



International Club

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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L'identité et la représentation

How representative is representation?!

By Evelina Kvartunaite

I am sure everyone can remember mentioning the nationality of a person we are talking about instead of trying really hard to remember their name. If you are travelling or meeting foreigners wherever you are it is actually rather easy to label people. Yet how easy or how difficult is it to represent a country? How challenging does it get when you have to represent often than a million of your fellow country men and women? And is it even easy to carry the burden of previously formed opinions based only on the geographical area you come from?!



Everyone knows sayings like "calm as Belgian", "Latin lover", "cold Scandinavians", etc. rather well. Indeed, we could start talking about identity and how many prejudices are actually true with a long history of creative interpretation passed from mouth to mouth. Yet I would just like to explore further the things we face on a daily basis and the things we confront while in different countries. There are two things: us representing our countries and people judging us by where we come from. Each very interesting to notice as well as sometimes hard to combine. Especially if you wish to be evaluated by who you are, and not to be blended with

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Open Space

Do you remember a feeling from the childhood... the chill of seeing miracles and almost being able to touch it?! Watching all the acrobats

dancing in the air and men eating swords or blowing fire?! And not even start me with the magicians pulling white rabbits out of the black nights!

And yet I wonder when is the moment when we start seeing people where magic should be, when we let ourselves

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Apr.

don't miss!!!

By Heidi Sanchez Llabre

April 4 at 18:00

Stammtisch

at Café Cuckoo's Nest
(Vestergade 73 5000 Odense C)
A great opportunity to meet up and have a good time together, having a bite to eat and enjoy the cosy ambience.

April 18 at 17:00

Spanish circle meeting

at the University. For more information please contact Sandra via email: sgg@sdu.dk

April 26 at 16:00

IC monthly event

at Cafe Biografen

Danish film director Hans Wessing will present his latest documentary in process "GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS - the Bhutanese Way". It is about The Buddhist Kingdom of Bhutan in the Himalayas - which had it's very first democratic elections on March 24th this year - and its development vision and goal, GNH. The entrance fee will be 50 dkk.

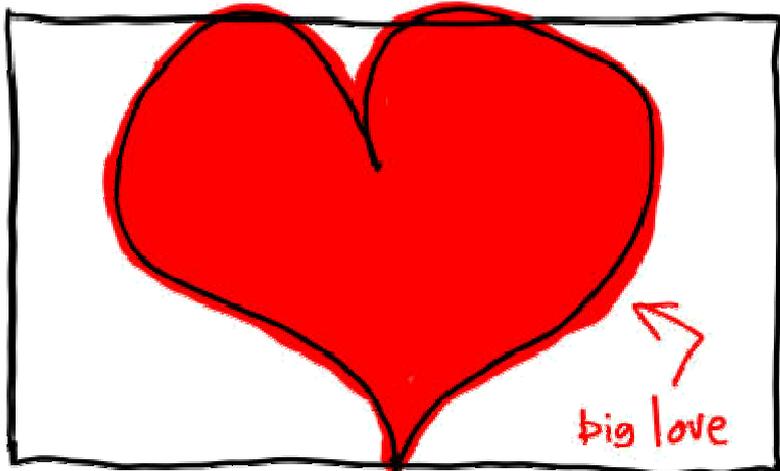
This event will include the opportunity to have a dialogue with the film-maker, who is married to a Bhutanese, and to taste a cup of the traditional Bhutanese Butter Tea.

You may read more in www.GrossNationalHappiness.dk and www.WessingFilm.dk

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tons of other people. At this point I always remember how Canadians always have a Canadian flag on their backpacks in order, it has been explained to me, not to be confused with Americans. But in reality do we become bigger patriots as soon as we leave the motherland? Do we feel we need to fight for the honour of the people who are there and for our national identity? Or it is simply just a cosy bubble in order not to feel alienated or so foreign while



being further away from everything that's familiar – be it language, culture, mentality or more simple things like route to a shopping centre or newspaper stand?!

Is it easy or even possible to be perfect ambassadors for our own countries?! As for me it's always been a challenge. Not only because I come from a country whose name many people might associate with some kind of tree or species of bird, but also because I think I only have my own idea of where I come from and I am sure if I were to talk about it with my fellow countrymen I would have a lot to argue about, from what the national food is to points of view regarding politics or mentality. My picture of my country is unique as we all share same language and same kind of passport but not necessarily same understanding of our values or ideologies. And that's where the prejudices should come in! Because it's just easier, now, isn't it?

Furthermore, is it easy to be that one who is defined by the name of your nationality? Is it safe? Can there be any safety? Do we expect people to have a preformed opinion and therefore do we get protective straight away or do we wait and see?

As I am asking all these questions, I wonder: am I a patriot? And all in all, what is patriotism in these days of global community? I would venture to say that for me it's more a sense of national as well as personal responsibility. It's not emotional decisions made in an outburst of unexpected things happening but it's a steady relationship between you, your identity and culture. And even if Goethe said that "patriotism ruins the country", I think it is still a very important thing to remember where you come from yet always to look forward, keeping your feet on the ground yet reaching for the stars.

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to forget the joy of unexpected and spectacular things?! When do we stop seeing a box and only see a box?!

I may sound utterly naïve and utterly running away from the reality yet I would like to see sheep in the box, I would like to believe (and remind the others!) that miracles happen and the only thing you have to do is just to look around you!

With years I grew to learn how many beautiful things people can do when they are together and when they believe. It doesn't take that much really! And therefore International Club would like to invite you (yes, you!) to join in, to, for starters, take a pen or pencil or a keyboard and write. What about what you may ask – about your days, about your impressions about things you miss and things you discover about your ideas for the future and the future of your ideas! What if I struggle with writing you may add – do not hesitate to contact us! And do not forget – you are never alone!

