

ETHNIC IDENTITY OF GREEKS LIVING IN THEIR HOMELAND AND IN RUSSIA

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ABSTRACT

Ethnic identity as a sense of belonging based on our ancestry, cultural heritage, values, and traditions helps us to find our place in our homeland. But what if a person migrates to another country for purpose of getting a job or education? Do people living in their homeland and those who study or work abroad have differences in their ethnic identity? These questions became the basis of our investigation. The study's purpose was to investigate the ethnic identity of Greeks in their homeland and Russia in order to find out how ethnic identity is determined by such factors as country (homeland or foreign country), occupation (work or study) and sex (male or female). We used the following questionnaires: The Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure (MEIM) by Jean S. Phinney, The Positive and Uncertain Ethnic Identity Measure by A.N. Tatarko and N.M. Lebedeva, The Twenty Statements Test by Manfred Kuhn & Thomas McPartland adapted by T.V. Rumyantseva. We conducted Mann-Whitney U-test and multivariate analysis of variance.

Results indicate the following. There are differences between Greeks living in their homeland and in Russia. Namely, those living in Russia surpass in affective component of ethnic identity, positive and uncertain ethnic identity. They have more answers reflecting their Greek nationality. Greeks living in Greece have a higher level of ethnic identity search. These differences were corroborated among both men and women. Among students, we found out the same differences except for positive ethnic identity. The Greeks working in Greece showed higher uncertain ethnic identity than those working in Russia.

There are differences in ethnic identity between Greeks who work or study. Those who work have higher results in ethnic identity and ethnic identity search among all groups. Working women also have higher results in positive and uncertain ethnic identity. Greeks working in Greece also surpass Greeks studying in the homeland in a number of answers reflecting their religion and in uncertain ethnic identity and concede in positive ethnic identity. Among those living in Russia, students have higher results in uncertain ethnic identity and lower in positive ethnic identity.

As for the differences among men and women, Greek women have a more positive ethnic identity and men – uncertain ethnic identity. The same results we got among those who live in the homeland. But there were found no differences between Greek men and women living in Russia. Working men have higher results in ethnic identity search and lower positive ethnic identity in comparison

to working women. Male students have higher results in uncertain ethnic identity and affective components of ethnic identity.

As for the multivariate analysis of variance, it showed us the following. The factor sex determines ethnic identity, ethnic identity search, positive and uncertain ethnic identity. The factor country (homeland or Russia) determines affective component and ethnic identity search, positive and uncertain ethnic identity. The factor employment (work or study) determines ethnic identity search and positive ethnic identity.

Keywords: *ethnic identity, Greeks, positive ethnic identity, negative ethnic identity, migration*

INTRODUCTION

In the modern world, we are able not only to travel wherever we want, but also to study there or even work. It seems hard to define what ethnic identity is in our time of open borders, globalization, and intercultural mobility. A century ago people had a record in their passport about their ethnicity, but we are free to choose [1]. We consider ethnical identity as an important component of the persons' identity, which unites the feelings, attitudes, ideas that are connected to ethnical group of membership.

Greece and Russia have much in common according to Hofstede's research. In cultural and historical aspects same orthodox religion plays great role [2], [5] for the process of acculturation. In Table 1 we can see how close countries are. Greeks are collectivists. Their self-image is defined in terms of "We", including belonging to an ethnical group. Both Greeks and Russian are not at all comfortable in ambiguous situations. In Greece, people believe hierarchy should be respected and inequalities amongst people are acceptable. But in Russia, this tendency is much higher. It is justified that power holders have more benefits than the less powerful in society. At 57 Greece is a medium ranking Masculine society – success oriented and driven. On the opposite, Russia has a tendency to be feminine society, where the dominant values in society are caring for others and quality of life. In Greece, people prefer to maintain traditions and norms while viewing societal change with suspicion. Russia is a country with a more pragmatic mindset. Russia is more restrained culture than Greece.

Table 1. Hofstede's cultural dimension scores for Greece and Russia.

	Greece	Russia
Power Distance	60	93
Individualism - Collectivism	35	39
Masculinity	57	36
Uncertainty Avoidance	100	95
Long Term Orientation	45	81
Indulgence - Restraint Index	50	20

There were made several researches about Greek ethnic identity. Scourby described changes among Greeks, who migrated to USA in first, second and third generation [5]. Most of the investigations consider mostly full migration to a new country. Few of them touch upon problem of educational migration. The main aim of our research was to fill the gap between them and see how the type of migration effect's ethnic identity and what role may play sex of the respondents in it.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We used the following questionnaires. The Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure (MEIM) created by Jean S. Phinney [3]. The questionnaire was administrated in Russian. It includes 12 sentences that measure 2 components of ethnical identity: ethnic identity search and an affective component. Each respondent was asked to rated 12 sentences in a four-point scale (1 = “completely agree” to 4 = “completely agree”).

