

*Social transformations: new challenges, practices,
and critique*

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Plenary sessions

Keynote lecture 1:

Jan Drahokoupil (European Trade Union Institute) - *Transformations in Central and Eastern Europe and the sociology of economic dependence*

It is somewhat ironic that the concept of dependence, traditionally associated with the Marxist tradition, has come to dominate the theoretical framework that informs economic sociology and political economy of the region that was once labelled as post-communist Central and Eastern Europe. This presentation explores the meaning of political and economic dependence in the light of evidence from the region. While the economic economies in the region are clearly dependent on multinational corporations, there is less evidence supporting a political dependence on the macro-level. On the micro-level, the notion of institutional dependence captures important shapers of employment relations in major companies, but they interact with a number of other factors, including the domestic institutions.

Keynote lecture 2:

Lazăr Vlăsceanu (University of Bucharest) – *Social transformations and reflexivity: are they convergent and are there various convergence degrees in the European Union?*

Everybody seems to agree: following on the 2008-2010 Great Recession, a new wave of social transformations would emerge bringing about a new age in the history of capitalism. Would there be any differences between the social transformations emerging in the East and the West of the European Union and between the ways social reflexivity would affect the trajectories and the consequences of those transformations? The most frequent answer to such a question is that history matters (i.e. path dependence), and that the old and still resilient European economic and political divide between the East and the West does count in how European Union may evolve in the near future. Despite its frequency, such an answer has been less accompanied by the necessary comparative analysis focused on the national and regional variation and convergence of social transformations and their knowledge base. For exploring various convergence degrees within the European Union, I take as reference two sets of information. On one side, when exploring past or present European economic and social indexes focused on development performances, most of the Eastern European countries are positioned around or well below the average, while almost all Western European countries are counted among the much better performers. On the other side, an opposite distribution would be historically featured with regard to the quantity and frequency of social and political transformations and to their knowledge base: too many and rather rarely continuous transformations in the East coupled with less systematic and innovative knowledge produced locally for grounding those transformations and social development. The question is how one may account for such divergent European variations and for the Eastern European mismatching relationships between social transformations and their corresponding tacit or systematic knowledge. Social transformations reflexivity and some intended and unintended consequences will be highlighted.

Panel 1 - Temporal conceptualisation of the process of social transformation

Marju Lauristin (University of Tartu) & Peeter Vihalemm (University of Tartu) –
Transformations at the crossroads: from diachronic to synchronic perspective

Transition societies have gone through a diachronic process of change from one form of social order to another, seeking good models and setting perspectives for development. One of the possible models could be based on the social constructivist approach, looking at the transition process as a paradigmatic change of the fundamental dimensions of the life-world: time and space and as creation of new conceptual tools for categorisation of social realities. The socio-cultural implications of these changes involve social time acceleration, resistance from the agencies embedded in the old practices against the emerging new agencies, pushing forward the changes. On the other hand, the social, economic and political changes are coupled with the acceleration of time in the digitalized world and with the compression of geographical space and disappearance of spatial limitations. All these changes in concert contribute to the horizontal restructuring of post-transitional societies along the new dimensions related to social and cultural capital relevant to the digital era.

Justyna Kramarczyk (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan) – *Winners or losers?*
Transformation, temporal changes and value of time in a view of Polish Slow Lifers

As Hartmut Rosa (2013) notes, social acceleration is the core element of modernization, and, for this reason, each transition – political, economic, social - should be discussed in terms of temporal changes. In Poland, one of the unintended consequences of 1989s market reforms was the process, defined by Elżbieta Tarkowska (1997) as an *unequal distribution of time*. Emergence of this social phenomenon has led to the diversification of temporal resources among Poles, eliminating previous homogenous character of time, peculiar to the Polish People's Republic. Polish society has divided into those who suffer for the scarcity of time due to the accelerated pace of life as well as for those for whom the excess of free time seems to be onerous.

Looking at the first group of Poles, who might be perceived as winners of transformation, we could observe that the effects of daily acceleration, which become more visible, and accumulation of these effects, more often lead them to a diametrical change of their lifestyles. Ideas such as minimalism or Slow Life are getting more and more popular among Polish people as a method to keep balance between work and private life. Contrary to popular belief, Slow Life doesn't offer simple response to the rush or parallel temporality in isolation from the rest of the culture - it rather includes a set of values, which are implemented in everyday practices in order to live in more a conscious way. Moreover, this lifestyle, based on rejection of the previous temporal attitudes, reveals new forms of time use. That is why it is interesting how Polish Slow Lifers describe transformative processes. Are they able to define temporal changes of Polish transition? What is the current value of time?

