

**Identity**

**&**

**identities**

# THE bridge

OUR VOICE  
OUR EYES

School Year 2023/2024

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# Monuments: the identity of countries

Citlali Mollet Ballote, Lana Simeon, Juliette Demoulin and Elena Thiebaud

In this article, we will speak about the world monuments. We have chosen this subject to tell you more about the different cultures. All these monuments are symbolic of the identity of the countries.

We have five examples:

First, Christ the Redeemer is an impressive statue of 33 meters high, which overlooks the city of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil at the top of the Mont Corcovado. It was designed by the Brazilian engineer Arbror Silva Costa (1873-1947). The head and the hands of the statue were designed by the French sculptor Paul Landowski (1875-1961). It was built from 1926 to 1931.

The statue has become a cultural icon since 1973. There are 750 000 visitors a year.

The second monument is the Eiffel tower. It is 330 meters high and made of iron; it is situated in Paris. It was built by Gustave Eiffel in 2 years. It was finished in March 1889 for the universal exhibition. It was built for the Centennial anniversary of the French Revolution. It should have been dismant-

led at the end of the exhibition because at the beginning everyone criticized it. But finally today it is always here and it is the symbol of France and Paris. There are 6 140 000 visitors a year.

With the same constructor, we have the Statue of Liberty.

This landmark is one of the most famous in the USA. This monument is situated in New York on « Liberty island », south of Manathan. It was built in France.

This statue was a present from the French to the Americans as a sign of peace and friendship. It was installed on October 28th 1886 for the 100th anniversary of the American Independence. The engineer of the statue is Gustave Eiffel who had also designed the famous Eiffel Tower. The statue is 93 meters high and made of copper.

The Statue of Liberty is now a symbol of America, democracy justice and liberty as indicated by its name.

The next monument is the Colosseum, which was an amphitheater situated in the centre of Rome

in Italy. It was the biggest amphitheater of the Roman Empire and could welcome up to 50,000 spectators. Before it welcomed public games as well as executions.

The Colosseum was built from 72 to 80 after Christ, and it is 50 meters high, 188 meters of diameter. It was built under the emperor Vespasian. This monument is the identity of Italy.

Finally, the Taj Mahal.

The Taj Mahal is situated in the city of Agra in the province of the Uttar Pradesh in India. Its name

means the "Palace Crown". The building is made of white marble and it was built by the muslim Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahar in memory of his dead wife. This monument is the tomb of his beloved wife and himself.

It was visited by 6 million of tourists in 2019. It is the most visited monument in India and it is part of the 10 most visited monuments in the world.



