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**IDENTITY FORMATION AND COMMUNITY ACTIVISM AMONG KURDISH DIASPORA:
A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON KURDISH DIASPORA IN JAPAN AND UK**

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WE TALK ABOUT...

- Introduction
- The concept of diaspora, Politics & Identity
- World's largest Stateless Nation: The Kurds
- Kurdish community in Japan
- Kurdish community in UK
- Methodology
- Findings
- Discussion and Conclusion



p.1: Kurdish girl in traditional costume at the **Newroz** Festival of the New Year at the Spring equinox, Diyarbakir, south east Turkey

Source:

<https://www.alamy.com/kurdish-girl-in-traditional-costume-at-the-newroz-festival-of-the-image69115902.html>

INTRODUCTION

- Kurdish diaspora as a important player for Kurds in the Homeland (Alinia, 2004; D'Angelo, 2008; Eliassi, 2010; Wahlbeck, 1999)
- **purpose of this study:**
 - exploring the role of Kurdish community organizations in preserving identity and political activism among the Kurdish diaspora in Japan and UK.

THE CONCEPT OF DIASPORA,POLITICS&IDENTITY

- key differences between the two terms:

- ❖ Nation

- nations must be self-aware.
- A nation believe its right to territorial control

- ❖ Ethnic Group

- Ethnic groups may lack self-awareness.
- A territorial referent is not a necessary feature of ethnic groups

THE CONCEPT OF DIASPORA,POLITICS&IDENTITY

- **Diaspora:**

dispersed people with a 'common origin in a smaller geographic area. (Ember et al., 2005).

- **Characteristics:**

1. dispersion,
2. homeland
3. boundary maintenance.

THE CONCEPT OF DIASPORA,POLITICS&IDENTITY

- **diaspora** and **identity** are very related concept in social science

- Five core elements of “**Identity**”

(Brubaker & Cooper,
2000, p. 6)



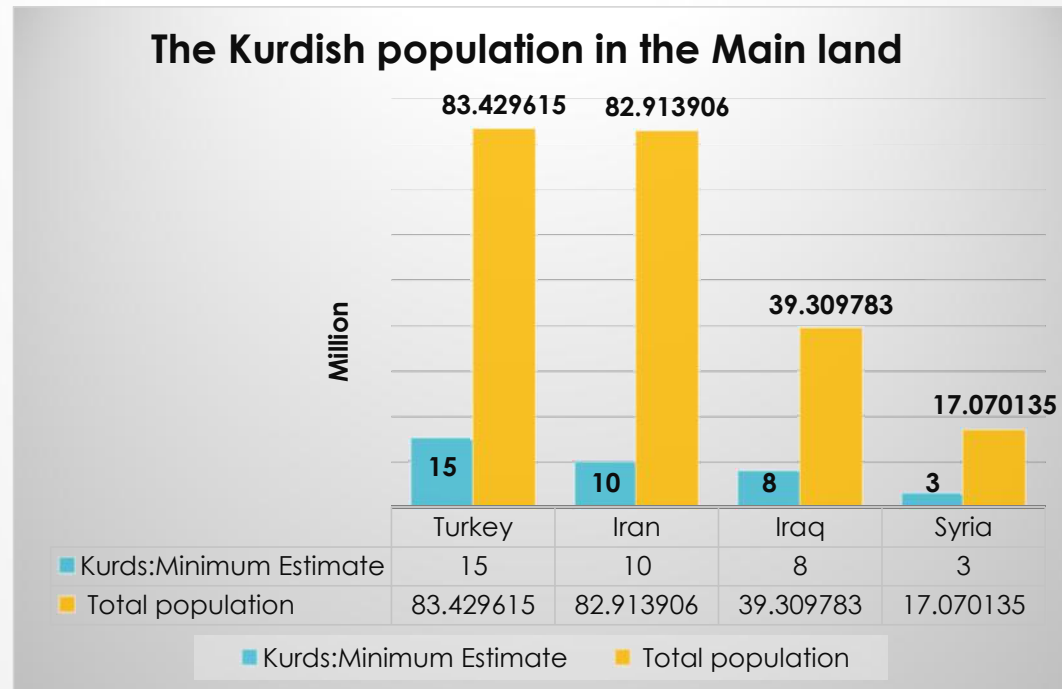
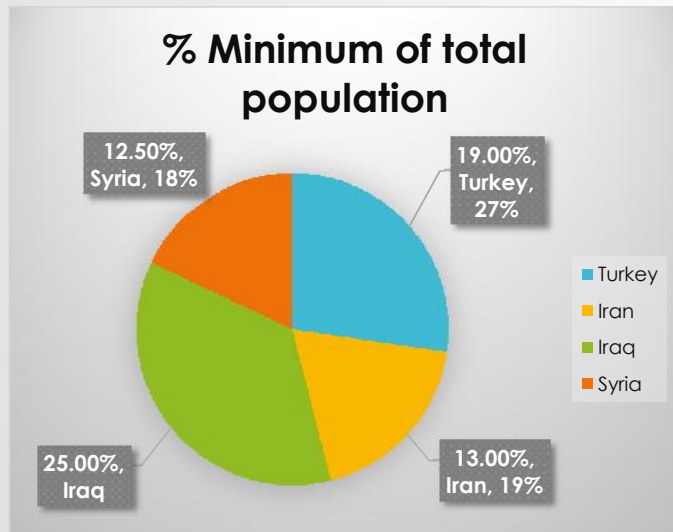
- Identities as non-instrumental forms of social action;
- Identities as a collective phenomenon of group sameness;
- Identities as deep and foundational forms of selfhood;
- Identities as interactive, procession, contingent products of social action;
- Identities as changing, unstable and fragmented modes of the self

