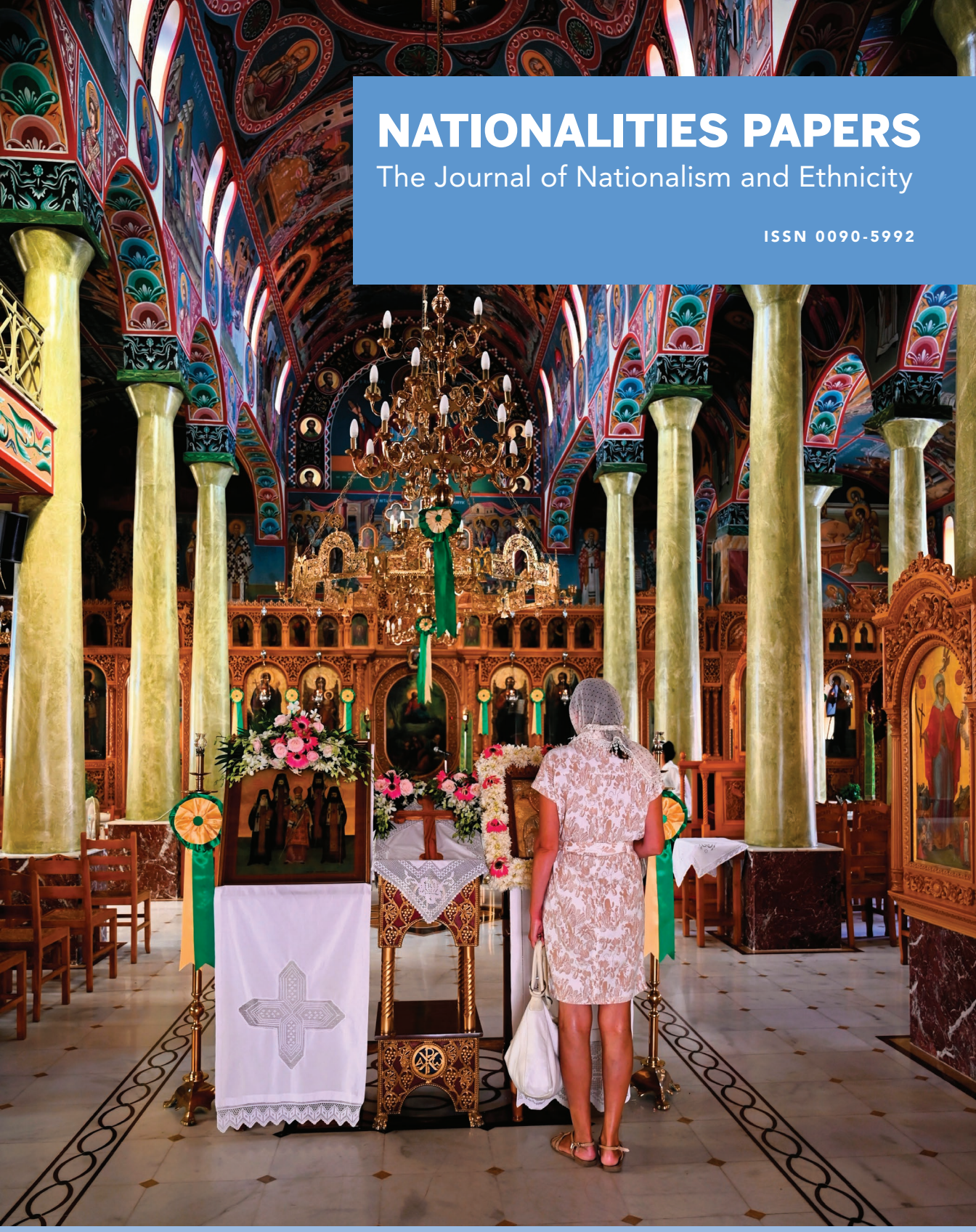


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On the Cover. Photo by Kira Kaurinkoski: The Holy Trinity "Russian" Church in Athens: From a Russian Embassy Church to a Greek Orthodox Parish (19th – 21st c.)

The Holy Trinity "Russian" Church in Athens is the most remarkable Byzantine church in the Greek capital, dating to the 11th century. In 1847, it was conceded by King Othon of Greece to the Russian government to cover the devotional needs of the Russian community in Athens, on the condition that the church would be reconstructed in its original form. In the 19th century, the Russian community actively engaged in charity work in Greece, providing theological training for the Greek clergy and renovating churches and monasteries. In the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, many Russian refugees in Athens found a spiritual home in the Holy Trinity Russian Church. In 1924, after the establishment of diplomatic relations between Greece and the USSR, the church came under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Athens, the Primate of the Church of Greece. Today, the parish is mainly composed of migrants from different parts of the former Soviet Union (FSU) and the Balkans. Services take place in Slavonic and Ecclesiastical Greek. Important holidays are celebrated both according to the Gregorian calendar, predominant in the Church of Greece, and the Julian calendar, followed by many migrants to this day. The parish also runs a Sunday school for children, and organizes concerts and lectures, as well as excursions and pilgrimages to churches, monasteries, and holy sites. My research provides an overview of the history of the church from the 19th century to the present day, while also accounting for more recent developments, following the dissolution of the Soviet Union and continuing up to Russia's War against Ukraine, thus contributing to the existing literature.

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