

Ukrainian Diaspora in the U.S.: Data-based Evidence on its Characteristics and its Relationships with Ukraine and American Society

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The concept of 'diaspora' has been undergoing significant changes during the last several decades, as part of globalization and transnational discourses. Many countries have set up origin-state institutions dedicated to emigrants and their descendants. As part of this process, the concept of 'Ukrainian diaspora' has also evolved both within the government of Ukraine and diasporas in different countries. The comprehensive database on Ukrainians in the U.S. developed by the Center for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research of Ukrainians in the U.S. at the Shevchenko Scientific Society provides unique opportunities for researching the evolution of Ukrainian identity and the effects of events in Ukraine on the Ukrainian diaspora in the U.S. The comprehensive database allows one to quantify concepts like 'Ukrainian in the U.S.' or '4th wave of immigrants from Ukraine to the U.S.' and analyze their implications. One can formulate and test specific hypotheses and make estimates and projections. Specific examples that may be included in the presentation are: a) using data from 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930 U.S. censuses, we can study the evolution of Ukrainian identity among the first wave immigrants by their answers to questions on place of birth, mother tongue and language spoken; b) time series of Ukrainian non-immigrants to the U.S. on student visas and comparative analysis with students from Poland and Russia; c) impact of the 4th wave of immigrants from Ukraine on the Ukrainian diaspora in the U.S.