WORLD'S LARGEST STATELESS NATION: THE KURDS



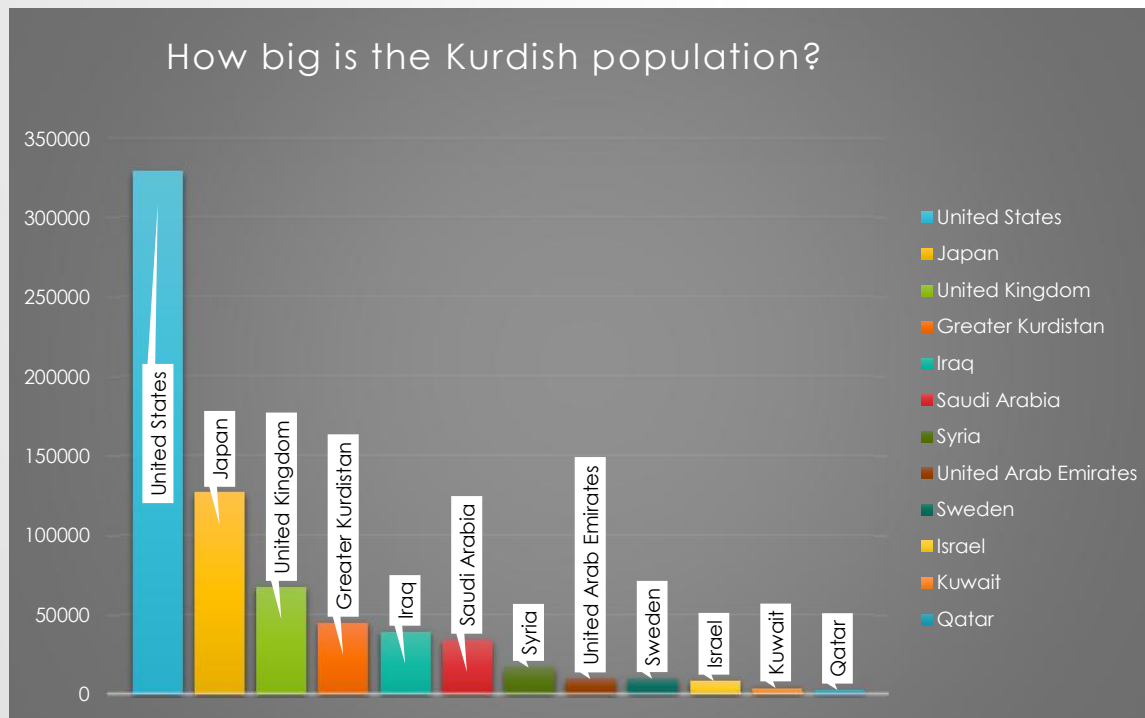
Source: Data of public domain from US government. (2016, 4 20). Retrieved from Global Social Change Reports: <http://gsociology.icaap.org/dataupload.html>