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# French gastronomy

## Nathan Mailhac, Galadrielle Gout, Agathe Demontagne and Jade Perrot Cambon

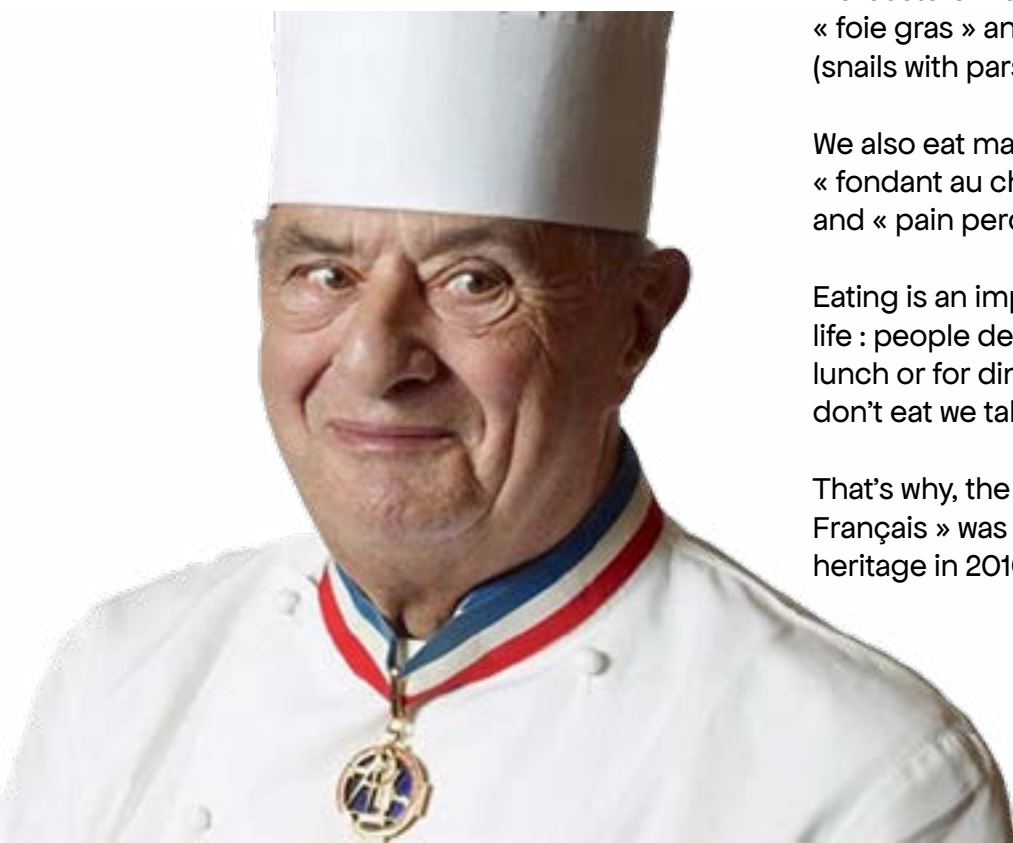
France is famous for its gastronomy and it's part of our identity. We have a lot of starred chefs but one of the most famous is Paul Bocuse with 2 stars. An other great chef who became famous through TV shows is Philippe Etchebest in "Top Chef" (TV reality show).

France has got a large variety of dishes but the top five favourite of French people are the "raclette" (potatoes with melted cheese) ; the "pot au feu" (boiled beef with vegetables) ; the « steak tartare » (raw ground (minced) beef, usually served with onions, capers, mushrooms, pepper, Worcestershire sauce, and other seasonings); the « foie gras » and the "escargots à la persillade" (snails with parsleyed butter).

We also eat many desserts like « crème brûlée » ; « fondant au chocolat » ; « Paris-Brest » ; "crêpes" and « pain perdu » .

Eating is an important part of the French way of life : people dedicate a lot of time to eating (for lunch or for dinner), at least 1 hour. And when we don't eat we talk about food...

That's why, the « repas gastronomique des Français » was classified at the intangible world heritage in 2010 by UNESCO.



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# Migration : your identity in a new country

Aaron Bonsacquet, Esteban Karpiel and Noah Codjia



**A**s you may have seen in the title, this article will inform you about migration in France, and try to sensitize you to this subject.

Throughout the centuries, France has been both a destination and a transit point for diverse migrant populations, contributing to its rich diversity. Today, 8 Millions of Immigrants live in France in 2023, it represent 10% of the population.

Historically, France has been a destination for various waves of migrants. In the post-World War II era, there was a significant influx of labor migrants primarily from former colonies in North Africa, such as Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia, who came

to assist in the post-war reconstruction. This marked the beginning of a substantial presence of North African communities in France.

Most of the immigrants leave their country because of war, lack of medicine, starvation and / or money problems.

Migration in France has been a multifaceted and evolving phenomenon, shaping the country's cultural landscape.

The integration of migrants into French society has been a topic of discussion and policy debate. Efforts have been made to facilitate integration

through language courses, employment programs, and cultural initiatives. However, challenges persist, including issues related to social cohesion, discrimination, and access to resources.

A lot of People think that immigration is a problem because they don't want to see foreigners in their country that's why lots of migrants or their descendants suffer from discrimination and racism.

However, some became very famous and participate in the french reputation , for example, Zinédine Zidane, one of the best football players in the 80's ; Jamel Debbouze, a worldwide famous humorist ; Marie Curie, the scientist who

discovered radiation, Missak Manoukian an Armenian who fought and died for us during the 2WW, whose body has been recently moved to the Panthéon with other famous people who did something great for France, Josephine Baker is also buried there.

