State of Nationalism (SoN): An International Review – Carrying the Torch of Anthony D. Smith's Goal to Map the Field of Nationalism Studies

A Note from the Editors' Desk

We are delighted to provide readers of *Studies of National Movements* (SNM) a brief update on the recent work and future directions of the *State of Nationalism* (SoN).

Background: launching a new instrument for scholars of nationalism

Avid readers of this journal are no doubt aware of the close partnership between SoN and SNM. For those new to reading SNM, though, we thought it would help to provide a bit of background on the history and objectives of the *State of Nationalism*.

The State of Nationalism was born from an idea on a train from London to Antwerp in 2010. We – the two founding editors (Eric Taylor Woods and Robert Schertzer) were at the time the Chairs of the Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism (ASEN) at the London School of Economics (LSE). We were *en route* to Antwerp with another former

ASEN colleague Vivian Ibrahim to discuss ideas for partnership between ASEN and the newly established centre, National Movements and Intermediary Structures in Europe (NISE), with its founding coordinator Luc Boeva. Eric and Robert had, for some time, been lamenting the lack of up-to-date overviews of the field of nationalism studies.

This might seem an odd statement. It is true that there are already several important books that provide overviews of the central theoretical debates in the interdisciplinary field of nationalism studies. But beyond these largely theoretical works, more comprehensive overviews organized by substantive and conceptual topics were scarce. Also notable was the lack of a comprehensive, up-to-date annotated bibliography of the field. At the time, the most recent annotated bibliography was Anthony Smith's *Nationalism: A Trend Report and Bibliography* published in 1973. Of course, Smith's seminal work has long continued this early desire to map the field, notably with his widely cited and ever-useful *Nationalism and Modernism* published in 1998. But, again, this was largely focused on examining key theoretical debates.

This is where we saw a need for SoN. We were inspired to carry on the torch of mapping and reviewing the wide field of nationalism studies. We are, after all, students of Anthony and the line of scholars who went to LSE to teach and study nationalism, notably our mentor and supervisor John Hutchinson. We were particularly interested in leveraging modern techniques and technology to build and share a comprehensive annotated bibliography of the field. And so, we frantically developed this kernel of an idea on the three-hour journey between St. Pancreas and Antwerp. It took a few years to get from that initial idea to launching SoN – but this is where it began.

What emerged – in 2015 – was the State of Nationalism: a comprehensive, online, and open-source guide for the study of nationalism. The guide consists of two key elements. First, there are

peer-reviewed overviews of key themes in the study of nationalism. These are styled as 'review' articles on main themes that intersect with nationalism. But they are more than simply accounts of the scholarship on a topic. The goal of each review article is to distil the main insights from the nationalism literature on a key dynamic or theme in politics, culture, and society, while reflecting back on how those insights inform the study of nationalism. The second element of the project is an annotated bibliography for each article. Each article provides a comprehensive set of (English language) sources related to the topic. These bibliographies include annotations and searchable keywords for each source. The result is an annotated and searchable database for defined topics in the study of nationalism – and a growing database of annotated and searchable sources for the more general field of nationalism. This combination of overviews on key topics – linked to annotated and searchable bibliographies – makes SoN an invaluable tool for researchers and students in the field.

Next Steps: building on success

We are writing this note to you now, in part, because 2023 marks a transition for the project. From its launch through 2022, SoN has been in its initial phase. Over this period, we have been focusing primarily on launching the project and attracting and publishing top quality articles from established and emerging scholars. To date we have published 16 articles. Our database includes over 800 searchable sources on the study of nationalism. The articles cover a range of topics, for example:

- Everyday Nationalism (by Eleanor Knott)
- Nationalism and Sport (by Dario Brentin and Laurence Cooley)
- Nationalism and War (By John Hutchinson)
- Nationalism and Empire (by Yesim Bayar)

- Nation Branding (by Nichole Fernandez)
- Nationalism and Media (by Michael Skey)
- Nationalism and Globalization (by Gal Ariely)
- Nation-Building (by Harris Mylonas)

We are particularly proud of the reception to the project. The site has received considerable traffic – with well over 20,000 unique visits a year for the last four years. Our top articles have each been very well read – for example the article on "Cultural Nationalism" by Eric Taylor Woods has been accessed over 10,000 times. The project is also having a clear research impact: our top cited piece – "Everyday Nationalism" by Eleanor Knott – has already been cited nearly 70 times since its publication.