WORLD'S LARGEST STATELESS NATION: THE KURDS



Source: The Kurdish population. (2019, 9 3). Data Retrieved 11 10, 2019, from Kurdish Institute of Paris: <https://www.institutkurde.org/en/info/the-kurdish-population-1232551004>

WORLD'S LARGEST STATELESS NATION: THE KURDS



Source: Data of public domain from US government. (2016, 4 20). Retrieved from Global Social Change Reports: <http://gsociology.icaap.org/dataupload.html>

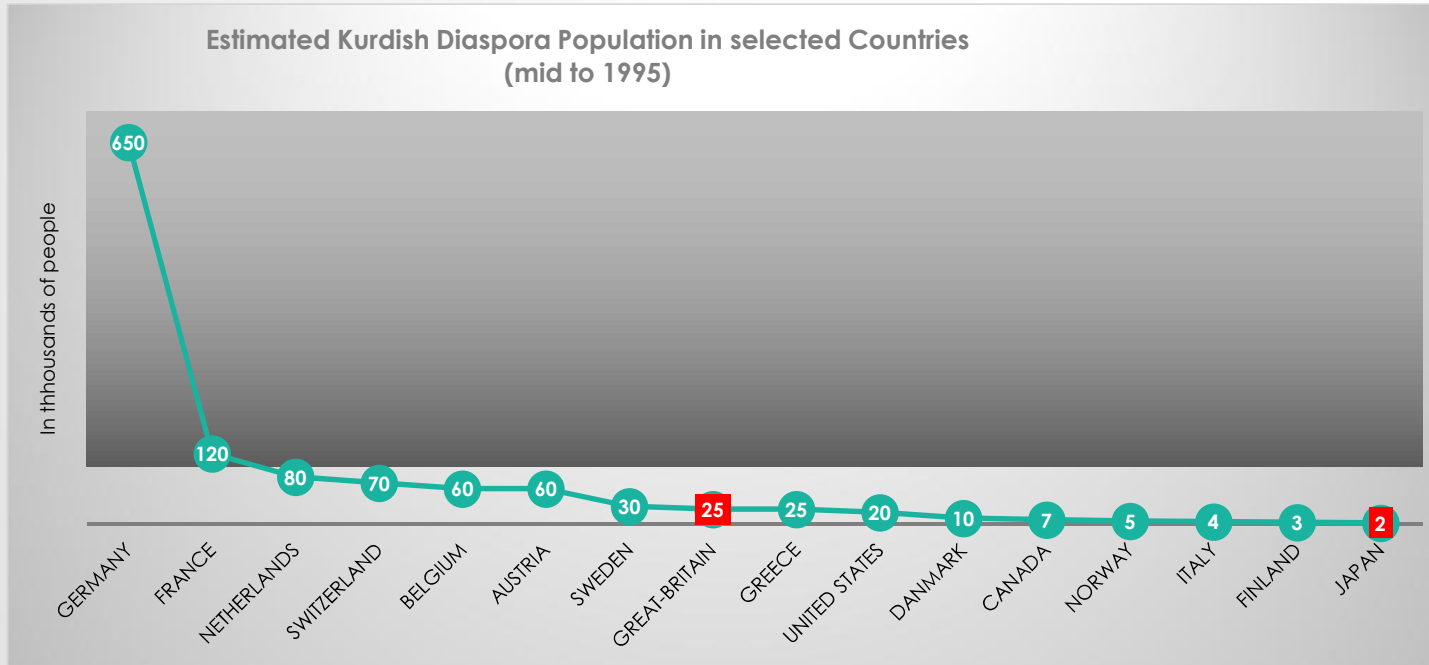
KURDISH DIASPORA AROUND THE WORLD



Figures: 1991 exodus during which time more than one million civilians were displaced by Saddam Hussein's regime.

