

Imagined enclaves, constructed communities. The dynamics of European values shared by Polish society in 2009-2015

Normative, axiological legitimization of the sense of our 'belonging to Europe' has always been commonplace in Polish way of thinking about our collective identity. Despite being differentiated between tradition and modern ideas, Poles always seemed to agree on the more general concept that Europe is founded on the specific cultural set of values, which – for us – are quite common for all Europeans. Polish value system has been based on high rank of human rights and freedoms, belonging to Western / European community and culture, solidarity, peace and democracy, while prevalence for 'freedom and liberty' having been the backbone.

Now that system is challenged by the financial, political and social crises EU is facing. My presentation is based on the empirical comparative research I carried out in 2009 and 2014 during EP elections, and some additional current data and observations. In their declarations (5190 in 2009 and 5220 in 2014) Polish respondents were defining what they meant for 'European values'. By implementing quantitative and semantic analysis I shall interpret main tendencies and dynamics of European values change in Poland.

Keywords: European values, European identity, Europeanization, value change, Polish society

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