Imagine yourself in a new country, after leaving the home you grew up in. Wouldn't you be happy to be welcome in this new country.





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# French Soccer

## Ivann Trovato, Evan Dumas, Gabriel Devillier and Julien Breynat



Our article is about French soccer. The french league/Federation was created on the 7th of April 1919 in Paris by Henri Delauney and today Philippe Diallo is the president of the FFF. The symbol of the French team is the rooster and the national anthem is the « Marseillaise ». Soccer is the most popular sport in France.

When there is an important match, cities and towns organize big gatherings where you can see the match with friends and family and eat/share a meal there. It makes us feel as a nation despite our differences. A lot of matches are broadcast on French channels, millions of French people watch the different matches : the whole country is united, when we win a important match there is no racism anymore. Especially in 1998 or in 2018

when we won the world cup.

A very big parade with the French team on a bus was organised. They went down the Champs Elysées and were greeted and celebrated by millions of supporters. Then the President invited them at the Palais de l'Élysée to honour them.

The French supporters are counting on the French team to represent their country when there are important matches or competitions. In addition to 2 world cups, the french team won 2 European championships in 1984 and 2000, 1 Nation League (2021).

In the history our best player was Zinedine Zidane but now it's Kylian Mbappe. Our best scorer is

Olivier Giroud with 56 goals. The player with the highest number of tenures is Hugo Lloris with 145 tenures. The largest victory was 14-0 against Gibraltar. Our best coach is Didier Deschamps and the player who has assisted the most is Antoine Griezmann.

In spite of these good results and the feeling we can share when they win, some people are still thinking it's not really a french team because lots of football players come from immigration (they are not all white).



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# Stereotypes: what are they, and how do they harm societies

**Damiano Gaiozzi**

No matter where anyone goes, every country, state, or province has its own stereotypes. What are they? And why are they so harmful? These seemingly unanswered questions are actually way deeper rabbit holes than they may seem. To analyze the nature of stereotypes in the best way possible, we need to understand the concept of mediatic disinformation.

This is a phenomenon where a public journal, TV show or any type of informative media distributor accidentally (or purposely) gives away false information, and all the people who watch, read, or listen to that media distributor on a regular basis start believing in false information, better known as fake news.



But what does this have to do with stereotypes? Well, we need to take in consideration the fact that most (if not all) stereotypes originated a pretty long time ago, when public information was only distributed via newspapers and, mediatically, ignorance was tyrant.

Because of this, many decades later we often unconsciously relate, when we think about them, countries with their own stereotypes.

Again, there is no one to blame here, except for mediatic disinformation and its historic evolution. Whenever a certain country has one or more stereotypes, independently from if positive or negative, we must concentrate on not believing in them (hence their ignorant and untrue nature)

even if it may look like they contain some truth. Because yes, there's a reason if a certain stereotype on a certain country exists.

It's because they're all based on the ignorance around those cultures, and to fill the empty spaces in knowledge, public information distributors twisted the facts and made up a reality which is harder to accept, but easier to emarginate. It's important that everyone understands the nature of stereotypes and the harm they put onto societies, or else no one will ever feel fully accepted in another country or state, no matter where they go. That's why everyone shall keep proving them wrong, and keep their own minds far from them.



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# Our personal identity compared to our online one

Noemi Crisostomi



The advent of technology in recent decades has laid the foundations for a profound reflection on the topic of identity. In particular, increasing importance has been given to the concept of digital identity. Human beings have always been characterized by two distinct types of identity:

- Individual identity: all that set of feelings, behaviors, values that the individual feels is their own and which constitute their personality;
- Social identity: the image that others build about a particular individual based on their reputation.