This is a solid foundation upon which to build, which is our aim as we enter the second phase of the project. Over the next five years, we have three related goals. First, we aim to expand the number of articles published each year (so – as we note below – please get in touch if you are interested in submitting an article!). To help expand our catalogue, we are exploring publishing pieces on specific national and ethnic movements. Second, we are working to improve the back-end database infrastructure and the front-end user experience of the site (so look for changes to our site coming soon!). Third, we are looking to capitalize and build on our network by hosting a number of conferences on key themes in the study of nationalism.

All of this leads toward one key message here: the State of Nationalism is ultimately a project that relies on both contributors and readers to carry forward the torch lit by Anthony D. Smith. In short: we need you to contribute articles, and to read the excellent work of your colleagues. Detailed instructions on how to contribute are below. We want to thank

Eric Taylor Woods & Robert Schertzer

everyone involved in the project so far – and those who will help make phase two a success.

How to Contribute

We encourage contributions from both early career and established researchers. Review essays should be approximately 3000 words and should critically describe developments in the literature and indicate whether there are key points of contention and/or differing perspectives, approaches and methods. Annotations for the article's sources should also be concise. All submissions are double blind peer-reviewed, and are jointly published on the SoN portal and in the related journal, *Studies on National Movements*. All articles will have a DOI. For detailed instructions on how you can contribute to SoN, please see: www.stateofnationalism.eu/how-to-contribute/

To submit an article, or if you have any questions, please contact the co-editors Eric Taylor Woods (eric.woods@plymouth.ac.uk) and Robert Schertzer (robert.schertzer@utoronto.ca), or the managing editor Eva Bidania Ibargutxi (editor@stateofnationalism.eu).

About the Editors

Dr **Robert Schertzer** is an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto. He publishes and teaches on the intersection of three areas: federalism, constitutional law, and the politics of national identity. His work has appeared in many top venues, including *Ethnic and Racial Studies*; *Publius*; *Nations and Nationalism* and the *International Journal of Constitutional Law*. His most recent book (with Dr Eric Taylor Woods), entitled *The New Nationalism in America and Beyond* (Oxford University

Press, 2022), seeks to understand why the liberal democracies of the West are proving to be such fertile ground for ethnic nationalism, populism, and anti-immigrant sentiment. His first book, *The Judicial Role in a Diverse Federation* (2016, UTP), was shortlisted for the best book on Canadian politics by the Canadian Political Science Association. Prior to joining UofT, he spent a decade with the Government of Canada working on social policy, immigration policy and intergovernmental relations.

Dr **Eric Taylor Woods** is a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Sociology at the University of Plymouth. His research examines the relationships between culture, media, and politics – with a particular focus on nationalism. His most recent book on this topic (co-authored with Robert Schertzer) is entitled, *The New Nationalism in America and Beyond: The Deep Roots of Ethnic Nationalism in the West* (Oxford University Press, 2022). Eric has also carried out research on the cultural politics of Britain's imperial past and has published extensively on Christian-Indigenous relations in Canada, including the 2016 book, *A Cultural Sociology of Anglican Mission and the Indian Residential Schools in Canada* (Palgrave, 2016). Eric also serves as a Faculty Fellow at the Center for Cultural Sociology at Yale University, and he is on the editorial boards of several leading journals. Prior to joining the University of Plymouth University, Eric was based at the University of East London. He holds a PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Eva Bidania Ibargutxi coordinates NISE since 2019. She handles NISE's communication and public relations, organises its events and manages the cooperation and networking between its members. Prior to her current job at NISE, she held for over a decade a political advisor position at the European Free Alliance (platform of parties representing stateless nations, minorities and regions of Europe). She holds a degree in Political Sciences and a Master degree in de-centralized international cooperation.