Source: <http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/511434>

KURDISH DIASPORA AROUND THE WORLD



Source: Kurdish Institute of Paris. (2019, 9 3). Retrieved from The Kurdish Diaspora: <https://www.institutkurde.org/en/kurdorama>

KURDISH COMMUNITY IN JAPAN

Japan.Saitama:2019.3.17



Source: Ahmadian, S. (Photographer). (2019). Newroz, Kurdish new year party in Japan 2019 [Motion Picture]. Japan/Saitama

KURDISH COMMUNITY IN JAPAN



Warabii:2017. Kurdish workers are working for construction and demolition companies

KURDISH COMMUNITY IN JAPAN



Japan.Saitama:2019.3.17 film and photo have taken by The Researcher

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KURDISH COMMUNITY IN JAPAN



Japan.Saitama:2019.3.17 film and photo have taken by The Researcher

KURDISH COMMUNITY IN JAPAN



The speaker:
Syrian Kurdish leader
(Salih Muslim)

Japan.Saitama:2019.3.17 film and photo have taken by The Researcher

FINDINGS

Counselling



The header of the website features a green silhouette of mountains and a yellow sun on the left. On the right, there is a logo for the Japan-Kurdistan Friendship Society, which includes a red circle and a green and red diamond. Below the logo, the text reads: 日本クルド友野会, كوردستان دوستیله یازیشلیک جاپون, Kurdestan 1 Dostluk 1 Kurdistani 1 Japonya, and JAPAN-KURDISTAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY. At the bottom of the header, there are language options: 日本語, Kurdi, and English.

Japan-Kurdistan Friendship Association
HOME | Information | Report | News | About Kurdistan

[Global Top page](#)>HOME

Japan-Kurdistan Friendship Association

Japan Branch Office

Matsuya Bldg. 6F, 2-2-10 Koraku
Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-0004
Email: jpn-krd@bloom.ocn.ne.jp
Tel: +81-(0)3-3812-6798
Fax: +81-(0)3-5689-2371

- **Information:**
- **Report:**
- **News:**
- **About Kurdistan:**



A photograph showing three men in a formal setting. One man in a brown suit and a white turban is receiving a gift from a man in a grey suit. A third man in a grey suit stands to the left, observing the exchange. The background features a framed calligraphic artwork on a wall and a red curtain.

