

Draft for a proposal for a panel on Dominant Ethnicity
For the ASEN Conference on 'The Dark face of Nationalism'

'Dominant Ethnicities and Racist Nationalisms'

Nationalism and ethnicity are concepts typically associated with minority status and claims. In the scholarly literature, nationalist movements and minority ethnic groups are most often linked to communities looking to secure autonomy or some type of distinctive treatment within the state, or simply to achieve independence. This association tends to obfuscate two important and related political dynamics. First, ethnic groups that are dominant within a state, or a regional unit, often seek to promote their own identities. Dominant ethnic groups may be minorities like the Afrikaners, Tutsis or *pure laine* Quebecois, majorities like the Japanese in Japan or white 'Anglos' in the United States. They may be in decline, as is arguably the case in much of the West, or resurgent, as in India or Fiji. (Kaufmann 2004)

The dark face of nationalism- aggression, xenophobia, racism etc. – has often been depicted as associated with the ethnic, as opposed to the civic, basis for national identity and nationalist ideology. This linkage has often been explored in relation to minority ethnic nationalist movements; the concern here, however, is to examine the role of dominant ethnicity in influencing the character- the dark face or the benevolent face- of state nationalisms.

The purpose of the proposed panel is to examine the bases for tolerant and intolerant strands of consciousness *within* ethnic core communities, and the ways in which such forms of consciousness influence, and are influenced by state policies towards ethnic cores. The intention is to use single or comparative case study contributions, as well as conceptual studies, in order to focus upon the factors generating right-wing forms of nationalism which are intolerant either of migrant or homeland ethnic minorities within a state, or of external elements depicted as enemies or threats.