

The advent of a federal citizenship to give meaning to the cohabitation of minority nations, cultural communities, and majority nation in the context of a multinational state

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In this presentation, Gagnon organizes his ideas around three main pillars with a view to explore briefly tensions between minorities and majorities in a complex political setting:

1. Monism as a non-starter for political reconciliation of fragmented polities
2. The presence of competing legitimate worldviews (national diversity argument)
3. The advent of a federal citizenship to give meaning to the cohabitation of minority nations, cultural communities, and majority nation in the context of a multinational state.

First, to address the main theme of this panel, Gagnon argues that one needs to define what is meant by “minority” claims? and which minorities are we examining: cultural minorities? religious communities? ethnic groups? national minorities, minority nations? First nations? All of the above indistinctly?

The way we conceive the concept of minority will determine the course of actions one intends to follow. In other words, he proposes, it is crucial to know before we proceed what are the political purposes we want to achieve and the theoretical ambitions we are pursuing.