree
- 7.3% strongly disagree

Need to Show More Pride in Origins (Total Sample)

- 22.4% strongly agree
- 34.1% agree
- 32.6% neutral
- 7.5% disagree
- 3.4% strongly disagree

Need to Show More Pride in Origins (Ukrainians Only)

- 35.8% strongly agree
- 28.5% agree
- 26.8% neutral
- 4.9% disagree
- 4.1% strongly disagree

Markers of Identity (Total Sample)

- Speaking the heritage language
- Celebrating traditional national and religious holidays
- Attending religious services
- Eating traditional foods
- Participating/watching sports events
- Attending and/or participating in cultural events
- Belonging to an ethnic and/or cultural organization
- Wearing traditional dress and/or other symbols

Markers of Identity (Ukrainians Only)

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Social Behaviour (Total Sample)

- Only 24% have most friends from same cultural group
- 78% have dated outside the group
- 94% have considered dating outside group
- 65.6% say it is not important to marry within group

Social Behaviour (Ukrainians Only)

- Only 29.6% have most friends from same cultural group
- 86.4% have dated outside the group
- 96.8% have considered dating outside group
- 59.2% say it is not important to marry within group

Identity as a Barrier (Total Sample)

- Preferable to have non-ethnic identifiable name: 7.3%
- Advantageous not to be member of ethnic/cultural group: 25.3%
- Ethnicity is a barrier to career progression: 35.2%
- Accent/pronunciation is a disadvantage: 46.6%

Identity as a Barrier (Ukrainians Only)

- Preferable to have non-ethnic identifiable name: 4%
- Advantageous not to be member of ethnic/cultural group: 24.1%
- Ethnicity is a barrier to career progression: 28.8%
- Accent/pronunciation is a disadvantage: 41.6%

Immigration and Cultural Conformity (Total Sample)

1. Canada does not need more immigrants.
2. Too much emphasis on mainstream cultural conformity.

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

	1	2	3	4	5
1.	38.3%	30%	20.6%	6.5%	4.6%
2.	8.7%	22.9%	42.3%	16.5%	9.6%

Immigration and Cultural Conformity (Ukrainian Sample)

1. Canada does not need more immigrants.
2. Too much emphasis on mainstream cultural conformity.

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

	1	2	3	4	5
1.	37.6%	25.6%	23.2%	5.6%	8%
2.	8.9%	21.8%	41.1%	15.3%	12.9%