“All paradises are designed by the people who are not allowed in”:
Exclusion in and beyond Central Europe

Call for submissions

We are bound to create safe spaces for our kind. Frequently, these spaces are driven by a utopian desire to be surrounded only by people who are similar to us, people who share our worldviews and convictions. We are tempted to believe that only in that way danger is eliminated. The newest form of such an approach are filter bubbles. They allow us to create digital paradises with the selected information only and to take part in discussions carefully crafted for us by undefinable algorithms. But these attempts at creating paradises via isolation, by ostensibly excluding the “Other” from the shared spaces, could be documented also in the analogue world, as in the following image, taken in Kosovo in 2013:

We read it both in a quite literal and a metaphorical way. Literal reading is simple: names in one language are crossed out while the others are left untouched. However, we can treat such road signs as a metaphor. They are here to guide you to a promised place: a uni-ethnic paradise of sameness, where people speaking other languages are excluded. The illusion created by the signs leads us to believe that at the end of the road is the point where only certain people are present. The “Other” is absent, crossed out, behind the gate of a designed ethnic paradise. It is a feel-good place, where no one questions the seemingly natural order of things. Following Toni Morrison in her statement from the title of this call, we would like to raise the question about the ways people and groups exclude and are excluded.
Volume 54 of the journal *Sprawy Narodowościowe. Seria nowa / Nationalities Affairs* will discuss the experiences, appearances and narratives of exclusion.

We invite submissions devoted both to real and virtual spaces of exclusion. We believe that nowadays people and groups can be excluded on both levels. When it comes to physical spaces, fences, walls and borders strengthened with barbed wire are built. There could be various reasons for exclusion, resulting from personal or group characteristics, for instance ethnic origin, religion, class, age, gender, sexual orientation and expression. This causes the feeling of being excluded both on individual and collective levels. But exclusion can also mean a limited access to various services and goods. In economic terms, we can observe how people are excluded by the lack of access to education or public transport. Moreover, exclusion can be determined by the geographical location, especially in partially recognized states. Yet, exclusion can be marked in physical spaces also by symbolic practices, e.g. toppling statues and sites of memory, territorial restrictions (so called “free zones”) or exclusive language policy in naming places. The same examples are palpable in virtual spaces. Here, the limited access to information can be especially severe. It comprises the aforementioned phenomenon of filter bubbles. Furthermore, we can follow various cases of exclusion in (but not limited to) literary works, film and theatrical productions.

Volume 54 of *Sprawy Narodowościowe. Seria nowa / Nationalities Affairs* will be an attempt to seek answers to questions such as:

- what is exclusion: exclusion as “no access”, exception, excommunication, removal, extermination, ban, censure, boycott, expatriation, forced migration
- who excludes: who is in charge of exclusion, who decides what a space of exclusion is and who is meant to be excluded
- who is excluded: who and why is excluded from a particular community
- where exclusion happens: detention camps, internet pages and forums of national minorities and languages, border zones, “free zones”
- when exclusion happens: historical examples of practicing exclusion
- how exclusion is conducted: how official policies of nation-states influence the accessibility of citizens and non-citizens to various services and goods; how national policies use censure as a tool of oppression; in what ways one can be deprived of access to a particular good
- why exclusion happens: the aims, reasons and motivations for excluding people and groups
- representations of exclusion: who generates them; how they are communicated and commented

*Sprawy Narodowościowe. Seria nowa / Nationalities Affairs* (SNSN) is the leading Polish journal devoted to nationalism and ethnicity, publishing articles in humanities and social sciences. The aim of the journal is to provide a platform for transdisciplinary research on nationalisms and ethnic issues, especially in Central Europe. The subject area in focus is the empirical and theory-oriented study of nationalism and ethnicity, pursued with a view to making a contribution to the development of Central European area studies. The SNSN is different...
from other journals in the field owing to its firm focus on Central Europe, understood as a constellation of ideas which is embodied in space. This concept of Central Europe includes both Slavic countries and their non-Slavic neighbours (e.g. Albania, Austria, the Baltic States, Greece, Hungary, Moldova, Romania). This approach to Central Europe requires the examination of reciprocal relations with cultures in relatively close geographical proximity, which were often the source of ideas proliferating in the region (e.g. Germany, Italy, Scandinavian countries, Turkey). Likewise, it does not exclude Russia as the most influential neighbouring state. The journal is listed in CEEOL, DOAJ, EBSCO, ProQuest and Crossref databases. It is included in the Polish ranking of academic journals of the Ministry of Education and Science; the number of points awarded for published contributions is 20.

**Contributions should be submitted in English.**

We invite articles by representatives of various research areas and methodologies. We are open to voices from artists and activists. A typical article for this journal should not exceed 40,000 characters (including spaces). This limit includes tables, references, figure captions, footnotes, bibliography and an abstract of 150 words. Articles in excess of the maximum limit will be returned to the author(s). Please consult APA style guidelines for references, available at: https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/

Please submit articles via the Open Journal System platform, available at: https://ispan.waw.pl/journals/index.php/sn/about/submissions#onlineSubmissions
where you can also find detailed information and guidelines for authors.

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