



Final Plenary

Dr Alan Britton, University of Glasgow
and a Five Nations country lead for Scotland

‘In Search of Political Identity’

Agenda

- **Conference Evaluations (5 mins)**
- In Search of Political Identity
- Next steps: within countries and across the Network

In search of Political Identity: the value of the 5 Nations Network



Donax variabilis

“The world in which we all live is a world of differences – differences within cultures as well as differences between cultures.

Intercultural dialogue acknowledges that differences exist and seeks to develop mutual trust and understanding between people with diverse opinions, viewpoints and values.”

British Council (2008)

In search of Political Identity: the 'local case'



“How can a person in the Outer Hebrides, speaking Gaelic, crofting, a member of the Free Church, have a common identity with a person in Glasgow, speaking a Lowland dialect, working as a software engineer, a follower of no religion save Rangers football club?”

That is to misunderstand the point, and to assume that we have but one identity.”

T.C. Smout (1994).

‘Perspectives on the Scottish Identity’ in *Scottish Affairs*, no.6, winter 1994.

In search of Political Identity: a personal perspective

- Kenyan-born UK Citizen with genealogical roots in Scotland, Ireland, (and probably Norse);
- intermittent national identity;
- convoluted professional identity;
- personal identity
deconstructed/reconstructed by disability;
- political identity less certain than ever before.

In search of Political Identity: History, mythology, and the future



In search of Political Identity: complex and multiple identities

Moreno's five categories of Scottish identity:

- only Scottish, not British;
 - more Scottish than British;
 - equally Scottish and British;
 - more British than Scottish;
 - only British, not Scottish.
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- [Adapted from Devine, T. \(2013\)](#) **Carving out a Scottish identity, in The Scotsman, 27/11/13**



Flags from BBC News web site 4/12/13



Three forms of citizenship

- The ‘personally responsible citizen’
- The ‘participatory citizen’
- The ‘Justice-oriented citizen’

Westheimer, J. & Kahne, J. (2004)

‘What Kind of Citizen? The Politics of Educating for Democracy’,
American Educational Research Journal 41(2), 237-269

In search of Political Identity: Justice oriented Citizenship (local & national)



In search of Political Identity: Justice oriented Citizenship (Global)

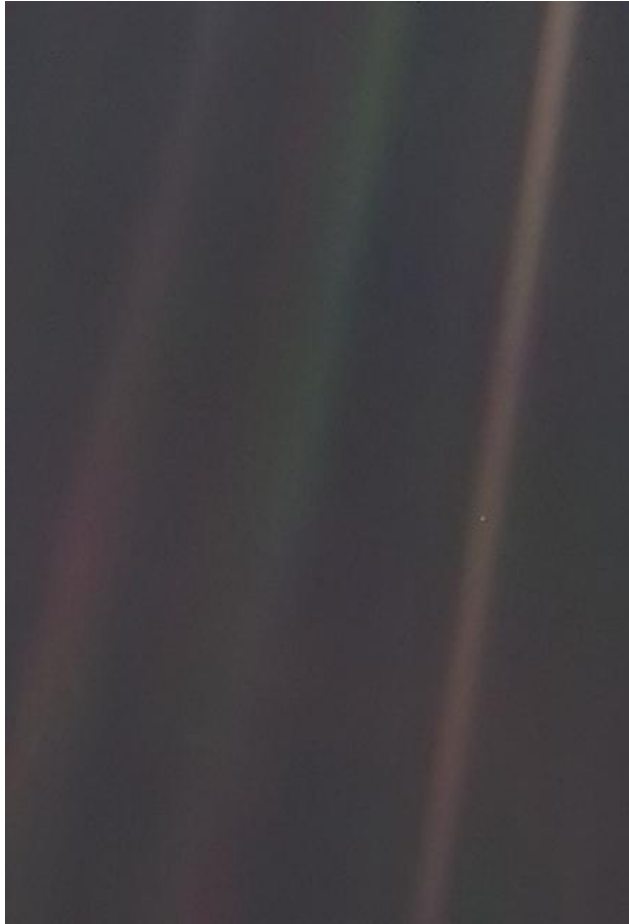


Political Identity and Citizenship Education

Effective citizenship education requires a conceptual understanding of political identity as well as opportunities to interrogate our own identities (political, national, cultural).

This applies to teachers as much as pupils.

In search of Political Identity: A Cosmopolitan perspective



Political Identity and Citizenship Education: A Cosmopolitan approach?

Moral-Political cosmopolitanism:

- one who regards all people as though they were friends, neighbours and co-citizens ;
- accepts moral responsibility, as both an individual and a citizen, for those beyond one's group;
- acts charitably towards outsiders in an individual capacity;
- promotes governmental and trans-national policies to provide for their welfare.

Adapted from Waks in Peters, Britton and Blee (eds) (2008) p203.

Citizenship Education and Political Identity

“a broad consensus about education for citizenship can...be built around a view in which citizenship is more explicitly connected with wider social and political action and with a view of democracy as requiring more than just active, committed and responsible citizens”

Biesta, G. (2008), 'What kind of citizen? What kind of democracy? Citizenship education and the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence',
in *Scottish Educational Review*, Vol. 40 (2).



The 5 Nations Network: Looking ahead



The 5 Nations: What happens next?

- 3 year programme: Identity and Citizenship
- SSRIs
- Between-conference activities and networks
- (e.g. a shared resource on Political identity?)
- Website, Twitter and Facebook
- Northern Ireland 2014