

Understanding
National
Identity

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Understanding National Identity: What's it about?

We live in a world in which being a 'citizen' of a state and being a 'national' are by no means the same. Amidst much scholarly debate about 'nations' and 'nationalism', comparatively little has been written *explicitly* on 'national identity' and a great deal less is solidly evidence-based. This book focuses on national identity in England and Scotland. Using data collected over twenty years it asks:

- Does national identity really matter to people?
- How does 'national identity' differ from 'nationality' and having a passport?
- Are there particular people and places which have ambiguous or contested national identities?
- What happens if someone makes a claim to a national identity? On what basis do others accept or reject the claim?
- Does national identity have much internal substance, or is it simply about defending group boundaries?
- How does national identity relate to politics and constitutional change?

About the Authors

David McCrone is Emeritus Professor of Sociology in the Institute of Governance at the University of Edinburgh and a Fellow of both the Royal Society of Edinburgh and of the British Academy. He has published *Understanding Scotland: The Sociology of a Nation* (1992 and 2001); *The Sociology of Nationalism: Tomorrow's Ancestors* (1998); *National Days: Constructing and Mobilising National Identity* (2009, with Gayle McPherson); and most recently *The Crisis of Social Democracy in Europe* (2013, edited with Michael Keating).

Frank Bechhofer is Emeritus Professor of Social Research at the University of Edinburgh and Honorary Professorial Research Fellow in the Institute of Governance. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He is a co-author of *The Affluent Worker* (Cambridge University Press, 1968 and 1969); *Principles of Research Design in the Social Sciences*, (2000, with Lindsay Paterson) and also *The Petite Bourgeoisie: comparative studies of the uneasy stratum*, (Macmillan, 1981, edited with Brian Elliott).

Together they have published many papers and books, including *Living in Scotland: Social and Economic Change since 1980* (2004, with Lindsay Paterson) and *National Identity, Nationalism and Constitutional Change* (2009). They have a national and international reputation for their work on national identity.