There are many people, especially the younger ones, who spend a large part of their day online, sometimes forgetting about their offline life and building an identity in which problems and insecurities are put aside to give a different and distorted image of themselves compared to

reality. This is a split personality, on social media the user has the possibility to choose who to be, that is, whether to present themselves with their own identity or a different one and decide what to make others perceive of their way of being. The fact that it is possible to do anything through devices has led individuals to spend a disproportionate amount of time online; this has increasingly thinned the border between online and offline, between reality and virtual until the limit between identities has disappeared. There are positive aspects; these technologies have made it possible to manage the difficult lock-down period, in addition to the fact that they are a useful tool for all those people who live isolated or who are particularly insecure, who in this way have the possibility of having their own space and relationships. However, it becomes increasingly difficult to keep

the different personalities separate. As I said, online we can present ourselves as completely different people than we actually are, the fact that our identity is somehow hidden allows us to build a “character” more similar to what we would like to be and it is very likely that we approach situations and discussions differently online than we would offline. A person who perhaps often tends to go along with what they hear may feel safe enough to counter statements in which they may not agree with. Similarly, those who are extremely shy to the point of not being able to build relationships may be able to open up online, also because they are not forced to reveal their identity and also often the people with whom they converse are strangers who do not know who they deal with, so we can decide what to tell about ourselves. However, even online we tend to respect “rules” to be accepted and increase our circle of contacts; for example, we tend to address topics on which we often have less than in-depth knowledge just because everyone does it. If we didn't same way as others, we would some idea of being insensitive to certain is dered important, ruining our online r example could be sharing images th

solidarity with a cause even though the reason for that action is only superficially known, or criticizing another user or even famous people when they do not respect behavior deemed important by the online community. But how can we act to ensure that the various identities do not mix with each other, giving us the impression of being constantly online and not allowing us to detach ourselves from the internet? The most obvious answer is to set limits between the world of the Internet and the real world. While on the one hand it is increasingly difficult due to the great presence of technology in our lives, increased during the Covid-19 emergency, it would be better to maintain a certain distance, such as using different devices for personal things and work, going to bathroom without telephone and above all to remind us that we are made up of more than one identity.



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# Who am I?

## Sophia Kancheva



I am...

Once I joined a new school club. Because we all didn't know each other, the teacher asked us to introduce ourselves. But what was I supposed to say? As always in this type of situation I mentioned my name, my age and my place of residence. Obviously pretty basic information to get to know someone. To sum it up: Whenever I have to introduce myself I just talk about some random stuff without any background information. I don't even think that much about myself. Do I really know myself? I am a different person to different people. Annoying to one. Talented to another. Quiet to a few. Unknown to a lot. But who am I to myself?

- What do I like?
- What do I hate?
- What are my strengths?

- What are my life goals?
- Do I have any future plans?
- Which values do I support?
- What makes me happy?
- What makes me sad?
- Is there something I am proud of?

These are questions we all should be able to answer. I am not. I usually just skip this kind of thoughts and keep them aside. But that's wrong. We all need to know ourselves, to know our desires. But let's talk about your goals. Maybe you want to get better at a hobby, to get good grades, to eat healthier or to work out everyday. Besides motivation and discipline you need the right friends. I know it might sound ridiculous but actually the people you hang out with define you as a person.

I mean imagine you'd have friends who are bad at school, not paying any attention to their nutrition and spending their free time by scrolling through tiktok. Just for the record: I am not judging anyone having this lifestyle, but would these people be your example? People you'd look up to? Probably not. But let's think the other way around: If your closest friends would be smart, read a lot, have good grades at school and go to bed early, would you look up to them? I would for sure. Comparing yourself with people you'd like to be alike is totally fine. (As long as it just includes their character.) An easy way to decide whether you are happy with yourself is to wonder about this question: Would you date anyone who is exactly like you? If not, what would you like to change about them? Their sleep rythm? Their physical movement?

The way they dress? The screentime they have? To deal with all of these questions it is necessary to become the best version of yourself. Stop analyzing the others, care about your personal needs.

“Your mental and pysical health does matter!”

