



The Young Greek Australian HERMES



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What's the point of ethnicity? Serious question: what's the point?

I appreciate I'm asking this question to a group of university students who believe they have a connection because they have some (albeit distant) genetic connection with each other. Some will say that genetics isn't the most important thing and it's simply about having the same language and traditions (that are blindly passed on from one generation to the next). But I ask you again, what is the point of ethnicity?

It may be that this is simply the kind of Greeks I've been exposed to, but if I asked a Greek person who he or she felt closer to - a random Greek distant cousin from South Africa, England or America, or the neighbour two doors down who he'd never met but knew was not Greek, they would say the random Greek! This is absurd!

The worst of it is, it's self-perpetuating. Let's say I am the Greek from the previous example with the random Greek distant cousin. If I meet this cousin, and we both have the attitude that we have some connection because of a distant ethnic blood relationship, we will instantly act closer to each other. We are more likely to put aside our differences and focus on our similarities, and odds are we will get along very well, despite our individual characters. While this may sound like a good thing at first, let's look at the other side. Say I am the same Greek, but this time I meet my neighbour from two doors down who is not Greek. Provided we share the same view (that we are not connected because of our differing ethnicity) we are more likely to distance ourselves, focusing on our differences and putting aside our similarities.



I am Greek by blood, but the truth is my life would be identical if I was French, Fijian, or Finnish. In other words, I do not blindly follow strange nuances (traditions I believe they call them) and automatically think more of people who happen to be of my bloodline. In fact it is easy to extrapolate from the above example that ethnicity is a major factor in disputes between people, and ultimately war. It would have been difficult for Hitler to persecute people from Israel, if there was no distinction between Germans and Israelis.

In conclusion, I do not call myself Greek, and I believe that this world would be a better place if no one called themselves Greek, German, Gambian or Guatemalan, but rather called themselves human! Furthermore I challenge anyone to disagree with me; to bring even one positive point about ethnicity which does not have a plethora of negative consequences.

Jim Pappas

Did this article get you thinking? Hermes@nugas.org.au

Want to write in the next HERMES?

The HERMES is open to any and every young Greek Australian who believes he has something to share!

Send your submission to hermes@nugas.org.au

or call Harry on 0401 937 870

31 May	1 Jun	2 Jun	3 Jun	4 Jun	5 Jun	6 Jun
NUGAS VIC AGM	NUGAS VIC AGM	HYAT Origin Night	CUGA 90s BBQ	CUGA Greek Play	CUGA Greek Play	CUGA Greek Play
7 Jun	8 Jun	9 Jun	10 Jun	11 Jun	12 Jun	13 Jun
14 Jun	15 Jun	16 Jun	17 Jun	18 Jun	19 Jun	20 Jun
					NATIONAL NUGAS MEETING - Canberra	NATIONAL NUGAS HELLENIC DAY - Meetings
21 Jun	22 Jun	23 Jun	24 Jun	25 Jun	26 Jun	27 Jun
NATIONAL NUGAS HELLENIC DAY - Lobbying				MUnGA Tavern Night		
28 Jun	29 Jun	30 Jun	1 Jul	2 Jul	3 Jul	3 Jul
			CUGA Ski Trip	CUGA Ski Trip	CUGA Ski Trip	CUGA Ski Trip

NUGAS VIC
 Kerry Matthews: 0413 498 508
DUGS
 Tina Angelopoulos: 0430 505 490
MUnGA
 Peter Karakoussis: 0413 845 444
MHSS
 Jonathan Kasapidis / Angelique Mylonas:
 0408 488 022 / 0430 522 192
RUSH
 Regine Karantzias: 0425 735 692
LUGS:
 Natole Jasonides: 0404 653 933

NUGAS SA
 Konnie Rapassanis: 0449 747 630
AGUA
 Neoklis Alexandrides: 0414 096 113
USAHA
 Konnie Rapassanis: 0449 747 630

NUGAS WA / HUSS
 Alexi Andronis: 0403 498 676
CUGS
 Alexandra Koroveshi: 0417 983 555

NUGAS QLD
 Lex Georgiou: 0401 400 588
QUT
 Dimitri Nicola: 0438 784 961
UQ
 Lex Georgiou: 0401 400 588
HUGS
 Christina Ballas: 0468 659 182
HYAT
 Kristina Gear: 0400 851 377

MUGA
 Nick Galanopoulos: 0430 084 789
SUGS
 Nicoletta Mitsopoulos: 0422 466 950
UTS
 Dimitri Nicolias: 0425 239 852
HELLSOC
 Anthony Markakis: 0419 608 408

Hellenic Youth Club ACT
 Alexia Demetriou: 0417232466