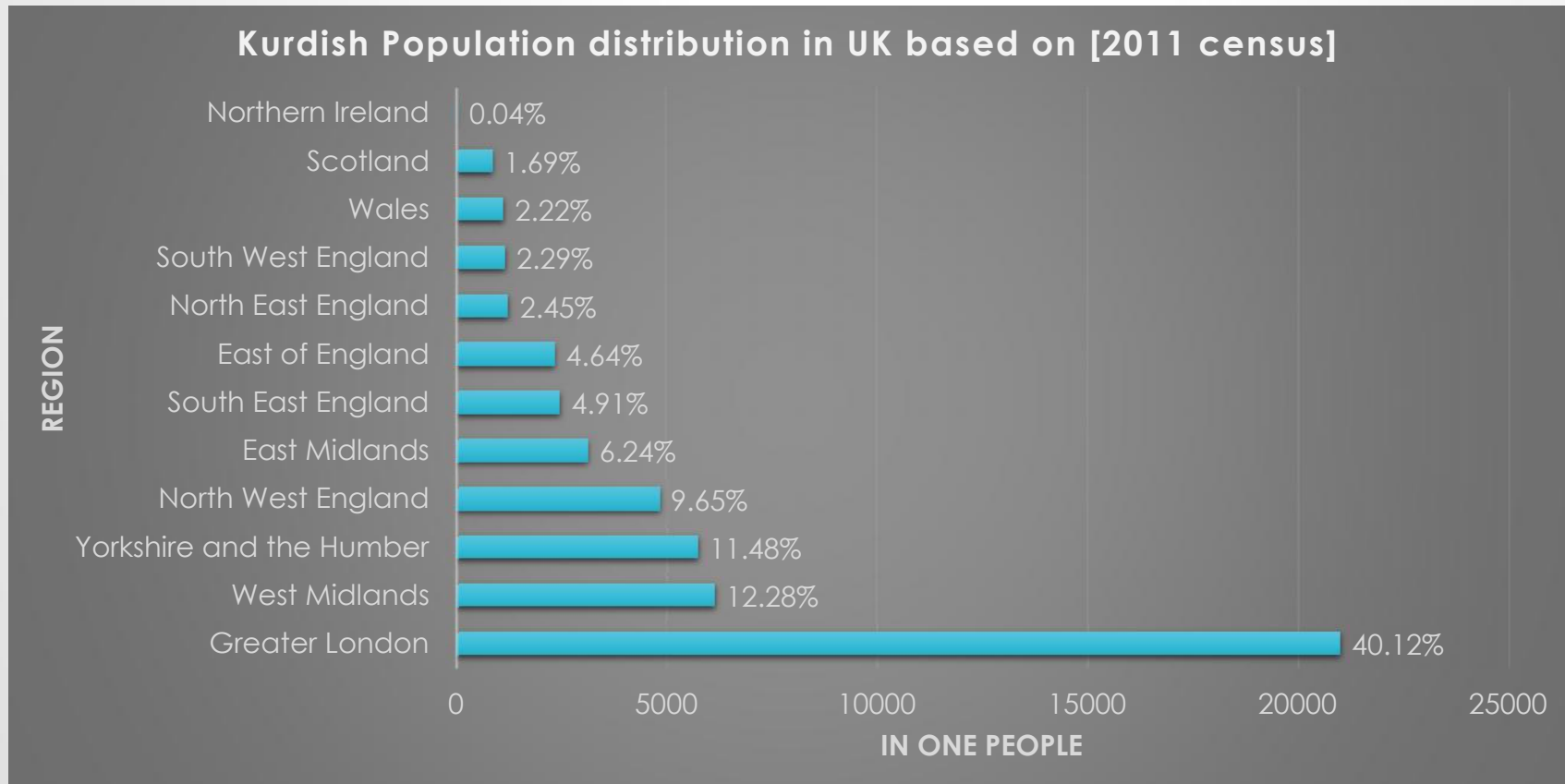
<http://www.jpn-krd.org/krd/index.html>

KURDISH COMMUNITY IN UK



Source:
dailymail. (2019, 10 13). Retrieved from news: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7568379/Demonstrators-including-Kurds-march-London-protest-against-Turkeys-Syria-offensive.html>

KURDISH COMMUNITY IN UK



Source: Data Extracted From: 2011 Census: Ethnic group (write-in responses), local authorities in England and Wales

KURDISH COMMUNITY IN UK

Page 9 of the Household Questionnaire for 2011 Census: Ethnic group (write-in responses), local authorities in England and Wales

Person 1 - Individual questions continued

12 How do you usually travel to your main place of work or study (including school)?
 ♦ Tick one box only.
 ♦ Tick the box for the longest part, by distance, of your usual journey to work or study.

- Driving a car or van
- Passenger in a car or van
- On foot
- Bus, minibus or coach
- Train
- Underground, subway, metro, light rail or tram
- Taxi
- Bicycle
- Motorcycle, scooter or moped
- Other

13 What religion, religious denomination or body do you belong to?
 ♦ This question is voluntary.

- None
- Church of Scotland
- Roman Catholic
- Other Christian, please write in below
- Muslim
- Buddhist
- Sikh
- Jewish
- Hindu
- Another religion or body, please write in

15 What is your ethnic group?
 ♦ Choose **ONE** section from A to F, then tick **ONE** box which **best describes** your ethnic group or background.

