

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910816928203321
Autore	Glaser Konstanze <1968->
Titolo	Minority languages and cultural diversity in Europe : Gaelic and Sorbian perspectives // Konstanze Glaser
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Clevedon [England] ; ; Buffalo [NY], : Multilingual Matters, c2007
ISBN	1-280-93500-6 9786610935000 1-85359-933-6
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (415 p.)
Collana	Linguistic diversity and language rights ; ; 3
Disciplina	305.7094
Soggetti	Linguistic minorities - Europe Nationalism - Europe Language and culture - Europe Thought and thinking Scottish Gaelic language - History Sorbian languages - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Series Editor's Foreword -- Acknowledgements -- Abbreviations and Coding -- Chapter 1: Introduction -- Chapter 2: Ethnocultural Minorities in Europe: The Political Context -- Chapter 3: Multilingualism as Premise of Cultural Diversity: Theories on Language, Thought and Culture from the Enlightenment to the Present -- Chapter 4: Gaelic in Scotland -- Chapter 5: Sorbian in Lusatia -- Chapter 6: Language Metaphysics on the Ground: Gaelic and Sorbian in Relation to Thought, Culture and Self -- Chapter 7: Narratives of Continuity: Language as a Unifier -- Chapter 8: The (Re)Production of Difference: Language as Source of Social Boundaries -- Chapter 9: Conclusion -- Bibliography -- Appendix A: Scotland and Ireland from a Gaelic perspective -- Appendix B: Shares of Gaelic speakers in local populations (parish-level) in 2001 -- Appendix C: Slavic territories to the west of the River Oder in the 10th and 11th centuries -- Appendix D: Areas with significant numbers of Sorbian/Wendish speakers (1999) -- Appendix

Sommario/riassunto

To what extent is linguistic continuity a prerequisite for ethno-cultural survival? Focusing on the Gaelic community in Scotland and the Sorbs of Lusatia, this study illuminates core assumptions and rationales in relation to minority language revitalisation ideologies in Scotland and Germany and shows how they have been affected by assimilation processes arising from modernisation and globalisation. A thorough review of relevant theoretical debates is followed by a presentation of historical contexts and a detailed analysis of contemporary discourses about bilingualism, cultural difference and ethno-cultural belonging within the Gaelic and Sorbian communities. Drawing on more than 100 interviews, a questionnaire survey and a wide range of comments by Gaelic and Sorbian speakers in the media, the author identifies current ideological faultlines in Gaelic and Sorbian activist circles and argues that minority language planners must critically engage with competing theoretical paradigms if revitalisation efforts are to be successful.

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