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**National Identity between Assimilation and Autonomy in  
Austria and South Tyrol in the Mirror of the Census**

## **Ewald Hiebl**

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**Abstract:** The paper focusses on the development of ethnic groups in two central-European regions, Carinthia and South Tyrol, in 20th century. In Carinthia the number of Slovene-speaking inhabitants decreased continuously and there were huge disputes about bilingual town signs. During fascism there were attempts to “italianize” the region of South Tyrol by settling Italians and oppressing the German language. After World War II the mainly German speaking region became an autonomous province within the Italian state. In all these conflicts on language and ethnicity the census played an important role by stating the roles of majority and minority. But the diachronic comparability of the decennial census is difficult due to changing categories of identifying ethnicity or the use of language: Furthermore often members of the minority refused to declare these categories in censuses because they were critical to the use of the data by authorities. So the census is not only a mirror of social and political development but itself serves as a means of identity politics.

**Keywords.** Carinthia, South Tyrol, ethnicity, language use, census, assimilation

## **National statistics in the Bohemian Lands 1880-2011: Factors affecting the setting of the criteria and methods used by the censuses**

**Pavel Kladiwa**

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**Abstract:** My paper compares the way in which different political and ideological regimes, Habsburg Cisleithania (1867-1918) and the First Czechoslovak Republic (1918-1938) approached the matter of the counting of ethnic categories in periodic censuses, as well as asks what was behind it. It describes how the state interest influenced the setting of the whole agenda of the ethnic/language statistics (by means of: the choice of the title and definition of the examined category, the

technical way of the census implementation, the authorities of the census bodies, the verification and correction of the recorded data) and how the state interest could differ according to regional specifications. The outlook into the period after WWII demonstrated how the fundamental change of the ethnic situation (the expulsion of the Germans) and of the political atmosphere (the European integration) was imprinted (mirrored) in the way of the counting of ethnic categories. For more details see my study National Classification in the Politics of the State Census. The Bohemian Lands 1880-1930. *Bohemia. Zeitschrift für Geschichte und Kultur der böhmischen Länder*, 55 (2015), 1, pp. 67-95.

**Keywords:** Cisleithania, Bohemian Lands, censuses, national disputes, national statistics, Czech-German-Polish relations

## **Fundamental aspects of the national identification of Jews in the Bohemian Lands in the 1880–1930 censuses**

**Petr Kadlec**

*Centre for Economic and Social History, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic, petr.kadlec@osu.cz*

**Abstract:** This study deals with the topic of the national identification of Jews in the Bohemian Lands in the 1880–1930 censuses. It tries to demonstrate, how the specific position of the Jewish minority, its perception by the state authorities and the non-Jewish majority and a considerable degree of diversity regarding the Jews' own identification were reflected in the censuses. In the Bohemian Lands the so called Jewish question in censuses represented an important part of the reflection of the tense Czech-German relations. The national identification of Jews in censuses had a practical and direct impact not only on the everyday life of this minority, but it also significantly influenced the situation of the other minorities in the Bohemian Lands especially the German one. The submitted study indicates main problems of the national identification of Jews in the 1880–1930 censuses on the territory of the Bohemian Lands.

**Keywords:** Jews, censuses, national conflicts, national identification, Bohemian Lands

**Between demography and politics: changing perceptions of nationality of the Slovak population in censuses 1869 – 1930**

## Martin Pekár, Nikola Regináčová

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**Abstract:** The territory of Slovakia was until 1918 a part of the Kingdom of Hungary and in the years 1918 – 1939 a part of Czechoslovakia. In both cases these were countries that were multinational and nationality of their inhabitants was seen as a political problem. Therefore, censuses became not only an instrument for investigation of statistical indicators but also an instrument of political struggle for the character of the state. The main focus of the study will analyse how the category of nationality was included in each census, how the category was defined in censuses between 1869 and 1930 and which specific features there were in the implementation of this category in the territory of Slovakia in censuses between 1869 and 1930. We will interpret discovered results in the context of the results of each census and in the context of political development with regard to specific situation in the territory of Slovakia, which was marked by struggle of Slovak majority for own national emancipation.

**Keywords:** Czechoslovakia, Kingdom of Hungary, Population censuses, Nationality, Politics, Demography

## “Statistical Assimilation” in the Hungarian Kingdom 1880-1910

György Kövér

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**Abstract:** During the existence of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy the official censuses on the Cisleithanian side inquired about the colloquial or everyday language (*Umgangssprache*), whereas the Hungarian census focused on the „mother tongue” (*Muttersprache*). In the Hungarian Kingdom between 1880 and 1910, however, the relevant question changed. In 1880 it was formulated as “What is your mother tongue?”, whereas from 1900 onwards, probably in an attempt to

reproduce the question formulated on the Cisleithanian side, it was “What is your mother tongue, that is, the language you consider as yours, the language in which you are most fluent and like to speak?”.

Can it possibly be a pure accident that the ratio of those with Hungarian as their mother tongue happened to break through the magic 50% threshold value exactly in 1900, and that such ratio reached nearly 55% by 1910? The main question of this paper: what is the “statistical contribution” to these “results” considered as a “successful Hungarian assimilation”? The answer we try to give with the help “changing the scale”, it means on macro and micro level, both.

**Keywords:** census, ethnicity, nationality, mother tongue, education, nation building, assimilation, Pilis districts, Hungarian Kingdom

## **Ethnicity, Nationality, and Statistics. The Romanians from the Habsburg Empire, the Ottoman Empire, and the Tsarist Empire (1848-1850)**

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**Abstract:** This article offers a general statistical view regarding the Romanians from Transylvania, Bukovina, Banat, Wallachia, Moldavia, Dobrudja, and Bessarabia, and analyzes the extent to which the central authorities in Vienna, Constantinople, and Sankt Petersburg recognized the Romanians’ nationality and language in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Unlike the Romanians from Transylvania, who did not enjoy political rights, being considered a “tolerated nation”, in Wallachia and Moldavia, both under Ottoman suzerainty and Russian protectorate, the Romanians had greater state autonomy, having their own rulers and a strong political class descendant of the great Romanian boyar families. The Romanians from Bessarabia had the worst national fate.

The analysis is based on different sources: the Austrian census (1850), the Romanian censuses from Wallachia and Moldavia (1838-1852), census-like



material, historical, ethnographical and statistical printings, journal articles, and proclamations.

**Keywords:** censuses, Romanians, ethnicity, nationality, statistics

## **Ethnicity and Politics: Censuses in the Austro-Hungarian Empire (Case Study: Transylvania, 1869-1910)**

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**Abstract:** In parallel with the process of modernization in the second half of the nineteenth century, very many European countries have experienced significant ethno-linguistic changes. These were highly visible even in what concerns the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, which was, until its collapse in 1918, one of the most mosaic-like countries of Europe in terms of ethnicity, language and religion. Transylvania after 1867, as part of the Eastern half of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, was in its turn highly ethnically heterogeneous. Besides Romanians, the province was also inhabited by Hungarians, Germans, Jews, Slovaks, Serbs, Armenians, Gypsies and others.

We intend through this proposal, by using the case study of Transylvania, to examine the criteria used by the Austro-Hungarian authorities to define ethnicity. We will analyze in this respect the censuses from 1869, 1880, 1890, 1900 and 1910, focusing as well on how the structure of nationalities has evolved in Transylvania during this period. In order to gain a more thorough understanding of these processes, we also propose an evaluation of the demographic policy in the dualism years.

**Keywords:** censuses, Austro-Hungarian Empire, Transylvania, ethnicity, politics