

# Review of: "Post-Conflict Reconstruction: How Social Identity Change Informs our Understanding of the Ukrainian Experience of Forced Migration"

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The article is interesting and well written. The qualitative material in the form of statements of Ukrainian women staying in the UK is valuable. Nevertheless, as a psychologist, I have several doubts or objections.

First, how to distinguish adaptations to a new situation from changes in identity? Is it decided by the sense of the subject through the interview, or by the indicators identified by the researcher in her statement?

Second, changes in social identity occur, in my opinion, by redefining the category of "we," that is, identification(sic!) with a new group or community - and this is a process that takes time. The question is how much, what is the individual variability here, and what does it depend on? For example, whether a person treats his stay in another country as temporary, whether he is there "on a trial basis," or whether he intends to stay there.

Third, many of the statements taken as illustrations of change can have a range of other interpretations depending on the broader context of the utterance, so to me they are interesting but not convincing as indicative of changes in identity rather than processes of, for example, coping, adaptation, resourcefulness, creativity, etc.

Fourth - and related to the previous one - the study's conclusions would have been more convincing to me if the author had established narrative indicators of identity change (perhaps the use of the "we" category to refer to belonging to a new group/community, or other indicators suggesting that the person is talking about "their own" and not about "strangers"), or, in other words, if she were thinking of herself as a member of a new community or a citizen of a different country (than Ukraine).

Fifth and finally, in further research, it would be worthwhile to ask explicitly about changes in social identity associated with a prolonged stay in refugeeism and/or the decision to stay in another country (here: the UK).