The Positive and Uncertain Ethnic Identity Measure created by A.N. Tatarko and N.M. Lebedeva [6] consists of 8 sentences, which were rated on a five-point scale (1 = “completely agree” to 5 = “completely agree”). It allowed us to measure positive and uncertain ethnic identity.

The Twenty Statements Test by Manfred Kuhn & Thomas McPartland adapted by T.V. Rumyantseva [4]. The respondents were free to give any amount of answers on the question. Average amount of answers given was 5.

The research was performed with a sample of 160 people. Among them 80 people living in Greece: 20 male and 20 female students, 20 male and 20 female working adults aged 18-25 years. 80 people living in Russia more than 3 years: 20 male and 20 female students, 20 male and 20 female working adults aged 18-25 years.

In order to evaluate differences between samples, we used pairs of groups. In order to understand the influence of sex, occupation, and country of living we conducted a multivariate analysis of variance.

RESULTS

There are differences between Greeks living in homeland and in Russia. Namely those living in Russia surpass in affective component of ethnic identity ($U_{0,000}=1871,5$; $m_{\text{Greece}}=64$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=97$), positive ($U_{0,000}=1577$, $m_{\text{Greece}}=60$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=101$) and uncertain ethnic identity ($U_{0,000}=1735$, $m_{\text{Greece}}=62$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=99$). They also have more answers reflecting their Greek nationality ($U_{0,000}=1124,5$, $m_{\text{Greece}}=55$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=106$). Greeks living in Greece have a higher level of ethnic identity search ($U_{0,000}=1681$, $m_{\text{Greece}}=99$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=62$).

These differences were corroborated among both men and women. Namely men living in Russia surpass in affective component of ethnic identity ($U_{0,037}=587$; $m_{\text{Greece}}=35$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=46$), positive ($U_{0,000}=249,5$; $m_{\text{Greece}}=27$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=54$) and uncertain ethnic identity ($U_{0,004}=503,5$; $m_{\text{Greece}}=33$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=48$). They also have more answers reflecting their Greek nationality ($U_{0,000}=204,5$, $m_{\text{Greece}}=26$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=55$). Greek men living in Greece have a higher level of ethnic identity search ($U_{0,005}=508$, $m_{\text{Greece}}=48$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=33$). Greek women living in Russia surpass those living in homeland in affective component of ethnic identity ($U_{0,000}=333$; $m_{\text{Greece}}=29$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=52$), positive ($U_{0,004}=500,5$; $m_{\text{Greece}}=33$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=50$) and uncertain ethnic identity ($U_{0,000}=318,5$; $m_{\text{Greece}}=28$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=53$). They also have more answers reflecting their Greek nationality ($U_{0,000}=358,5$, $m_{\text{Greece}}=29$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=52$). Greek women living in Greece have a higher level of ethnic identity search ($U_{0,000}=333$, $m_{\text{Greece}}=52$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=29$).

Among students we found out the same differences except positive ethnic identity. Greek students studying and living in Russia surpass in affective component of ethnic identity ($U_{0,003}=500$; $m_{\text{Greece}}=33$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=48$) and uncertain ethnic identity ($U_{0,000}=93,5$; $m_{\text{Greece}}=23$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=58$). They also have more answers reflecting their Greek nationality ($U_{0,000}=244,5$, $m_{\text{Greece}}=27$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=54$). Greek students in their homeland have a higher level of ethnic identity search ($U_{0,000}=169,5$, $m_{\text{Greece}}=56$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=23$).

Among working Greeks we found similar differences except for the uncertain ethnic identity. Greeks working and living in Russia surpass in affective component of ethnic identity ($U_{0,000}=447,5$; $m_{\text{Greece}}=32$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=49$), positive ($U_{0,000}=60$; $m_{\text{Greece}}=22$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=59$) and quantity of answers reflecting their Greek nationality ($U_{0,000}=314$, $m_{\text{Greece}}=28$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=52$). Greeks working and living in Greece have a higher level of ethnic identity search ($U_{0,000}=439$, $m_{\text{Greece}}=50$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=31$) and uncertain ethnic identity ($U_{0,047}=598,5$, $m_{\text{Greece}}=46$, $m_{\text{Russia}}=35$).

There were found differences in ethnic identity between Greeks who work and study. Those Greeks who work have higher results in ethnic identity ($U_{0,000}=1660$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=61$, $m_{\text{Working}}=100$), ethnic identity search ($U_{0,000}=908,5$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=52$, $m_{\text{Working}}=109$) and positive ethnic identity ($U_{0,002}=2318$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=69$, $m_{\text{Working}}=92$) than those Greek who study.

