

Nationalism, Membership and the Politics of Minority Claims-Making

Keith Banting, Queen's University, Allison Harell, Université du Québec à Montréal
and Will Kymlicka, Queen's University

Previous research has shown that the public tends to see some groups as less deserving of social rights. The focus in this article is whether they are also seen as less entitled to engage in political claims-making. Recent theorists of inclusive nationalism argue that whether minorities are seen as having the right to co-determine the future may depend on whether the majority believes minorities are morally committed to the nation. Drawing on a unique survey experiment, the authors test this intuition by analyzing how majority perceptions of minority's commitment to the larger society influence support for claims-making by immigrants and national minorities. They show that immigrants, French-speaking Quebecers and Indigenous peoples are judged more harshly about their rights to make claims, and this is in part explained by the majority's views that they are not in fact committed members of the larger political community.