Answers to above questions will be provided by empirical findings, coming from qualitative research project, which has been carrying out since 2015. The main objective of my speech is to present crucial relationships between the emergence of slow lifestyle and temporal aspects of Polish transformation. I hope that presented conclusions will shed a new light on the complex issue of temporal changes in post-Soviet countries.

Triin Vihalemm (University of Tartu) & Halliki Harro-Loit (University of Tartu) – *Days of importance in generating rhythms and mediating power relations in the multi-ethnic Estonian society*

This paper aims to contribute to the conceptualisations of the social transformation from the theoretical concepts of personal and social time. The analysis addresses holidays and other days of importance as pause generators and interrupters of temporal routines of daily life and synchronize activities of large groups of people with special focus on ethnic groups. Approaching rhythms as mediators of hegemony and resistance, authors aim to explain the complexity of rhythms in multi-ethnic transitional societies where different social groups act similarly or differently during national holidays or specific anniversaries and the calendar of days of importance has been transformed within the political changes. Theoretically this study is built on Lefebvre's concept of rhythm analysis and his concepts of eurhythmia (rhythms interacting with one another, and the association of different rhythms), arrhythmia (rhythms breaking apart and conflicting with one another, bypassing synchronisation) and polyrhythmia (co-existence of diverse rhythms without conflict) (Lefebvre 2004). This contribution proposes an analytical model for the operationalization and empirical analysis of different rhythmic states in society conceptualised by Lefebvre, on the basis of sociological survey data about celebration practices. The model includes categories that aim to map how extensively members of society take time to participate in public events and/or special private and family activities, which groups do not pause or interrupt their temporal routine of everyday life only to a small extent or pause only occasionally as only a few holidays are meaningful to them. By exploring connection between celebration practices and various political, cultural and economic practices, authors elaborate the concept of holidays and anniversaries as mediums of acceptance or resistance to political and cultural hegemony. The site of the empirical study is Estonia, a secular and multi-ethnic transformation society where the historical layers or calendar and social differentiation are clearly traceable in the practices of celebrations of various days of importance.

Veronika Kalmus (University of Tartu) – *Transformations and social generations: An insight from within the sociology of time*

The relation between the constructs of 'social transformation' and 'generation' is complex and ambiguous. Furthermore, despite the inextricable linkage between the concepts of 'social change', 'generation' and 'time', the intricate relationships between all three of them remain under-theorised and only fragmentarily studied. In taking a socio-cultural perspective, this paper will focus on the multi-faceted role of generations in social transformation from within the sociology of time. First, the paper will give an overview of the main conceptualizations of the linkages between societal changes and social generations, elaborating on some theoretically relevant aspects of those connections that have hitherto remained implicit or marginal in the literature. The paper will focus on the phenomenon of 'social acceleration' (Rosa 2013) and its impact on different generations' time resource and time management. As a point of departure, the paper employs an assumption that the acceleration of social time, by intensifying transformation, has affected different social groups to a varying degree, bringing about emergent patterns of social stratification. As generations differ, due to dissimilar locations on life span, in their speed of adapting to rapid social changes, age has become one of the most significant markers of social inequality. In this context, time as resource and commodity, and control over time, are especially meaningful. The paper will present a methodological contribution to researching time-related categories quantitatively in population surveys by introducing a novel set of indicators for studying time use and time perception used in

the 5th round of the representative population survey “Me. The World. The Media” (N=1,500), conducted in the fall of 2014 in Estonia. The paper will also present the findings regarding time perception and time as resource for generational groups, analysed in the context of social stratification and subjective well-being. The results reveal significant differences between generational groups with regard to ‘time wealth’ and time use. The youngest generations are pursuing the most active and flexible mode in adapting to the ‘speeding up’ process by agentive time management and multitasking. The paper concludes that generations structure the transforming society on the vertical as well as horizontal dimension and tend to function as a desynchronising agent in the course of social time.

Panel 2 – Civil participation and civil society

Toma Burean (Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca) – *Political representation, salience and consolidation of democracy in Poland*

This paper deals with research into the quality of democracy and political representation and intends to make a contribution to the research on the representation of citizens' preferences in Eastern Europe. The attention is focused on the level of congruence in a period of transition (1997–2015) in Poland. The intent is to demonstrate that political representation, understood as congruence of preferences on issues, is present and improves in Poland from 1997 to 2015 regardless of the level of party institutionalization. Second, differences in congruence are accounted for. The increased salience of an issue makes political parties crowd to represent the majority preference. On less salient issues political party representatives hold to their ideological preferences. For comparison purposes congruence is operationalized as a 'one to many linkage' and is measured in accord with the measurements of Kitschelt et al. (1999) of absolute and relative representation. The hypotheses are tested using data from 1997 and 2015 in Poland. The data allows for measuring policy preference on a range of issues in economic, social, cultural, and foreign policy domains. The measures of congruence are unique in recording the preferences of a sample of citizens (before elections) and a sample of representatives after elections. For citizens, the analysis was conducted at the level of individuals and party-supporter groups, while for the MPs, it was conducted at the level of political party groups. The findings have implications for the study of how salience affects political representation and contribute to the understanding of the transition to democracy in Eastern Europe.

