Exclusive Societies: Minority Ethnic Group Support for Democracy

Nicole Lalich
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Kathleen Montgomery, Faculty Advisor
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc](https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc)

[https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2001/oralpres5/3](https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2001/oralpres5/3)

This is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
EXCLUSIVE SOCIETIES: MINORITY ETHNIC GROUP SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY

Nicole Lalich and Kathleen Montgomery*
Department of Political Science, Illinois Wesleyan University

The link between minority ethnic identification and support for democracy has been little explored in previous research. The opinions of minorities cannot be analyzed, however, without taking into consideration the inherent differences among minority groups. This paper tests the effects of minority status on attitudes toward democracy in two ways. First, aggregate analysis compares the minority and majority responses to a survey of popular attitudes in post-communist Europe and second, the characteristics of different minority communities are examined through a comparison of respondents from two very different minority groups: the Roma and the Russians in the Baltic states. In this study, statistical analysis discovers a positive relationship between simply being a member of a minority group and high levels of dissatisfaction with the institutions of democracy and regime performance. Survey data also reveals a linkage between a minority group’s level of marginalization and its levels of support for democracy.