

**THE DEBATE ON NATIONALISM:
CONTEMPORARY THEORETICAL APPROACHES**

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Abstract

The paper analyzes and compares four theoretical approaches to the notion of nationalism as well as the following cognate notions embraced under its umbrella: nation, ethnic, religion. These approaches differ mainly regarding their axiological foundations, regarding the values accepted as socially significant. The typology applied to the research methods of identity studies is used here as epistemological optics of the analysis: 1) the essentialist approach, relating it to the ontological substratum, and 2) the anthropological approach, understanding it as a psychological construct.

The importance of the analysis for the methodological foundation and self-reflection of the concrete ethnologic studies is emphasized.