In December 2012 and June 2015, Professor Pop-Eleches, together with Professor Graeme Robertson (University of North Carolina), conducted a survey in Ukraine to identify the patterns and drivers of identity change triggered by the Euromaidan revolution and the resulting armed conflict. On a general level, the survey found more changes in civic identity (with more respondents considering Ukraine their homeland) than ethnic or linguistic identity. However, these findings mask important changes in regional and individual identity patterns. Both at the municipal and regional levels, it was observed that individuals were more likely to identify with the predominant ethnicity and language. Similar contextual influences were also evident in the behavior of public employees, who were more likely to shift their choice of language, particularly in localities with larger Ukrainian-speaking populations. Regarding the effects of the massive protests that accompanied the Euromaidan, the survey found that belonging to a social network with many opponents of Yanukovych greatly changed allegiances in identity.

Grigore Pop-Eleches is an Associate Professor of Politics and Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. His main research interests lie at the intersection between political economy and comparative political behavior, with a particular interest in Eastern Europe and Latin America. He has worked on the politics of IMF programs in Eastern Europe and Latin America, the rise of unorthodox parties in East Europe, and on the role of historical legacies in post-communist regime change and political attitudes. His work has also appeared in a variety of academic journals, including The Journal of Politics, World Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, International Studies Quarterly and Journal of Democracy.

Friday, March 11, 2016
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