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The Crucial Intersection: Towards a New Direction in the Study of Nationalism, Gender and Reproductive Control

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**THE CRUCIAL INTERSECTION: TOWARDS A NEW DIRECTION IN THE STUDY OF
NATIONALISM, GENDER AND REPRODUCTIVE CONTROL**

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This study investigates the impact that the crucial intersection of ethno-nationalist and “birth crisis” discourses has on the restrictiveness of reproductive policy. It is grounded in the literature on gender and nationalism, which posits control over reproduction as an essential part of the ethno-nationalist ethos. However, this study also critiques and extends this literature by providing an empirical test for a more systematic four-fold theoretical model. For this purpose, sixteen countries are selected from post-socialist Eastern Europe as cases (specifically because of this region’s amenity to “most similar” comparative designs). Each case is scored for levels of nationalism and “birth crisis” discourses, and then placed in a four-cell table with the following categories: “Low Nationalism/Low Birth Crisis”; “Low Nationalism/High Birth Crisis”; “High Nationalism/Low Birth Crisis”; and “High Nationalism/High Birth Crisis”.

It is hypothesized that states exhibiting high levels of both ethno-nationalist and “birth crisis” discourses, will have the most restrictive reproductive policies. A composite score was developed in order to rank countries according to the extremity of their policy on reproduction. Overall, the study found that the crucial intersection of high levels of nationalism and “birth crisis” discourses does co-occur with controlling reproductive policies.