Arkadiusz Peisert (University of Gdańsk) – *Regional civic traditions and contemporary civic participation in Poland*

The present study argues that the quality and nature of civic participation in Poland depend on certain features resulting from the location of local communities in particular areas characterised by a different intensity of civic tradition, as defined by Robert Putnam (1993: 121-160). Hence, the traditions of a historical region where a unit of local government is located shape a particular set of cultural features which influence the level and nature of civic participation.

The concept of civic participation may appear to be rather general. In our approach, it includes both public (vertical) participation as defined by Brodie et al. and a much less specific category of social (horizontal) participation (Brodie et al. 2009). Thus, for the purposes of the present study, civic participation involves any collective action aiming to contribute to the common good in terms of improving the well-being of a particular local community in a particular area.

The present argument is supported by empirical material collected in a questionnaire survey of *gmina's* board members (*sekretarz gminy*) and local residents, conducted as part of a project entitled 'Let's Decide Together' (*Decydujemy razem*), carried in the second half of 2011 in 193 randomly selected *gminas* from the whole country. As declared in the Polish Constitution (1997), *gmina* is the basic, administrative unit in Poland. It also has the highest available funds per capita among local authority units, but is also the smallest among them.

Using selected indicators, it has been attempted to prove the influence of the regional factor, which is present regardless of other characteristics of *gminas* or features of our respondents, who reside in those *gminas* (age, gender, education and the size of their village, town or city).

Aet Annist (University of Tartu, University of Bristol) – *Poverty and participation in post-socialist villages*

Based on long term fieldwork from 2002 to 2004 within the structures of a British participatory community development programme and two Estonian centralised, i.e. ex-Sovkhoz villages where the programme operated, my presentation discusses the challenges the project activities and in particular its participatory methods posed for the socially vulnerable people in the post-socialist context. I will demonstrate how the empowered community-making of the programme training sessions for the local community facilitators and the various events in the villages came to blame villages as environments where little if any success could be achieved. Through the participatory process, groups and individuals, particularly the poorest, became seen and recognised themselves as beyond help. Utilising various governmentality theories and my more recent fieldwork data since 2012 in a similar context, I will discuss some of the longer term consequences of organising and funding social life based on participatory principles, how these processes become part of the emergent class relations and fit into neoliberal political economy.

Mihai Stelian Rusu (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu) – *Fashioning the post-national self: The changing politics of civic education in pre- and post-accession Romania*

The paper examines the changing facets of civic education in post-communist Romania, focusing particularly close on the radical changes brought about in both content and educational end purpose of civics. The analysis rests upon an extensive sample of schoolbooks and curricula of civic education and civic culture published from 1992 (when the discipline was first introduced in post-communist Romania) to present time. The sample of civic textbooks is completed by a collection of national history schoolbooks used in primary and secondary education, which were other educational media of shaping the selfhood of Romanian students. Based on a critical discourse analysis grounded in identity theory, the paper argues that a major discursive shift had occurred between 2000 and 2006, a process galvanized by Romania's initiative to join the European Union. Consecrated in the National Curriculum of 1998, the content of civics schoolbooks changed dramatically from a nationalist towards an Europeanist orientation. Along similar lines, its end purpose was redefined from bringing up Romanian patriots suffused with the values underpinning a nationalist ethos towards shaping a post-national, civic selfhood within the cosmopolitan ethics embraced and promoted by the European Union. The paper concludes by highlighting that education in general and civics in particular have been used as political vehicles in a state-run project meant to smoothen the way for Romania's accession to the EU. Besides their manifest function of shaping a civic culture designed to strengthen the country's emerging democratic value-system, civic education has also served a secondary, political latent function, that of proving to the European Union's officials the democratic commitments Romanian authorities have undertaken by fashioning a post-national selfhood through civics.

Ionel Nicu Sava (University of Bucharest) – *Changing patterns of civic participation in East Central Europe. From transactional to self-organization activism*

There has been a lot of debate in the last decade and a half whether diminished social trust and public participation at the end of transition to democracy and market economy in East Central

Europe (Howard 2002) could be compensated by new form of civic participation. It was said transactional activism, i.e. foreign assistance driven activism (Petrova and Tarrow 2006), could be a proper replacement at least for the much needed mobilizations such as the anticorruption campaigns in Bulgaria and Romania and the pro-democracy rallies in Hungary and Poland. However, a side effect has occurred in due time: submission and NGO-ization of protest which means activists do mainly what money tells them to do. Recent research (Jacobsson 2015) point out new forms of participation that usually are not 'seen' by the world surveys. Radical activism and people self-organization are two new forms of activism in Central and Eastern Europe. Radical activism is focused on hot issues (immigration, minorities, LGBT) and mobilize people due to a radicalization process. People get angry and turn nasty. Not all countries experience it but Hungary. Self-organization is actually the new type of activism which is specific mainly to urban areas. A new generation of urban movements (Sava 2016) are flourishing and they are the source of recent protest in various big cities in Central and Eastern Europe.

