

## **Regional Differentiation, Ethnicity and Historical Culture: Kashubia in the 20th Century**

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In the current research, through the pluralization and hybridization of the network of relations between collective belonging and personal identity, increased attention is paid to the forms of identification that appear as transitional or hybrid forms of traditional types. In this context, research on European movements between territoriality (regionality) and ethnicity in various disciplines undergo a significant intensification: Formerly marginal cases and side issues become central subjects around which new potentials, and corresponding practices, for researching discourses of identity and territoriality can be developed.

The project links up with previous research on territorial discourses and ethnic-regional movement, and develops it further. Its central subject is the “inner” regionalization and differentiation of the discourses of home country and territory in the Kashubian-Pomeranian movement and culture of the 20th century. Through these means, the research avoids concentrating on the Kashubian ethnic-linguistic movement in a narrow sense; instead it deals with the movement’s strongly regionalist components that open out beyond the borders of the ethnic group. It enquires into how individual parts and sites can be differentiated in the context of diverse concepts of home country: What structural, geographical, cultural and historical aspects were used to regionalize the homeland? With what symbols, values, functions, signs and other connotations were they put into connection with each other and what identifying functions did they take on in the context of the Kashubian-Pomeranian discourse? Where is their entitativity constituted? The interest here is more on the longer-term tendencies.

The core objective of the project is combined with a historical culture perspective in its broader sense. The researchers ask how the discursive regionalization processes are carried out and co-shaped by historical reception, that is, how the “endogenous” Kashubian-Pomeranian regionalities are underpinned by the historical discourse and in what identificatory or functional frame of reference they are located as regionalities.

The chronological emphasis is on the period between the beginning of the 20th century (formation of the Young Kashubian movement) and the 1960s (new institutionalization and transition to regionalist Kashubian-Pomeranian formula), that is, beyond the caesuras of 1914/18 and 1939/45, with an outlook to the later decades of the 20th and 21st centuries. Kashubia, Pomerelia/Pomerania and the Kashubians are treated in the project as a concrete heuristic and empirical case, with reference to which questions of transregional and comparative research can be researched.