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**Title of Session:** Nations at Civilizational Crossroads

**Name of Session Convener(s):** Edward A. Tiryakian; Willfried Spohn

**University/Organization incl. City:** Duke University, Durham, North Carolina (USA);  
Free University of Berlin, Germany

**Chair:** Edward A. Tiryakian

**University/Organization incl. City:** Duke University, Durham, North Carolina (USA)

**I) Title of Selected Paper:** Globalization, Nationalism and Religion – A multiple modernities perspective on imperial and peripheral nations in Central and Eastern Europe

**Name/s of Author/s:** Willfried Spohn

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**Abstract:** A conspicuous characteristic of post-1989 transformations in Central and Eastern Europe has been the revival of nationalism and religion as well as ethno-national and ethno-religious conflicts. In the framework of a secularist modernization theory, post-communist transformation research did not expect this development. As a reaction, globalization approaches see the revival of nationalism and religion as a defensive reaction against intensifying global forces. Against this theoretical background, this paper develops a multiple modernities perspective that considers the varying long-term trajectories of state formation, nation-building and nationalism as well as religious development and secularisation patterns in the context of inter-civilizational constellations and global forces (i). To demonstrate this perspective, the paper compares empire-contracting imperial nations (ii) with self-autonomizing peripheral nations (iii). The main cases of imperial nations considered are Austria, Germany, Russia and Turkey. The main cases of peripheral nations referred to are Poland, Romania, Greece and Armenia. It is thereby assumed that imperial nations are characterized by a more pluralistic mix of religious and secular forces, whereas peripheral nations tend towards a stronger link between nationalism and religion. On this comparative basis, the paper concludes with a reflection on the current reconfiguration of the inter-civilizational constellations in East-Central and Eastern Europe between the enlarging EU, Russia and Turkey (iv).

**II) Title of Selected Paper:** The Impact of Civilizations of the Construction of Turkish National Identity

**Name/s of Author/s:** Ayşegül Aydınğün

**University/Organization incl. City:** Middle East Technical University, Ankara

**Abstract:** The Anatolian region is one of the oldest inhabited regions of the world that hosted many civilizations and their impact on modern Turkey cannot be denied. This presentation aims to discuss the nature of the impact of civilizations not only of Anatolia but also of elsewhere on modern Turkey and Turkish national identity through taking into consideration the historical continuities and ruptures, and the importance of linking the past with the present for the issue of identity. In the light of Renan's understanding of *nation*, this presentation also aims to analyze the widespread misuse of the term *nation* which is the main source for national identity crisis experienced by many countries including Turkey. In that perspective, the possibility of developing a more inclusive form of *national identity* that will increase the capability of different identities and loyalties to coexist in a single state will be elaborated.

**III) Title of Selected Paper:** (Im)migrants' Diverse National Identities and Their Effects on Host Societies

**Name/s of Author/s:** Ewa Morawska

**University/Organization incl. City:** University of Essex, United Kingdom

**Abstract:** The paper consists of two parts. I identify, first, the diverse effects of (e)migrants' sojourns in receiver countries on their national identities as recognized in present-day sociological studies of (im)migrants' adaptation to the host societies. Four most common developments regarding (e)migrants' national identities are discussed: mainstream assimilation or the gradual replacement of immigrants' home-country self-perceptions by the identification with the receiver nation; ethnicization of the mixing-and-blending in different proportions of home- and host-country national identities yielding hybrid forms; transnationalism or the emergence of supra-national forms of identities; and "desubstantiation" of national identities unaccompanied by the development of transnational self-perceptions. Next, I consider the effects of the presence of immigrants and, specifically, their ethnic (hybrid), transnational, and obliterating national identities on the "cultural contents" of receiver countries' national membership. Each assimilation trajectory and the impact thereof on host societies' dominant notions of national membership are illustrated with empirical examples drawn from available studies in North America and Western Europe.

**IV) Title of Selected Paper:** Armenians, Georgians and Azerbaijanis on the Civilizational Crossroad: Searching for "Caucasian Identity". Mathematical Analysis

**Name/s of Author/s:** Edik Kyureghyan; Samvel Manukyan

**University/Organization incl. City:** Yerevan State Engineering University, Yerevan;  
National Institute of Health, Ministry of Health, Republic of Armenia

**Abstract:**

**The Problem:** It is well known that Armenians and Georgians, two of the three main nations of the South Caucasus, belong to the Christian civilizational area, and the third nation - the Azerbaijani, belongs to the Turkish-Islamic civilizational area. This subject has certain peculiarities, which are worth considering here. Particularly:

- a. Which orientation is stronger: orientation of Azerbaijanis towards Turkey, or orientation of Armenians and Georgians towards Russia?
- b. Are there civilizational factors defining the attitudes of Armenians, Georgians and Azerbaijanis towards other nations?
- c. Does a “Caucasian Identity” factor exist in the mutual perceptions of Armenians, Georgians and Azerbaijanis?
- d. Are the attitudes of Armenians, Georgians and Azerbaijanis towards other nations changing over the time?

**Methods:** To get the answers to the defined questions, the social distance perceptions of Armenians, Georgians and Azerbaijanis towards 9 nations (Armenians, Georgians, Azerbaijanis, Russians, Turks, Iranians, Greeks, Jews and Americans) are calculated. For Georgians, two additional distances are calculated - towards Abkhazians and Ossetins. Then, a factor analysis of the social distances for Armenians, Georgians and Azerbaijanis perceptions are carried out.