

**Cities, Masquerade Games, Identities
(Based on Examples from Hungary)**

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(Summary)

The text analyzes specific examples from the festive life of the Hungarian cities of Mohács and Debrecen and in particular different manifestations of the contemporary masquerade game. The author pays attention to the construction of urban identity (part A) and searches for basic characteristics of the urban cultural space as a place of national memory (part B). The field research method is applied for the purposes of the present study. In conclusion it is noted that it is especially important for the participants to identify with a particular masquerade community that builds additional social networks outside of the carnival chronotope. The consistency with the culture and traditions of the city is also significant as far as these are manifestations of urban identity. The national identity finds expression in symbols and signs of the national manifested under conditions of deterritorialization. Through the self-perception of the people in the city (as people tied to it and belonging to it) and through their identification with it, the urban social space acquires its anthropological dimensions contributing to its unique spirit and particularity (*genius loci*).

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