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Understandings of national identity, ethnicity and the nation

Recent research in qualitative social psychology suggests that young adults in England and Scotland tend to understand their national identities (British, English, Scottish) and nations very differently (Abell, Condor & Stevenson, 2006; Condor & Abell, 2006a, 2006b; see also Condor, Gibson & Abell, 2006 for understandings of ethnicity, as well as nationality). For example, Condor and Abell (2006a) show that young adults born in Scotland, unlike those born in England, tend to associate their Scottish identity with very positive feelings and dissociate their national selves from any English or British referent. Inspired by the research developed by Condor et al., this project will study in detail how university students in Scotland (born in Scotland and elsewhere) use national labels to talk about themselves and how they (themselves) understand their national/ethnic identities and nations. The data for this project will be collected through semi-structured interviews.

Condor, S., and Abell, J. (2006a). Vernacular constructions of “national identity” in post-devolution Scotland and England. In J. Wilson and K. Stapleton (eds.), *Devolution and Identity*. Aldershot: Ashgate.

Condor, S. & Abell, J. (2006b) Romantic Scotland, tragic England, ambiguous Britain: Uses of ‘the Empire’ in post-devolution national accounting. *Nations and Nationalism*, 12(3), 453–472.

Condor, S., Gibson, B., & Abell, J. (2006). English Identity and ethnicity in the context of UK Constitutional Change. *Ethnicity*, 6(2), 123-158.

Denials, mitigations and prejudice

Recent and past research in discursive psychology has shown that politicians and ordinary people typically express their views against minorities as being rational and shared - either by denying being racist or prejudiced or using other mitigating discursive devices (see, for example, Billig, 1988, on ‘I am not racist but...’; and more generally Edwards, 2003; see also Condor et al., 2006, for a study of how mitigations and denials of prejudice can be accomplished collaboratively). This project will analyse how people/politicians present negative views on minorities using a discursive psychology approach. The data for this project will be naturally occurring data (ex.: newspapers, news interviews, political speeches, tweets, online chatrooms, etc.) from one or more sources.

Billig, M. (1988). The notion of ‘prejudice’: Some rhetorical and ideological aspects. *Text*, 8(1-2), 91-110.

Condor, S., Figgou, L., Abell, J., Gibson, S., & Stevenson, C. (2006). ‘They're not racist...’ Prejudice denial, mitigation and suppression in dialogue. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 45(3), 441-462.

Edwards, D. (2003). Analyzing racial discourse: the discursive psychology of mind–world relationships. In H. van den Berg, M. Wetherell & H. Houtkoop-Steenstra (eds.), *Analyzing race talk: Multidisciplinary approaches to the interview*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.