“

- What do I like?
- What do I hate?
- What are my strengths?
- What are my life goals?
- Do I have any future plans?
- Which values do I support?
- What makes me happy?
- What makes me sad?
- Is there something I am proud of?

”



# What is identity?

## (chapter I)

### Karla Dietrich

Especially during puberty, personal identity is one that grows more and more important. For me, my identity as a queer person has equally grown just as I discovered more and more of myself.

But that's not what I want to talk about in this article. No, I want to touch upon the matter of national identity. Specifically as a German.

At least for me, national identity is not really something that exists. I'm German. I was born and raised and still live here. But it's not really part of myself--not a large one, anyway.

Something that has always bewildered me regarding other countries' norms is the emphasis on national pride. I hear the stories of children being raised with pride towards their country of origin, of national hymns sung every morning before class. Those stories feel alien to me. Almost uncomfortable even. People who speak of their nationality with pride just because they happen to be born there, perhaps even considering said country to be superior to others... to be frank, it freaks me out.



Here, when someone says they're proud of being German that's quite the red flag. Of course Germany has developed a lot over the years and we certainly do have many common practices or systems that one might, to a degree, be proud of. But proud of being German? That sounds like nationalism in itself.

It's fascinating to think about, in a way. At least based on my personal experience, there doesn't seem to be such a thing as a German identity and certainly no national pride. We are raised with the awareness of the horrors wrought upon the world by our country. There is this constant knowledge, even if it's not always quite present, that Germany was responsible for many, many awful things. The denazification of Germany has left its marks. On

the country, on the people, on our culture. The Germans were responsible for two world wars. The Germans were responsible for genocide--several, in fact. The Germans stood by when the Nazis murdered entire peoples for simply existing.

It's been a long time since then. Less time than one would like to think but to me, it still feels long. I was born way after Germany became a stable, independent, united country. Just by looking at the people around me, I would not have known about the slightest sense of guilt still embedded everywhere. But history is not--and hopefully never will be--forgotten. Most people who live here are aware. Our country's history is not one to be proud of.

Even regarding language, a core part of any culture, all of this has left an impact.

English is a world language, French is usually referred to as a romantic language, Italian similarly so. German however is commonly depicted as a harsh, crude language. There have been times when it felt almost uncomfortable to speak my own language; I know I'm trying very hard to get rid of any German accent when learning another. Even I myself don't consider German a beautiful language. I don't know why. After all, German is the language I was (primarily) raised with. German is the language I use to tell my family that I love them. And aren't all languages beautiful in their own right?

Now, I don't want to write an essay on the way the past century and especially World War II has impacted German culture. I don't really know enough for that, I reckon. All of these are loosely connected thoughts of mine, musings and theories. I believe what I'm saying makes sense, though I'm no historian or researcher.

But I know that singing a national anthem makes me feel all wrong. I know that someone stating they're proud of their German heritage raises suspicion. I know that I will likely never feel connected to other people simply because we're German. Through our same country of origin and shared culture perhaps. But not because of German heritage. Not like that.

I realise now that I always referred to it as German

culture. It is, of course, but it has a detached feel to it. It's my culture. I'm German. It feels weird to type as this simple statement.

National identity is something I rarely think of. It's not very prominent in my life. I'm curious to see if (and what) other students from other countries have written on the topic. Other countries deal with national identity--national pride--quite differently. It still makes me sort of uncomfortable, I admit. I'm not a fan of patriotism in general; it seems like nationalism is not much of a step further. But it's not like I can judge. German patriotism feels weird at best, especially considering recent political developments.

Then again I'm just one person. I haven't done any research on the topic nor talked to many people. This is a very subjective text. But I think it's worth saying.

So. What is identity?

Identity is many things. But it's not German. For all the meaning behind that, for all it has shaped my life and myself, my identity is not German. It's a million other things. But that sense of national identity and pride is lost on me.



# What is identity?

## (chapter II)

Carla Gutwill



'The T in LGBT' - Being trans\* is something that is talked about pretty much in today's time. But what does it even mean? How do you know if you are actually trans yourself? How do you deal with transphobia as a trans\* person? In this article I'll answer those questions, so keep reading!