A White

- Scottish
- Other British
- Irish
- Gypsy / Traveller
- Polish
- Other white ethnic group, please write in

B Mixed or multiple ethnic groups

- Any mixed or multiple ethnic groups, please write in

C Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British

- Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British
- Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British
- Bangladeshi, Bangladeshi Scottish or Bangladeshi British
- Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British
- Other, please write in

D African

- African, African Scottish or African British
- Other, please write in

KURDISH COMMUNITY IN UK



Qubad Talabani ✓

@qubadjt

Follow

Congratulations @BorisJohnson for winning the Tory leadership and becoming the United Kingdom's #NextPrimeMinister



7:44 AM - 23 Jul 2019



دۆستیکی کورد بوو به وه‌زیری ده‌ره‌وه‌ی به‌ریتانی

13-07-2016

KURDISH COMMUNITY IN UK

basnews

NEWS ▾ OPINION REPORTS INTERVIEWS ECONOMY ▾

Boris Johnson Considers Himself a Friend of Iraqis, Kurds: Envoy

BasNews 25/07/2019 - 00:11 Published in Kurdistan



Boris Johnson
@BorisJohnson

Kurdish referendum: I urge all parties to remain calm & work together to defeat Daesh. Iraq's future lies in dialogue. UK ready to help

9:15 PM · Sep 25, 2017 · [Twitter Web Client](#)

This article is more than 1 month old

Boris Johnson urges Turkey to end offensive against Syrian Kurds

Source; <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/oct/12/boris-johnson-urges-turkey-to-end-offensive-against-syrian-kurds>

Boris Johnson visits Kurdistan region of Iraq

23 January 2015



Share

Source; <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-30942714>

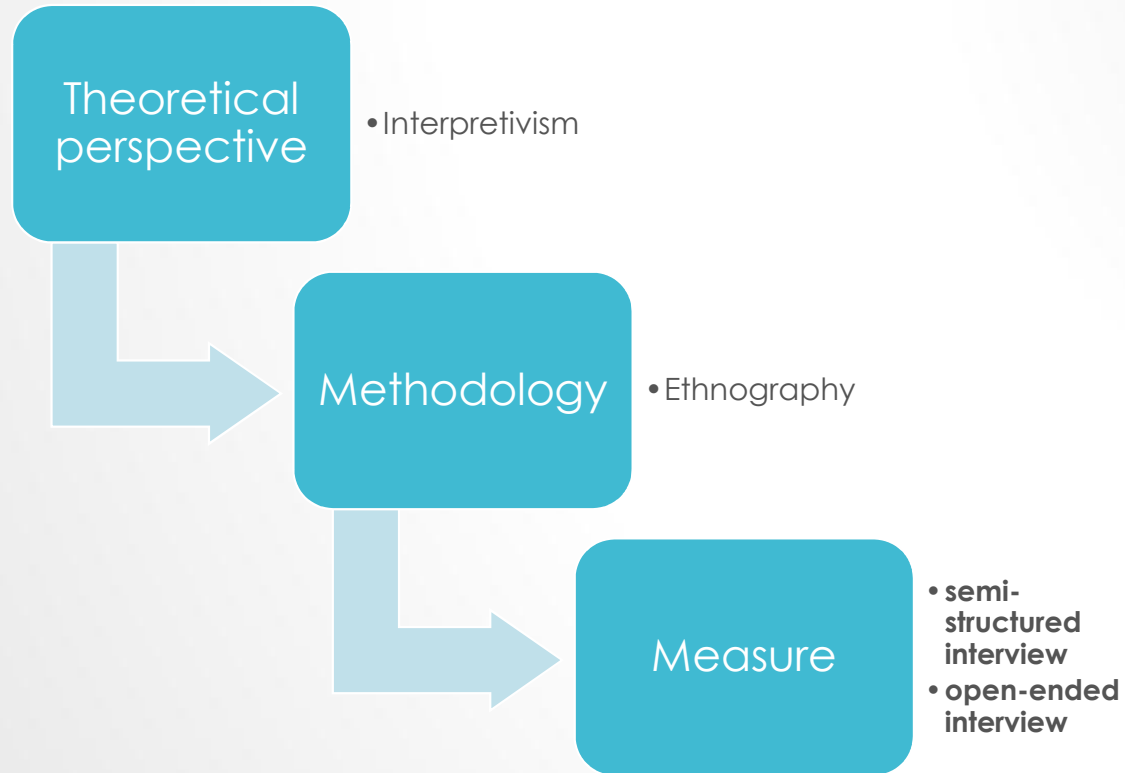
KURDISH COMMUNITY IN UK

British-Kurdish MP:

