

ABSTRACTS

Barna Bodó

■ ***On the Diaspora: A Different Perspective***

Keywords: *diaspora, community, identity, discourse, party politics, national policy, public policy*

The internal diaspora is nowadays a trendy topic. What is trendy is appreciated, it is demanded by the readers, and it is considered proper. But what is valuable, what is proper concerning the internal diaspora? In fact, the internal diaspora is characterized by fading community values, where assimilation occurs, the community dwindles, the sense of identity and belonging is replaced by assimilation, and the individual's consciousness of his ancestry is on trial: a new identity replaces the previous one. Despite this, or maybe just because of this: there are many different discourses on internal diaspora. In fact, there are too many. There is no clear theoretical framework that that would replace the usual moralizing with a public policy approach, where helping intention would dominate instead of sadness and mere lamentation. It is time to change the discourse on our problems: discourse on treatments and resolutions should replace the simple talk about the existing problems. If someone asks what the discourse was about until now, the answer is in many cases simply the reassurance of ourselves and self-justification. The first part of the paper deals with concept use, the development of the internal diaspora and its typology, and with assimilation. The second part focuses on political responsibility, areas of action, aims and instruments of policies concerning the internal diaspora. The main argument of the paper is that the question of the internal diaspora is not a question of party politics, but a national political question, where all factors – political actors, civil organizations, the representatives of science and experts – should join forces not merely to assign tasks, but to provide an area for action or a framework for managing the situation.

Örs Csete

■ ***Endurance and multiculturalism***

Keywords: *Hungarian minorities, multiculturalism, Romania, Hungary, majority, ethnic groups*

The conviction of the author, writing from Hungary, is that the interest of Hungarian national minorities living in different countries surrounding Hungary, involved in a continuous relationship with the majority population, does not consist in isolation

and self-centeredness, but in opening up and a positive approach towards the larger community. Consequently, and even paradoxically, the ideology of multiculturalism is the one which can serve best the endurance of the Hungarian diaspora.

János Péntek

■ ***Language Islands and Dispersed Communities: Situations and Processes***

Keywords: *Hungarian language, Romania, national minority, linguistic island, community, diaspora*

In Romania only the Hungarian dialect in Moldova can be considered a linguistic island, which is exterior to Hungarian linguistic territory, as it was pointed out by the geographical linguistic researches in the 20th century. Southern and Northern Transylvanian linguistic islands consist of settlements or settlement groups of isolated linguistic remains. The concept of linguistic island, and especially of dispersed linguistic communities is a term of ecolinguistics and cultural ecology, which is a characteristic of linguistic and cultural otherness. In Hungarian the term for autochthonous community living for centuries at a certain territory (*szórvány*) differs from the term used for denoting emigrant, scattered ethnic and linguistic groups (*diaszpóra*). The essay analyses the differences between the various types of dispersed linguistic communities. It makes a distinction between rural and metropolitan situations, between dispersed communities in housing estates and work settlements. The sociolinguistic researches reveal that these differences are obvious in the following fields: bilingualism, language shift and the conditions of language maintenance. In the latter problem, education, the choice of language of instruction and language teaching programs have a capital importance.

László Vetési

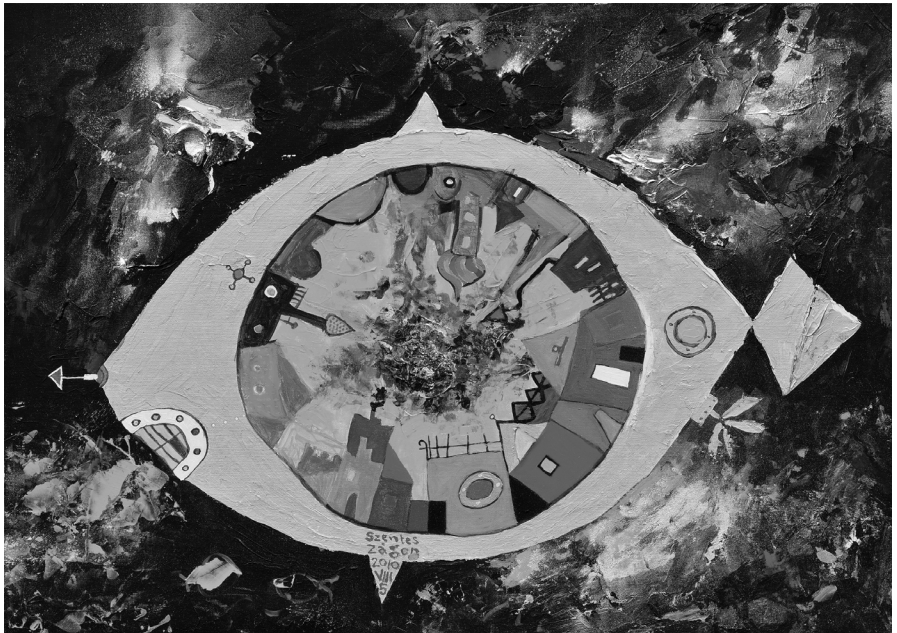
■ ***Metropolitan Diaspora and Community Building by the Church***

Keywords: *Transylvania, Hungarian minority, diaspora, urban life, Christian church, metropolis*

The ethnic processes taking place in the major cities of Transylvania entered into the focus of Hungarian scientific research from Romania in the last one-and-a-half decades. Similarly, our major Transylvanian cities have acquired the status of metropolis during the last decade, and very suddenly. The structure of these cities and their population also changed completely. The competition between different languages,

cultures and values has become fiercer than ever, and it also manifests itself in conflicts regarding the occupation of symbolical spaces, ethnic values and linguistic publicity. The inherited values of the urban ethnic minority become superfluous, the use of its mother tongue becomes restricted, and the symptoms of crisis manifest themselves at the level of the family, in the choice of partners and spouses, the consumption of culture, the choice of schools and education opportunities, and even in the most intimate aspects of the religious sphere. The papers deals with questions such as: what does it mean for the members of an ethnic and religious

minority group to be the citizen of a constantly changing Transylvanian metropolis? How does the majority population affect the minority? What kinds of strategies for survival do these minority communities use? What are the ways in which the churches of the national minorities can help these communities in the context of a country caught in the process of modernization, but still one among the least secularized countries of Europe? According to the author, the historical churches of Transylvanian Hungarians offer spiritual assistance in their mother tongue, as well as an encompassing program for community building.



SZÁMUNK SZERZŐI

A lapszámot szerkesztette:

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„A legutóbbi, 2011-es romániai népszámlálás adatai riasztó trendet jelenítenek meg: miközben többen, Székelyföldön jelentős városok – pl. Sepsiszentgyörgy – magyar lakossága némileg növekedett 2002-höz viszonyítva, miközben a többen élő magyarság esetében a helyi demográfiai százalékos mutatók javulnak vagy stagnálnak, a szórványnak minősülő megyékben a magyarok lélek- és arányszáma drasztikusan csökken. [...] Minél kisebb és erőtlenebb a helyi közösség, annál erősebb a szórványosodás, az asszimiláció. Mennyire és miért van így... [...] Ezekről a kérdésekről nemcsak beszélni kell. Nemzetstratégiai lépésekre van szükség, a szándéktól el kellene jutni olyan közpolitikai programok megfogalmazásáig, amelyek mögött egyrészt világosan azonosítható a (kisebbségi-nemzeti) közösségi szerepvállalás, másrészt a megvalósulás feltételei is biztosítottak.”

(Bodó Barna)

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