Panel 3 - Transformation and development: objective and subjective domains

Borut Rončević (School of Advanced Social Studies Nova Gorica) & Jana Suklan (School of Advanced Social Studies Nova Gorica) – *Causal structure and centrality of factors of development in Eastern Europe*

The paper explores and builds upon the model of social and cultural factors of sustained development (Adam et al. 2005), which was developed for the purpose of explaining developmental performance of Central and East European countries in comparative perspective. In this paper we aim to explore, first, the question of causal structure and centrality of factors of developmental performance in a group of peripheral, semi-peripheral and core countries. Second, we are exploring the question whether the causal structure and centrality of specific factors of development change over time. Answers to both questions have far-reaching implications for research on development of contemporary societies, which mostly assumes linear and static perspective of developmental factors and, furthermore, it can have important policy-making implications.

Empirical analysis is based on data collected from publicly available comparative data for two time periods, 2000-2005 and 2010-2015. Our sample includes 30 European countries. To answer research questions we developed a novel step-by-step protocol for analysis of causal structure and centrality of individual factors. First, on the basis of operationalization of the model we select the indicators that fit the conceptualizations of the outcome and individual specific factors. Second, we test the dimensionality of the dataset using factor analysis, to decide which indicators can be included in indexes. Third, we standardize and dimensionalize all indexes. Fourth, we group countries by applying multivariate analysis of data on developmental performance. Fifth, we use hierarchical and k-nearest neighbours multivariate cluster analysis to group countries to core, semi-periphery or periphery. Finally, we produce a correlation analysis between all indicators used in the model and then use it for network analysis among various indicators. By computing a Spearman correlation between pairs of indicators we are given a correlation strength, which plays a crucial role in network analysis of factors of development. Network analysis can help us detect the structure and centrality of specific indicators, which plays a central part in integrating all the indicators in the model. We repeat the network analysis for all three groups of countries – core, semi-periphery or periphery – and for both points in time, to see their importance for different levels of development and their stability in time.

Külliki Seppel (University of Tartu) & Maie Kiisel (University of Tartu) – *Perceptions of risk and risk avoidance strategies among the Estonian population*

Based on a national representative survey conducted in 2008, 2011 and 2014, the paper focuses the perceptions of risk and risk avoidance strategies among the Estonian population. The analysis of the survey data indicates that Estonian population is polarized between those who acknowledge late modern risks (e.g. environmental risks) and have developed series of behavioural practices for managing different risks; and others who emphasise risks more characteristic to the modern society (e.g. economic risks) and remain rather passive in their risk avoidance strategies. A factor analysis of the actions taken by respondents to reduce potential risks distinguishes three behavioural strategies in managing risks which are similar to the modes of reflexivity developed by Margaret Archer (2003): meta-reflexive (focus on strategic planning), communicative (focus on

communicating with the closer social circle), and a combination of autonomous and fractured reflexive (focus on autonomous action without strategic planning).

At the same time, further analysis shows that person's perception of risks, active approach towards managing risks, as well as attitude towards future (and thinking about future in general, both on personal and global level) are significantly correlated with one's general attitude towards life, social activeness and strength of social ties. People with more active orientation towards society and wide-ranging social ties tend to be more knowledgeable and active in protecting oneself against potential risks. This calls for cautiousness in the interpretation of the perception of risks, which should not be treated as an independent factor directing the lives of individuals, but works rather as an indicator of more general life practices.

Triin Vihalemm (University of Tartu) – *Public reflection of lifestyle-related social problems in the transformation societies. Comparative snapshot of Estonian, Polish, Hungarian, Slovenian, and Romanian media*

