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Interview with Ksenijia Marozava

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KSENIJIA MAROZAVA: IMMIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Jordan Norviel

December 4, 2014

In studying immigration to the United States, it becomes clear the immigrant experience is truly individualistic. Ksenijia Marozava, originally from Belarus demonstrates the complexities of immigration through her relationships to the United States and Belarus. She also is an example of how people from the same family experience immigration differently and respond to these experiences differently. Ksenijia's immigration experience can be divided into three larger sections. The first is life in Belarus which involves reasons for immigration, ideas about the United States and her Belarus identity. The next important section in Ksenijia's life surrounds her assimilation to the United States. This section of her immigration experience is defined by language transitions, cultural transitions and negotiating the place of Belarus in her life. Finally, the development of Ksenijia's American identity marks the most recent development in her immigration experience. This section of Ksenijia's life is more introspective and involves Ksenijia making decisions for her future as well as giving her identity a title. In examining these three areas of Ksenijia's life, it is clear that her immigrant experience is dynamic and impacted by countless encounters, exchanges and reflection. In understanding Ksenijia's life, the complexities of immigrant life are demonstrated.