First things first, what do I mean when I speak about trans\* people? Being trans is an umbrella term for everyone who doesn't or doesn't fully identify with their birth gender, also called „sex“. Also, even if it is partially called 'transsexual', it has nothing to do with a sexual orientation, but only the gender identity.

But how do you even know if you are „born in the wrong body“? In the most cases, you'll experien-

ce signs of it in your childhood, like wanting to belong to the opposite sex. But it doesn't need to be like that always. You can also experience signs of dysphoria (the desire to have the opposite sex) at the age of a teenager.

A study came out that says that the gender identity of 79% of trans teenagers hadn't been taken seriously by their family, so, assuming, you found out about you being trans and also already came out – how to handle rejection or even transphobia?

- Speak to someone you can trust, like family members, friends or teachers, particularly if you are being bullied at school. If you do not have any "comfort person", it may be the best to go to

therapy or to call a helping hotline.

Do not let them provoke you. I know, it can be hard, but stay conciliatory. You don't want to get on their level, and in the end, they may report you to someone, and you'll be seen as the bad person.

- Do not EVER believe when they tell you „you are worthless“ or „you are not normal/disgusting“. You are not. You are loved. And you are absolutely normal.

- Journaling. I know, it sounds weird, but it does help so much. (By the way this doesn't only help with the handle of bullying, you can use it literally for everything you are worried about).

Speaking of transphobia – How to know if you are actually the one to disrespect trans people? (I want to emphasize, I am not speaking about actually bullying someone with a bad intention, but only about accidentally saying something that may hurt feelings without you even knowing it).

Here are six things you may say but should never say to a trans person:

- Asking about their dead (birth) name or their biological gender
  - Even if talking about the past, when talking about a trans person, don't EVER use their dead-name (except if they actually tell you they're okay with it).
  - „But you do not actually look like a boy/girl.“
  - „Have you had THE surgery yet??“ or „What surgeries DID you have?“
  - „So, you are gay then.“
  - Do not use their old pronouns in any context!
- Overall, just listen to trans people and respect their needs. They know themselves best and if you make an effort, it will be alright.

Okay, but apart from transphobia, is it really necessary for trans people to keep the name and official gender of a person you do not even identify with? Depends on where exactly you live. Countries like Jemen, Parts of Nigeria and Somalia do not accept LGBTQIA+ at all, and it is officially illegal to be a part of the community. Partially it is punished with years of prison, which is really unprogressive and violates human rights. But of course not all countries are like that, so let's talk about the Self Determination Law which is soon coming into effect in Germany.

The law is very important for trans people and is already used in Chile, Malta, Denmark, Luxembourg, Belgium, Ireland, Iceland, Portugal, New Zealand, Norway, Uruguay, Switzerland and, as the first country to make the Self Determination Law possible, Argentina. In Germany it will come at the first of November in 2024.

It is going to facilitate changing the name and the gender in the civil status register. It is not necessary anymore to have a medical certificate or an expert opinion in court proceedings, which really helps many people. Also it says that the gender affirming surgeries need to be payed by the GKV, which is the statutory health insurance (= gesetzliche Krankenversicherung), so it is a really big deal for every trans person in Germany, and I am also very happy about the law.

In the end, I just want to adress all the trans people, who may struggle really much right now. I know, you are going through a lot. But let me tell you: You are fine. You are okay the way you are, and whatever emotions you feel at the moment, it will be okay :)

Thank you for reading my article!



# weLithuania – land of the artsy

## Berte Sestakauskaite, Neda Brazionyte and Gabriele Prunskute



Music, art and literature are all a big part of our country's identity.

Firstly, music has always been super important for Lithuanians. Folk music has been heard in our country ever since the 19th century. Lithuanian folk is archaic, mostly used for ritual purposes, containing elements of paganism faith. Songs were often taught from one person to the other, rarely did people write them down, as back then, not many people were able to read or write. That's why most well-known folk songs often have many variations, as people would mishear it or touch them up. Folk is still popular nowadays, it can often be heard during national holidays. During the soviet times, it was forbidden to sing Lithuanian songs, especially the ones that were patriotic, as the soviet union had its own anthem.