In the course of marketization and democratization, post-Soviet governments, in seeking solutions to the social problems, had to transform Soviet-time top-down and centralised way of governing and to develop new forms of social control, (more) suitable for differentiating spheres of power (state, market, civil sector) and rising autonomy of both individual and collective actors, and resonate with the public reflection of the 'new moral basis for existence in a situation where people have choices, resources and risks' (Roos n.d.). The so called lifestyle politics, that addresses consumers' and citizens' opportunities to make informed choices and to consider the long-term consequences of their actions to the natural environment, health and further social prosperity (Roos n.d.) has come an integral part of social policy agenda. All post-Soviet governments, directly or indirectly, encountered with the neoliberal governmentality (Foucault 1988) - an approach by transforming many social problems into a problem of 'self-care' (Lemke 2001: 201) and of 'consumption'. Rose, who proceeds from the Foucauldian ideas, defines technologies of power as power elites' attempts of 'shaping of conduct in the hope of producing certain desired effects and averting certain undesired ones' (1999: 52) that is processed both through shaping the individual actors' striving towards quality of life and happiness through their embodied actions, thinking, lifestyle and self-representation (technologies of the self) and via buying and selling of relevant goods (technologies of the market). This contribution focuses on the role of media in the public reflection of the use of technologies of power in addressing the social problems and issues of social policy in the Central and Eastern European societies. How media handles the social issues like alcohol and tobacco abuse, obesity and consumption-related environmental problems? Who are positioned as responsible for the problems and solutions? What kind of solutions are proposed? What is the balance between the representation of social problems within the frames of individual self-technologies vs. changes on the social structure?

The empirical material consists of the analysis of titles and subtitles of articles and photos concerning the problems of alcohol and tobacco abuse, obesity and environmental sustainability, published in the national dailies and tabloids of Estonia, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia and Romania within the period from August till October 2015. Titles and photos, as opposed to for example longer narrative texts, are chosen as representations of tacit understandings about both social problems and the workings of media that provide, what we may call, 'social shortcuts'. The thematic, discourse and visuals' analysis is combined in this quick comparative media analysis.

Tetyana V. Ivanova (Sumy State University) – *Social transformation and the emotional state of the population*

The purpose of the study: a comparative study of the correlation between the level of social anxiety, and some of the economic characteristics of the countries. Anxiety is defined as an emotional condition of acute inner agitation, connected with danger forecasting in human consciousness. It is like experience arising by threat to person as a social object, when his position in society is exposed to danger: his values, self-perception, needs affecting personality core. Anxiety is always connected with misfortune expectation in social interaction. Social anxiety is usually studied in sociology through the structure of social fears. In this research social anxiety was considered as a generalized social disquiet. Indicators: the level of anxiety (Q83-Q84 – EVS), the level of happiness (Q3 – EVS), the level of social activity (Q5aA-N – EVS), human development index and human development rates. High growth rates of human development level positively correlate with increased level of anxiety (0.76) and negatively correlate with the level of happiness (-0.51) and the level of social activity (-0.57). Low growth human development index are accompanied by reduced anxiety (-0.88), high level of social activity (0.81) and feeling of happiness (0.71). Negative emotions can be an important regulator of social activity. It is necessary to distinguish between the qualities of negative emotions. For example, the decrease in activity occurs in depression. Anxiety is accompanied by disappearing of emotions, interest loss, and energy reduction.

Results of factor analysis. Societies with low social anxiety level are described with two factors. The first factor – ‘Democratic values’ as condition of comfortable existence. It includes such factors as safety, liberty of speech, democratic political system. The second factor – ‘Individual hedonism’. Parameters with negative correlation make the basis of this factor.

Factor structure of societies with high social anxiety level is a few complicated. Particularly, the first factor (State capitalism) has pronounced dichotomous structure, including parameters both with positive and negative correlation. Values of statehood (strong state, economic growth, orientation on personal enrichment) as the conditions of economic prosperity are situated on the one pole. On the other hand there is the negation of liberal values range. An attention should be paid to the fact that this factor includes parameter ‘Not at all happy’. This factor probably reflects existence of quite numerous social group in society striving to adjust to fast social and economic changes, using insufficiently effective ways for it. The second factor also reflects orientation on state, which is like a space for personal self-fulfilment in this case to a greater extent.

Anxiety stimulates social activity, makes people more susceptible towards, first, to social innovation, and secondly, to social dysfunction. High innovative activity leads to a more rapid pace of economic and social development of the country.

Panel 4 - Citizenship and the state

Petruța Teampău (Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca) & Daniela Angi (Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca) – *Women and public life under Communism. An analysis of the discourse and practice of citizenship in Romania*

