Global Migration, Affinity Yearnings, and Obligatory Cultural Stripping

By

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Global migration suggest that place and space are declining in significance. Humans are nomadic again and nation state is losing its hold on its natives. People are moving to places their ancestors could only imagine. The politics of western nations are infused with discussions about the plight of immigrants. However, few states are immune to the onslaught of immigrants and mixing of cultures. Race and ethnicity have become unsettled and confusion about the location of one’s political self has resulted. It is not so much a clash of civilization as it is a melding of civilization. Perhaps everything, including facial appearances, will change. Moving around is a natural part of man’s evolution. Yet there is resistance to hybridity and a yearning for the old ways—language and cultural distinctness and racial features. This is also natural as humans are affinitive creatures. Appearances and languages are ways of locating oneself. In the old society social isolation bred insularity and
clarified familiarity. In the new world that type of isolation is no longer possible. Although isolation of place will not completely disappear, humans may choose new moorings with which to anchor themselves. This poster examines the meaning of nascent nomadic geography and its impact on personal identity. How do people with discernible differences cope with a world rapidly mixing everyone? What are the political and cultural obligations of these new transnationals? Are old obligations inhibiting assimilation in the adopted places? This poster should help conference attendees think about these issues.