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Over the last twenty-five years, I have been a student of Canadian and Comparative Politics, focussing principally on citizenship, constitutionalism, federalism and nationalism in democratic settings.

I have been exposed to “Anglo-saxon” and French traditions through my formative years at Université Laval (1975), Simon Fraser University (1976-1978), and Carleton University (1978-1982). Following those years, I have taught for over twenty years at Anglophone universities in Canada (Queen’s, 1982-1983; Carleton, 1984-1989; McGill, 1989-2003), before joining UQAM in 2003. Those years in “English Canada” have given me a solid understanding of Canada’s divide as I have explored the intellectual trajectories and legacies of key political leaders and thinkers, including André Laurendeau, Marcel Rioux, and Pierre Trudeau. Here, I have greatly benefited from continued exchanges with James Bickerton (St. Francis Xavier University), Stephen Brooks (Windsor), Mary Beth Montcalm (formerly at Carleton), as well as Brian Tanguay (Wilfrid Laurier).

With respect to my research, *one central strand has been to compare and contrast minority and majority nationalisms in the West*, since I am of the view that the two phenomena feed each other and that they cannot be studied independently. In other words, in order to understand Quebec and Catalan nationalisms one first needs to grasp Canadian and Spanish nationalisms. Since my return to Québec in 1989, after an absence of thirteen years, I have been attracted by questions pertaining to party competition, interculturalism/multiculturalism, citizenship, as well as liberal nationalism and self-determination.

With a view to better situating and understanding Quebec in the emerging world, I have initiated a series of public events and launched a book series on Quebec identity and political culture that to date has led to the publication of twelve volumes - see www.quebec-amerique.com/00_SSECTION/40.html. It is interesting to note that most of those volumes present a view of Quebec nationalism that is non ethnically-driven, though admittedly the movement has an ethnic base. A consensus has been developed over the years with respect to the inclusive nature of Quebec nationalism, which in turn has contributed to its democratic character and political legitimacy.

A second strand in my research has been to examine a variety of case studies (Belgium, Canada, Spain, United Kingdom, etc.) from the vantage points of political sociology, law, and political philosophy to account for the emergence of new types of political associations (multinational democracies) that show real promise for conflict management. This has led to a major collaborative project with James Tully and to the publication of *Multinational Democracies* in 2001, followed by *The Conditions of Diversity in Multinational Democracies* in 2003. More recently, with Raffaele Iacovino (Ph.D. candidate, McGill), I have pursued this line of research by examining Quebec-Canada as a multinational federation that urgently needs to come to terms with that multinational reality and reform its political institutions accordingly. A book entitled *Federalism, Citizenship and Quebec. Debating Multinationalism* will be released late in 2006. In that book, the reader will be exposed to an original approach to a new form of constitutional association, namely the multinational democracy.

A third strand has been to explore key normative dimensions that account for the failure of nation-states in accommodating deep diversity in divided societies. The literature has been dominated by a bias that suggests that political stability will necessarily lead to just intercommunal relations. In my own work, I have explored another line of argument assessing the extent to which the opposite is true: that the quest



for just relations leads to political stability. Here, my association with Michael Burgess, Montserrat Guibernau, Michael Keating, John Loughlin, Luis Moreno and Ferran Requejo has contributed to sensitize me to so many different dimensions of that equation.

In pursuing three strands of research, I have greatly benefited from exchanges with members of the *Groupe de recherche sur les sociétés plurinationales* (GRSP). The GRSP was founded in 1995 and has involved scholars from a variety of intellectual backgrounds and political inclinations, including Guy Laforest, André Lecours, Jocelyn Maclure, Pierre Noreau, Geneviève Nootens, François Rocher, James Tully and José Woehrling. I have also benefited from my interaction with emerging scholars, such as Jan Erk, Raffaele Iacovino, Dimitrios Karmis, and Luc Turgeon.

I am embarking on a journey that will revisit some of the familiar places referred to above, but also entering more rarely negotiated intellectual currents. I foresee my path over the next few years as follows. First, I intend to explore the extent to which cosmopolitanism may constitute one of the most serious challenges for small nations/nations without state. In other words, to what extent is cosmopolitanism not simply a new form of imperialism? A close examination of the historical literature will be a relevant place to begin this work. Second, I intend to study intercommunal relations at the level of large cities, beginning with Montréal, Toronto, and Vancouver. I will compare these with urban centres such as Bordeaux, Brussels, and Frankfurt. What can be learned regarding the management of ethnocultural communities in countries that stress – with varying intensity – multiculturalism, interculturalism, and republicanism? What are the best practices? How transferable are they? I have recently begun a new collaboration with Bernard Jouve (Lyon) that has an interdisciplinary focus bringing together geographers, sociologists, political scientists and urbanists. Third, and related to my second point, I intend to assess the impact of immigration on multinational federations and the interconnectedness between ethnic minorities and host societies (*sociétés d'accueil*). Some work has been done in Belgium (Martiniello, Jacobs), Canada (Carens, Kymlicka), Germany (Baubock), Spain (Zapata-Barrero), and United Kingdom (Modood), but much more needs to be done to help ethnocultural groups to fully take part in their new community as well as to equip host societies with a better understanding of incoming cultures. Fourth, it seems to me that we need to find ways to expand democratic practices in both federal and non-federal settings as well as to pay closer attention to the interface between majority and minority nationalisms. In this last point, the works of André Laliberté, Margaret Moore, John McGarry, and James Tully are highly relevant to my own research.

The purposes of this current initiative for me are:

1. to create bridges between disciplines;
2. to be exposed to a variety of intellectual sources to better comprehend issues at stake;
3. to contribute to the development of a literature on multinational societies that can help to reduce gaps in communication and mutual understanding between national groups;
4. to imagine new models of accommodation applicable to divided societies;
5. to help form a new cadre of scholars that are interested in playing a role in nurturing and developing democratic models abroad (Iraq, Yugoslavia, Russia, Indonesia, Cyprus), helping their respective countries to not only abide by the rule of law, but also more broadly to adhere to the fundamental principles of constitutionalism: continuity, mutual recognition, and consent (here the Supreme Court of Canada's reference case with respect to Quebec's right to secede is quite powerful);
6. to inform and sensitize Canadians outside Quebec of the existence of a specific citizenship regime in Quebec capable of integrating immigrants and preserving diversity as well as, if not better than many other advanced liberal democracies.

I look forward to collaborating with colleagues in this new research, and feel that my association with other research teams (GRSP – www.cregc.uqam.ca ; CRIDAQ – www.cridaq.uqam.ca) will allow for the kind of mutually beneficial cross-fertilisation that is all-too-rarely achieved.