However, on the night of the 13th of January, 1991 Lithuanians fought off the Russians and their tanks by standing together and singing Lithuanian songs. "Our weapon was a song..." they said. That's why we believe music is one of the most valued things in every Lithuanian's heart.

Lithuanian literature reflects a lot of details of Lithuanian history. The first Lithuanian book "Katekizmas" was written in 1547 by Martynas Mažvydas. The book briefly describes the basics of Christianity. Two copies of the first Lithuanian book have been preserved – one is being held in the library of Vilnius University, the other – at the University of Torun in Poland. Writers of one of the oldest languages love to pay a lot of attention to the details of nature. Kristijonas Donelaitis is considered a pioneer and classicist of Lithuanian

fiction. He is known for his epic poem “Metai”, in which he shows the everyday life, habits and customs of Prussian Lithuanians over the four seasons. Speaking of now days Lithuanian literature, I feel the need to mention the book “Tarp pilkų debesų” (Between the Shades of Gray) by Ruta Sepetys. Between Shades of Gray, a New York Times Best Seller, is the debut novel of Lithuanian American novelist Ruta Sepetys. It is a sensitive touch to the historical pain of the Baltic States, and not only to the historical one – what was happening in people’s lives at that time can be called the pain of all mankind. It was nominated for the 2012 Carnegie Medal and has been translated into more than 27 languages.

An artist needs freedom to create, however our artists were imprisoned during all the brutal occupations. In order to survive, most had to adapt to the conditions and pay tribute to the system. The imprisonment didn’t stop Lithuanians from creating art and now we have beautiful artwork made by talented artists in difficult times. A good example could be the artist, the long-time director of the M.K. Čiurlionis Art Museum, Petras Stauskas.

His life story is extremely complicated – a former exile who also participated in the II World War.

When we think of art in Lithuania, we think of the well-known artist Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis. His artstyle is interesting, symbolical, abstract and for some people – weird. This is one of his popular paintings “Rex”.



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# F.O.M.O. is in promo: get your own now

Sabrina Strianese



In the last decades, the advent of globalization has had a deep impact on individual and collective identity. People are more affected by cultural, social and economic models that characterize the modern world and are a result of the constant interconnection between different realities. This phenomenon has led to an increase in information to which we have access daily, but it subjects us to a constant effort to be able to keep up with the volume of data that is presented to us. This information leads to the change in our identity, pushing us to suppress behaviors that are considered unusual, we try to modify our appearance and look to fit in with standards that we may not even be aware of and which we may or may not share, but which suddenly become the basis upon which we aspire in order to get acceptance in front of our “public”. Humans constantly need

acceptance, it means being close to someone and belonging to a group, we can only satisfy our basic need of survival by having this security. And it's this way that self-destruction becomes the only way of survival.

Following an extensive analysis of the ideal profile that is presented to us on a daily basis on the Internet, we proceed, sometimes even unknowingly, in creating other “selves”, versions of ourselves that are more suitable for interacting with that stereotyped world which is presented to us and to which we crave belonging. We create these identities for a phenomenon called “FOMO”, an English term which means “fear of missing out”, and which refers to the fear of being left out which apparently makes us prefer to lie to ourselves and others rather than to fight for our identities and for our right to

express ourselves authentically.

We can draw an analogy between this reality and that described in the dystopian novel "1984" by George Orwell, the famous British author. The latter presents us with a society where "concealing our feelings, controlling facial movements, acting like others was an instinctive reaction". To a first reading, it seems like this is the description of our society currently, but actually it is a pessimistic perspective, realized later on, by a critical author, who is aware of the ease with which a man can be manipulated to the point of making him believe that it is for his own good and that of the community. To understand the damage of this mass control phenomenon, we have to ask ourselves multiple times about our behaviors: have I ever wondered why my choices? Have I ever

investigated why I decided to pursue a certain impulse despite it not logically being in my best interest but, rather, damaging to my person? Or rather: am, nowday, what I want to be or am I what is convenient to be?