Our paper discusses the discourse and practice of women's citizenship in communist Romania, with a particular focus on women belonging to the working class. This analysis is part of a wider research effort that examines the congruence between the principles, norms and ideological guidelines enforced by communist propaganda and mass media and the way in which such norms have been internalized and lived out by women, as embodied and gendered experience. Along these lines, we argue that women have not been passive recipients of ideological requirements, and instead they did negotiate, weigh, reject or resist part of the official guidelines regarding their civic roles. The underlying assumption is that women have their own description of their lives under communism that should not be necessarily read through the ideological lens of Western feminism ('the triple burden' of women's duties: domestic chores, job and child-rearing). We therefore examine the discourse about citizenship and the subjective constructions of citizenship, focusing on women belonging to the working class. To this end, we have performed discourse analysis on articles published in the magazine *Femeia* (1970-1989) on topics related to the public role of women, their civic and political duties, their expected tasks in the public life, workplace and family. The magazine *Femeia* used to be a major, widely read publication dedicated to women, published by the National Council of Women. As previously noted, we are interested not solely in how the official discourse projected, normatively, the image of the righteous women citizen; we also consider how such norms have been transmitted through the work-place (an important area of socialization and peer-pressure) and how women responded to these sets of guidelines on citizenship and public life. In this sense, we discuss the results of a series of interviews with women who used to be factory workers in a small town near Cluj-Napoca (Turda). Inquiring into these narratives can help us understand the impact of ideological pressure, how women conceived their civic status and made sense of their citizenship and possibly identify unexplored sources of women empowerment.

Ojārs Stepens (Latvian Academy of Culture) – *The organization of the cultural sphere in the non-democratic regimes in Eastern Europe: The new edition of the totalitarian experience of the 1930-ties and 1940-ties*

Organization and administration of cultural institutions is a field of interest of the culture management research practice nowadays. Though the basic principles of management including cultural management have been known since ages. One of the periods crucial for designing and applying new methods of culture management was 1930-ties to 1940-ties, when totalitarian regimes launched a number of social experiments. Certain practices rooted back in the totalitarian regime culture management development can be traced within the current non-democratic regimes in the Eastern Europe, Russia or Belarus can be mentioned here as characteristic examples. Among these such practices as de-privatization, establishment of state controlled professional cultural institutions and the control of financial assignments are widely applied. Another characteristic feature linking the early totalitarian regimes with the actual non-democratic culture management practices in the Eastern Europe is referred to implication of a cultural policy mixing state, public and private entrepreneurship under an ideological and political control by the state authorities. The proposed research paper provides a detailed analysis of how the current non-democratic regimes in the

Eastern Europe use the legacy of the early totalitarianism in the development of their cultural policies.

Klaus Mueller (AGH University of Science and Technology) – *Post-communist stateness problems. Concepts and cases*

Looking back on three decades of transformation theory, one of the most consequential deficits has been a narrow understanding of post-communist state-building. Given the zeitgeist of the 1980s, a negative theory of the state seemed plausible: Nothing confirmed the aversion against the 'dead hand of the state' better than the economic failure of communism. Transition to the market and democracy where the slogans of the day, both articulated against bureaucratic inertia, corruption and a repressive state. Political analysis was focused upon elections, an emerging middle class and civil society actors as promoters of democracy. The post-communist state, if brought into the picture at all, was characterised by formal textbook criteria of a 'minimal state', as a 'political system' or as a bundle of constitutional rules. Among the few authors who identified stateness as a precarious condition of democracy were J. Linz and A. Stepan. Territorial integrity and inclusive citizenship rights, as stressed by the authors, were however only two elements in a broader class of stateness problems which burdened the post-communist societies. As least as important appeared if and how the states could gain and defend relative autonomy in the turbulent environment of post-communist power struggles.

The paper will illustrate different ways to cope with the multidimensional problems of stateness in Central Eastern Europe, Russia and Ukraine. While the first group of countries managed to consolidate their state with the help of transferred institutions (from the European Union) and a restored sovereignty, Russia and Ukraine had to define their borders and redefine their national identity. Russia suffered from a partial collapse of state autonomy during the turbulent 1990s, but switched to an authoritarian recentralization of power after the turn of the century. Ukraine's state-building was from the beginning fraught with regional divisions and state-capture of competing fractions of oligarchic clans, both sharpened by the clash with Russia on its geopolitical orientation.

Tomáš Kostecký (Czech Academy of Sciences) – *Voting patterns in Czechia – what transformation has changed and what has not*

The paper deals with the electoral behaviour of voters on the territory of contemporary Czechia. It analyses the long-term development of voting patterns in parliamentary elections since the introduction of the universal suffrage in 1918. It concentrates on identification of factors that contribute to either the long-term stability, fluctuations or dramatic changes of spatial patterns of electoral support for political parties and party families. The electoral data are used as a proxy measure of value structures of inhabitants in the observed period. The key question is what kind of values tend to be more stable than others over time and why.