Working Greek women also have higher results than studying women in ethnic identity ($U_{0,000}=348$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=39$, $m_{\text{Working}}=42$), ethnic identity search ($U_{0,000}=330$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=29$, $m_{\text{Working}}=52$), positive ethnic identity ($U_{0,001}=451$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=29$, $m_{\text{Working}}=52$) and uncertain ethnic identity ($U_{0,025}=568$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=32$, $m_{\text{Working}}=49$).

Working Greek men also have higher results than studying men in ethnic identity ($U_{0,002}=474$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=32$, $m_{\text{Working}}=49$) and ethnic identity search ($U_{0,000}=122,5$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=24$, $m_{\text{Working}}=57$).

Greeks working in Greece surpass Greeks studying in homeland in number of answers reflecting their religion ($U_{0,041}=655,5$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=37$, $m_{\text{Working}}=44$), ethnic identity search ($U_{0,000}=117,5$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=23$, $m_{\text{Working}}=58$), uncertain ethnic

Section SOCIOLOGY AND HEALTHCARE

identity ($U_{0,000}=186$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=25$, $m_{\text{Working}}=56$), ethnic identity ($U_{0,003}=490$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=33$, $m_{\text{Working}}=48$). But they have lower results in positive ethnic identity ($U_{0,014}=548$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=47$, $m_{\text{Working}}=34$).

Among Greeks living in Russia students have higher results in uncertain ethnic identity ($U_{0,000}=248,5$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=54$, $m_{\text{Working}}=27$) and lower results in positive ethnic identity ($U_{0,000}=174$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=25$, $m_{\text{Working}}=56$), ethnic identity search ($U_{0,000}=179,5$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=25$, $m_{\text{Working}}=56$) and ethnic identity ($U_{0,000}=355$, $m_{\text{Studying}}=29$, $m_{\text{Working}}=52$).

As for the differences between men and women we found out that women have higher positive ($U_{0,000}=2339,5$, $m_{\text{Men}}=70$, $m_{\text{Women}}=91$) and lower uncertain ethnic identity ($U_{0,001}=2254,5$, $m_{\text{Men}}=92$, $m_{\text{Women}}=69$).

Working women have higher results positive ethnic identity ($U_{0,022}=564$, $m_{\text{Men}}=35$, $m_{\text{Women}}=46$) and lower results in ethnic search ($U_{0,013}=543,5$, $m_{\text{Men}}=47$, $m_{\text{Women}}=34$) in comparison to working men. Female students in comparison to male students have lower results in affective component ($U_{0,034}=584$, $m_{\text{Men}}=46$, $m_{\text{Women}}=35$) and uncertain ethnic identity ($U_{0,001}=450$, $m_{\text{Men}}=49$, $m_{\text{Women}}=32$). Greek women living in their homeland in comparison to men higher results positive ethnic identity ($U_{0,000}=314,5$, $m_{\text{Men}}=28$, $m_{\text{Women}}=53$) and lower results in ethnic search ($U_{0,000}=381,5$, $m_{\text{Men}}=51$, $m_{\text{Women}}=30$).

These investigations showed us that the role of these three factors (sex, occupation, country of the living) is quite different.

The results of multivariate analysis of variance are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Multivariate analysis of variance (role of sex, occupation, country of living in ethnic identity).

		ethnic identit y search	affective componen t	ethnic identit y	positiv e ethnic identit y	Uncertai n ethnic identity
Sex	V			V	V	V
Country of living	V	V			V	V
Occupation	V			V	V	
Combined effect	Occupatio n + Sex	V	V		V	V
	Occupatio n + Country	V			V	V
	Sex + Country				V	V
	Occupatio n + Sex + Country	V		V	V	

Sex plays significant role for ethnic identity ($F_{0,025}=5$), ethnic identity search ($F_{0,05}=3,9$), positive ($F_{0,000}=18,6$) and uncertain ethnic identity ($F_{0,000}=34,7$).

Country of living determines ethnic identity search ($F_{0,000}=69,3$), affective component ($F_{0,000}=26,5$), positive ($F_{0,000}=79,4$) and uncertain ethnic identity ($F_{0,000}=82,8$).

Occupation plays role only for ethnic identity ($F_{0,000}=36,4$), ethnic identity search ($F_{0,000}=137,6$) and positive ethnic identity ($F_{0,000}=22,0$).

CONCLUSION

The factor sex determines ethnic identity, ethnic identity search, positive and uncertain ethnic identity. The factor country (homeland or Russia) determines affective component and ethnic identity search, positive and uncertain ethnic identity. The factor employment (work or study) determines ethnic identity search and positive ethnic identity.

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