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**Stance-raking in a social minefield:** Ukrainian youth and emigration discourses

With the spread of global capitalism, transnational migration has

become an important item on many governments' agendas as migratory groups have the potential to disrupt definitions of civic citizenship and ethnonational membership. In Ukraine, a country that shares a border with four EU member states, migration redefines the borders of the Ukrainian nation, not just for those who choose to emigrate but also for those who remain in Ukraine. Stories of the emigrant experience circulate back home, and include both images of the foreign lands to which Ukrainians move and a perspective on the homeland they left behind.

The paper presented here seeks to provide a glimpse of how emigration as a phenomenon has an influence on the lives of western Ukrainian teenagers, even those who have no direct connection to an emigrant. I examine the ways in which western Ukrainian teenagers use public discourses to establish and maintain their social positioning during group discussions focused on emigration. Within interpersonalinteractions, participants present both their evaluations of the issue at hand—their attitudes and opinions on the social issue and its larger meaning in their lives—and their alignment towards other participants in the interaction, responding to existing social relations, relevant in-the-moment context, and their current positioning in the locally-constructed social order.

In the process of stance-taking, however, differences based in a

variety of social identities can unexpectedly come to the forefront. As these teenagers work to manage their conflicting evaluations of Ukrainian emigrants, they simultaneously mitigate or highlight their (dis)alignments with their peers. The unintended alignments between non-friends highlight the underlying logic worlds of each socioeconomic class, which have their own understandings of Ukraine and Europe. In other words, friends of different social classes may,in fact, live in different worlds from each other; the Ukraine of one

may look very different from that of another.

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