Panel 5 - Transformation studies and challenges in sociology

Tomasz Warczok (University of Warsaw) – *Centre and (semi)periphery: Polish sociology in the world space after 1989*

The paper concerns the structure and the position of the Polish sociological field (in Bourdieu's sense) in the world space of social sciences. In order to show deep structures and internal divisions of the Polish field, it will be compared with two key global fields: the American field, which features the global institutional hegemony and the French field that could be seen as the main 'provider' of the most important and the most frequently discussed theoretical approaches (Foucault, Bourdieu, and Latour). Thanks to the comparative analysis of the French, Polish and American sociological journals, the dominant 'style' of national, sociological thought will be showed. In turn, the network analysis of citations and intellectual collaboration will account for the place occupied by the Polish field in the international circulation of ideas (theories, methods) and the main ways of their local usages

Tomasz Zarycki (University of Warsaw) – *Is a politically non-engaged and impartial analysis of the social transformation possible?*

Social scientists differ on the question to what an extent analysis of social processes should be critical and politically engaged. The issue I would like to address in my proposed paper is, however, a version of another classic dilemma: is an entirely apolitical and disinterested study of social processes possible at all? I tend to be very sceptical about such possibility, and I would like to use the case of transformation in Central and Eastern Europe as a specific example demonstrating problems with achieving full impartiality of sociological analysis. Several reasons for this argument have been already discussed in previous debates. They include, in particular, such hidden assumptions lying behind most of the scholarly analysis as choice and definitions of specific notions and concepts, as well as a choice of statistics. A good example of such concept is the opposition between the 'losers and winners of transformation' which have been already critically discussed by several authors. Another interesting case is the way in which cleavage based on the attitude to globalization and Western core in Central and Eastern Europe is interpreted and labelled. However, in my paper I would like to focus on other important aspects of the problem. First on the fact that social sciences are mainly focused on establishing and judging proportions. They include looking for different types of symmetries, which in particular define such key notions as 'centre', 'moderate' or 'mainstream'. Key stakes in such games are definitions of 'neutrality' which are related to establishing definitions of radicalism as points of reference. Another important aspect of academic work is establishing proportions. This is, in particular, obvious in any historical type analysis where such things as 'casualties', 'sufferings' or 'crimes' are compared and often measured. A good example of a field where such measurements are crucial is the post-colonial theory. This also involves the question of choice of the focus and definition of the context of specific academic studies. In theory, such choice should be free and based solely on academic inquisitiveness. In practice, however, it implies some crucial political and normative assumptions on which any study is based, whenever researchers are aware of them or not. They are linked to another important factor restricting impartiality of social research in the region, namely intense social pressure for producing pragmatically oriented studies, in particular answering such pertinent questions as how to overcome the underdevelopment of the region.

Agnieszka Kolasa-Nowak (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Lublin) – *Between universal tendencies and local responses. New challenges in Polish contemporary sociological research*

Almost three decades after the fall of communism CEE societies are facing new challenges, which come both from global and regional incentives. Generational change opens new configurations of social life and stands for new analytical perspectives. Sociological research in Poland is trying to capture these new tendencies. The most interesting questions are: Is still a general thinking on transformation possible? What is the dominant way of framing of important issues and defining main processes in Polish society? Is it a global/European perspective or the strictly CEE/Polish point of view? What new types of social agents are being identified? How are the main social problems being monitored? What are the today perspectives on social inequalities, power and structure? Sociologists are recently focused mainly on bottom-up approach, stressing the grass-root activities of social agents. There is also an issue of empowerment of peripheral and subaltern social actors both in public sphere and in everyday life.

An attitude toward idea of modernization, whether affirmative or, more often, critical, has become a subject of deeper reflection, compared to plain and evident use in the first decade of post-communist transformation. Generational change of Polish social scientists comes along with the search for a new approach to theorize the conditions of change, its prospects and barriers. Critical analysis led in a centre - periphery context is a quite popular way of setting the research agenda. There is also a shift in research methods towards anthropological and historical ones. The stress is put on an every-day experience in cultural context. It becomes more reflexive way of thinking, with growing awareness of the contextualized conditions of producing knowledge in contemporary social sciences.

Reflection on these issues will lead to a final question concerning possible application of Polish sociological interpretations to other CEE or post-communist societies. Is a common frame for such regional generalizations plausible?

Elena Danilova (Russian Academy of Sciences) – *Nature of individualization in post-communist society – sociological interpretations and limitations*

In post-communist societies the process of individualization has been reinforced and accelerated during last two decades. Not denying similar globalizing factors, the extra pushing forces of individualization in these countries seem to be different from those in the western societies. Such forces are encapsulated in the consequences of the dramatic social transformation. The researches show that individualist values and egoistic claims increased so fast in these societies. Russian society is a telling example of the trends. There seem a lot of 'naked individualism' and alienation in the way people arrange their lives and social practices under capitalist conditions aggravated by unadjusted rules and norms. However the trend is arguable as the phenomena contain traits of pseudo-individualism and kind of patrimonial relations. The paper searches for explanation in the field of competing theories. Changing paradigm of social development in these societies and the fall of the safety of individuals rather led to the mobilization of traditional mechanisms of survival and self-preservation, with the consequent transfer into modern as well as patron-client relationships. The structural framework in which individuals and groups act is constantly reinterpreted and in this way the social setting acquires new shapes and agency.