Only when we will be able to answer these questions, by dividing authentic behavior from recorded behavior for the sake of conforming to the mass, might we claim that we have finally enclosed our "identities" in our original "identity", our true "me".





# Sport and identity

**Benita Kpange, Valeria Carretero,  
Ariadna Piñero, Daniela Pantoja,  
Leire Pastor and Ainhoa Trincado**

In our article we are going to talk about the most popular sports in Spain. Some of them are: football, basketball, tennis, formula 1 and swimming. In the history of the Olympics games we have won 174 medals. The sport with the most gold medals is sailing, with 13 medals.

The most notable Spanish athletes are Saul Crivriotto in canoeing, Joan Llaneras in track cycling and Rafa Nadal in tennis.

The sport that identifies Spain the most is football. In this sport, Spanish football has won 3 Eurocopes, 2 World Cup, two World Championships, one for men and another for women, and 1 Nations League.

Since there are a lot of fans, there is a lot of rivalry. For example: FCB vs Real Madrid, Sevilla vs Betis, FCB vs Español, Real Madrid vs Atlético de Madrid... And some of the supporters get violent for any reason, any cause that goes against what they believe to be their identity.

Unfortunately, discrimination is present in football. It comes because of the nationality, skin



colour, sexuality or gender of the player. The type of discrimination that is most common in Spain is racism, but also in other countries. Racism in football has been studied most in the European Union and Russia. FIFA announced new measures to confront racism in this sport.

In Spanish football there have been several cases, such as: Dani Alves during his career at FC Barcelona had problems with Spanish fans.

In a Brazilian interview in 2011, he was already complaining about racism and in 2013 in the semi-final of the Copa del Rey at Real Madrid too.

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# Discovering Bavarian Identity: from Castles to Classroom

**Paulina Felix**

Nestled in the heart of Europe, Bavaria beckons with its enchanting landscapes, fairy-tale castles, and vibrant culture. But what truly defines Bavarian identity, setting it apart from other German states and European regions?

Bavaria's education system offers students a unique way of teaching all the aspects of the curriculum. It differentiates from other school systems within Germany and other countries because it sets different priorities compared to other German states.

No exploration of Bavarian identity would be complete without a visit to its iconic landmarks. From the medieval castle "Veste Coburg" to the baroque splendor of Würzburg Residence, Bavaria boasts a wealth of architectural treasures that reflect its rich history and cultural heritage. These landmarks serve as living monuments to Bavarian identity, inspiring awe and wonder in students as they discover the stories behind these architectural marvels.

Bavaria's cultural heritage is as diverse as it is vibrant, encompassing everything from traditional music to culinary delights like pretzels and

weißwurst. Students can immerse themselves in Bavarian culture by attending folk festivals like Oktoberfest or exploring local museums dedicated to Bavarian history and art. Whether it's wearing a traditional Bavarian gown like dirndl and lederhosen or mastering the art of pretzel-making, Bavaria offers endless opportunities for students to connect with its rich cultural traditions.



For students eager to delve deeper into the fascinating world of Bavarian identity, look no further than the “Bavaria & Co.” podcast. Hosted by students from our school’s p-seminar English class, this podcast offers a behind-the-scenes look at Bavaria’s hidden gems and cultural traditions. From interviews with locals to experiencing the real Bavarian lifestyle, each episode invites listeners to explore what Bavarian cities have to offer. In our upcoming episodes, we’ll introduce several cities of Germany’s best and biggest state Bavaria like Munich, Nuremberg and Bamberg. Tune in to “Bavaria & Co.” and unlock the secrets of this captivating region from the comfort of your own

home.

You can also follow us on our Instagram profile @bavaria\_co.

So, grab your phone, click on play and join us on an unforgettable adventure through the heart of Bavaria!





# THE bridge

OUR VOICE  
OUR EYES



Rumšiškėių gimnazija