British Conservative Party politician of Kurdish descent who is a junior Minister and has been the Member of Parliament (MP) for Stratford-on-Avon since 2010

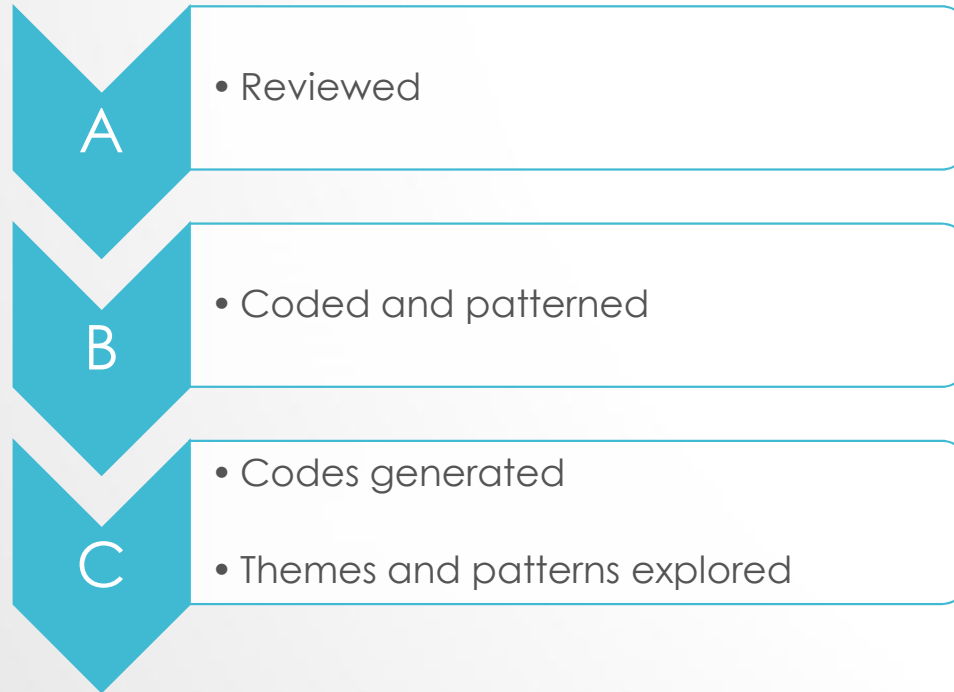


METHODOLOGY



DATA ANALYSIS

interview transcripts:



FINDINGS

An exercise in ethnic identity awareness

Diler (M: 38): I learned more about the lives of the people in my home country here. The sentimental gap between those who come from the home country and who are born here closes in these organizations. This is a place where we can share differences. Everyone shares their culture here. Everyone breaks their prejudices here.

Apo (M: 27): Those who attend to the Kurdish organizations give up religion later on. I can say that those who attend to these organizations do not pay much heed to religion. Religion is relegated to a secondary status. What is important is the cultural identity. Kurdish identity is of foremost importance here. Religion is not so much. When I arrived here, I was religious too. But later on I learned everything. Right now religion does not mean much to me. I have respect for humans. When I was in my homeland, I was of course a little bit different... The people who come to these organizations think like me.

Alan (M: 30): I am a Kurd. I have been more aware of this especially since I left Turkey. Since people live together there, the distinction between Kurds and Turks is not very important when political views is the same between them. However I connected to my identity more here or to be more precise I realized my identity here. I have foreign friends. When they ask me where I am from, I tell them that I am from Turkey but I am a Kurd.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- Kurdish community organizations and Kurdish immigrants in Japan were closely interacting with the Kurds in Japan.
- Kurds consider these organizations to preserve their Kurdishness
- Kurdish diaspora in Japan is NOT a kind of transnational movement
- the political activism of passive people is ensured through the Kurdish based organizations



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THANK YOU