

# The Legal Construction of Nationalism: Citizenship Policies and Identity Politics in Eastern Europe

Sandeep Reddy<sup>1</sup> , Selin Arslan<sup>2\*</sup> 

<sup>1</sup> Department of Private Law, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, India

<sup>2</sup> Department of International Relations, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

\* Corresponding author email address: selin.arslan@metu.edu.tr

Received: 2025-03-30	Revised: 2025-05-04	Accepted: 2025-05-14	Published: 2025-10-01
<b>EDITOR:</b> Tahereh Ebrahimifar  Head of Sociology Department, Faculty of Arts, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt. Email: Tah.Ebrahimifar@iauctb.ac.ir			
<b>REVIEWER 1:</b> Jingjing Wang  Law School, Peking University (PKU), Peking, China. Email: jingwang@vip.sina.com			
<b>REVIEWER 2:</b> Abdus Samad  Assistant Professor, Department of Law, AWKUM, Pakistan. Email: abdussamad@awkum.edu.pk			

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

Recommend clarifying how this "encoding" differs across civic and ethnic models; the sentence could benefit from further nuance to avoid overgeneralization.

The authors cite key examples from Hungary and Poland but omit crucial recent reforms in Estonia and Romania. Consider integrating more recent scholarship or policy shifts from 2022–2024 to enhance the literature scope.

The use of English-language legal documents is noted. Recommend acknowledging the potential limitations of this approach—some nuance may be lost in translation or absent from English sources.

Please consider referencing specific legislation by name or date from at least two countries to support the generalization.

Recommend defining this concept more precisely with contextual examples. How does it differ from exclusive citizenship models?

The term "symbolic laws" is mentioned. Please provide one or two named laws (e.g., language laws, memory laws) that exemplify this symbolic function.

While insightful, this section could benefit from a specific example of interwar citizenship legislation to ground the discussion (e.g., Poland's 1920 Nationality Act).

The article should clarify the term "non-citizen" in Latvia and Estonia. Including its legal definition and implications would significantly enhance reader understanding.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

*1.2. Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

Suggest unpacking each group's experience briefly. As it stands, the claim lacks specificity and could mislead readers by grouping diverse experiences.

The rationale for choosing the five countries (Hungary, Poland, Romania, Latvia, Estonia) is sound but underexplained. Recommend including criteria such as population size, EU membership dates, or minority proportions.

Suggest specifying the exact steps used for thematic synthesis (e.g., coding strategies or use of software). This will reinforce the article's methodological transparency.

The article overlooks how gender intersects with legal nationalism. Consider integrating findings from feminist legal scholars, especially regarding minority women in citizenship debates.

This is a strong claim. Recommend citing a specific policy reaction or diplomatic conflict to support the statement.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

**2. Revised**

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.