

‘The Influence of Russia on Ukrainian and Georgian Far Right Discourses’

Michael Cole



ESR3



'The Influence of Russia on Ukrainian and Georgian Far Right Discourses'



- 1) Project Outline
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- 6) Questions and Comments



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PhD Title: The Influence of Russia on Ukrainian and Georgian Far Right Discourses

Objectives: Examine how Russian illiberal discourses influence pro-Russian far-right discourses in Georgia and anti-Russian far-right discourses in Ukraine.

Research Questions

- How are Georgia and Ukraine represented in official Russian Discourses and why?
- How and why do representations of Russia in far right Georgian discourses differ from those in far right Ukrainian discourses?
- Which elements of Ukrainian and Georgian far right discursive representations of Russia are reproduced in the discourse of ordinary Ukrainians and Georgians and why?



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Conceptual Framework

Populism



'Loose' (Inglehart and Norris, 2016:17) discursive 'frame' (Caiani and Della Porta, 2011) to which other 'political twists' (Žižek, 2006:557) are necessarily added

'The sacred people' (DeHanas and Shterin 2018:179) versus 'the elite' or 'enemies'

Nodal points act as empty signifiers (Laclau, 2005)

'Family resemblance' between cases (Brubaker, 2017; Wittgenstein, 1958)



Discourse

Critical Discourse theory and Post-foundationalism

Discourse is Language *and* practice (Müller, 2008:324)

Discourse is fluid and evolving set of interconnected phenomena encompassing all features of the social world, which through their various combinations with each other create meaning (Carpentier, 2019:157)

Language is a key indicator of discourses (Macaulay, 2018b:168)



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Conceptual Framework

Right = Anti-egalitarian: Inequality is natural

Far Right = 1) Extreme Right and 2) Radical Right

Ideology which comprises:

- 1) Racism
- 2) Xenophobia
- 3) Nationalism

- 1) Extreme Right = Anti-democratic
- 2) Radical Right = Anti-liberal democratic, but not anti-democratic

Mudde (2015)



Radical Right = *Calls* for violence and actions in speeches (Gotsiridze, 2018)

Extreme Right = Actively involved in violence and street protests (Wales, 2017)



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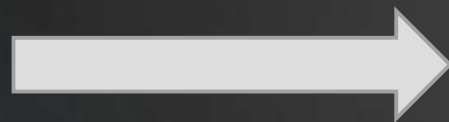
Preliminary Results - Georgia



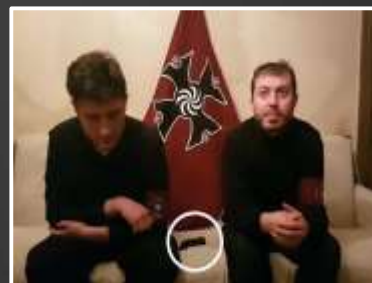
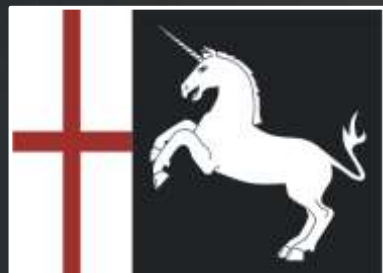
Mapping the Georgian Far Right

Far Right Populists

Radical Right



Extreme Right



Alliance of Patriots

Georgian March

National Unity of Georgia



Stephan, A. (2018)



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Preliminary Findings



1) Pro-Russian label is an over simplification (Kinch, 2019)

2) Heavily influenced by illiberal populist political trends in the West

However

3) Attacking socio-cultural events reminiscent of Russia

4) 'Anti- Western talking points and language used similar to Russia'

5) Destabilising actions benefit Russian interests

6) Personal connections between members of Georgian far right and Russia



Preliminary Findings



1) Anti-Russian narratives and discourses are increasingly mainstream in Ukraine

2) Nationalism and patriotism frequently conflated

3) Conflation of narratives around WW2 and Donbas War

4) Far-right group community building (Polyakova, 2014) – now even more developed

4) 'Ukrainian Nationalist' World War 2 narrative (Kulyk, 2011)



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Comparative Analysis



Co-option and re-articulation of familiar national symbols



Mainly external enemy

Clear articulation and understanding of 'the enemy' as Russia

Military focus

Emphasis on Youth

Mainly internal enemy– LGBTQI community, Liberals

Ambiguous articulation and understanding of 'the enemy'

Religious focus (Orthodox Christianity)

Emphasis on Nostalgia



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Any Questions or Comments

Michael Cole



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michael.cole@ut.ee



[@NotTheMikeCole](https://twitter.com/NotTheMikeCole)



notthemikecole.home.blog



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