



Cultural Citizenship in a North American Context

Presentation by M. Sharon Jeannotte
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[What is cultural citizenship?]

- A strategic, but variable concept
- Linked to processes of:
 - governance
 - participation
 - identity and belonging
- Linked to a variety of sites:
 - local
 - regional
 - national
 - transnational

Cultural citizenship – why now?

Thrown into relief by two sets of pressures:

- Globalization
- Postmodernism

What's cultural about citizenship?

Four elements of citizenship:

- Legal status – formal membership in a political community
- Rights – civil, political, social, economic and cultural
- Engagement and participation in the life of the community
- Identity, solidarity and belonging

[Legal status – shifting ground]

Legal status of citizenship shifting due to:

- Emergence of supra-national citizenship (e.g. the European Union)
- Increasing numbers of multinational citizens
- Increasing numbers of “guest workers” and “illegal aliens”

[Cultural rights]

Three categories:

- Civil – freedom of expression, religion and association
- Participation – rights to education, to develop and protect a culture, to participate in the cultural life of the community and to enjoy the common heritage of humanity
- Identity – respect for cultural identity, including minority rights to traditions, language and heritage, to own artistic and cultural wealth, and freedom from imposition of alien cultures

Cultural engagement and participation

Major changes in how cultural participation is viewed:

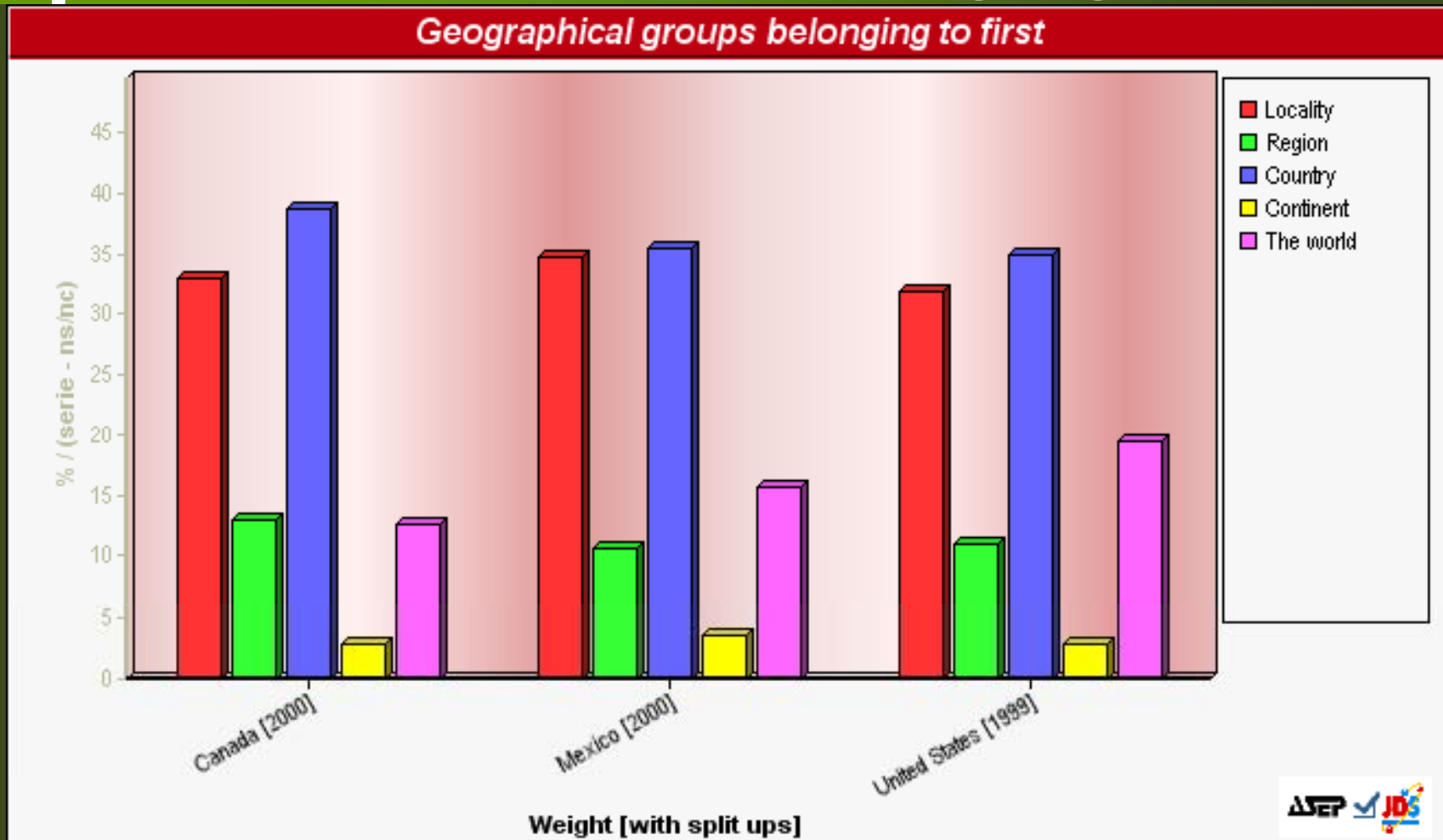
- As a right – both individual and collective
- As a form of capital fundamental to the production of symbolic goods
- As an interactive element underpinning democratic participation

Cultural identity, solidarity and belonging

In post-industrial democracies identity is increasingly:

- fragmented, multiple and fluid
- de-centred among multiple sites
- interdependent and intercultural
- not reducible to production and consumption
- a mediative space

North American belonging



Cultural citizenship and the North American media

Some questions:

- To what extent do North American media reflect the cultural diversity of the continent?
- To what extent do North Americans have access to their media?
- To what extent do the North American media promote intercultural dialogue?