Panel 6 - Social welfare, social policies, and public responses

Gavin John Rae (Kozminski University Warsaw) – *Divergence not convergence. The strengthening of the post-communist welfare state model in Central and Eastern Europe after joining the European Union*

This paper investigates the types of welfare state in the post-communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) in relation to those in the rest of the European Union. Using cluster analysis methods we have tested the welfare state typology developed by Esping-Andersen and at how it relates to the countries in CEE. At the beginning of the post-Communist transition many hypothesised that the welfare states in CEE would converge with one or more of the Esping-Andersen typologies. (Deacon 1993; Esping-Andersen 1997) It was also speculated that this process would speed up after enlargement of the EU. Others claimed that historical legacies would impose a different path of development on at least some of the Post-Communist welfare states (Pierson 2004).

The vast majority of empirical research carried out on this topic took place in the period just prior to or shortly after the expansion of the EU. (Deacon 2000; Fenger 2007; Rys 2001; Sengoku 2004). These studies tended to find that the welfare states in CEE do not fit with the Esping-Andersen typology and furthermore that there is little similarity between the types of welfare states in CEE themselves. The aim of our research is to test to what extent convergence has occurred and/or whether a distinct post-Communist welfare typology is discernible, over 10 years after the eastern enlargement of the EU.

We have done this through carrying out a cluster analysis at two dates: 2004 and 2014. We have followed as close as possible the method and choice of variables used by Saint Arnaud and Bernard (2003) and replicated by Fenger (2007). However, for the first time this is applied to the post-Communist countries in the EU. The data was taken where available from Eurostat. The indices were grouped into 3 categories (government policies, social situations and political participation), which follows the Esping-Andersen method.

Contrary to previous hypotheses we have found no evidence of the post-Communist EU states converging with the Esping-Andersen models. Also, we have found a distinct post-Communist welfare model, with its own identifiable features. Furthermore, this model has actually strengthened over the ten year period, showing that a process of welfare divergence rather than convergence is actually occurring. This model has features close to the liberal typology (e.g. low social spending, weak social redistribution); a weak social countermovement to commodification (e.g. low trade union membership) and specific features based on historical legacies (e.g. large public infrastructure such as hospitals).

We are presently working on testing this model further, through incorporating new indices on matters such as social stratification.

Katarzyna Piotrowska (Kozminski University Warsaw) – *The opinions of Polish society towards the welfare state. Comparing social attitudes in Poland with the characteristics of the post-communist welfare state model*

This paper builds upon recent research carried at Kozminski University in Warsaw into the welfare state in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), based on available European data sources. (Piotrowska

and Rae 2016) Using, cluster analysis methods this tested the welfare state typology developed by Esping-Andersen and at how it relates to the countries in CEE in comparison to other EU countries. It was found that there was little convergence between the welfare states in CEE with any of the Esping-Andersen models. Furthermore, a distinct welfare state model was identified in these post-Communist welfare states. This is close to the liberal model (e.g. low social spending and wealth redistribution) but with particular post-Communist features (e.g. large public infrastructure such as hospitals).

This paper takes this research a step further by analysing the social opinions in one of the countries from CEE (belonging to the post-Communist bloc): Poland. Our analysis of the welfare states has shown that the Polish welfare state has many features typical of the model in CEE. The aim of this paper is to investigate how close the opinions of Polish society are to the features of the post-Communist welfare states (identified in our previous analysis). It draws on new and original data from public opinion polls carried out by the CBOS polling agency in May 2016, on a random sample of 1001 Poles.

These questions were grouped into categories reflecting the three areas of analysis of Esping-Andersen: decommodification, social stratification and social countermovement. Previous research into public opinion in Poland on the welfare state has revealed that Polish society holds strong pro-welfare opinions. (Wenzel and Zagórski 2006; Rae 2014) This means that they generally hold opinions that are close to the social democratic welfare model: e.g. high social spending, large social redistribution and strong government intervention. We therefore hypothesise that the opinions of Polish society will not match many of the liberal features of the post-Communist welfare states. On the other hand, we expect to find that they will reflect some of distinct features of the post-Communist welfare states, as its large inherited public infrastructure has formed strong social interests connected to public services.

The questionnaire includes questions on opinions towards issues such as taxation, universal public services, social spending, trade unions and social inequality. Part of our research will also include an analysis of the opinions of different social groups (based on such things as age, income and gender) towards the welfare state.

Bianca Buligescu (Romanian Academy of Science) – *Surviving and coping strategies used by the working poor in Romania – unintended responses to economic and social policies*

According To Eurostat over 124 million people in the European Union— that is 25% of the UE citizens — are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Romania ranks second in the EU, 41.7% of the population was at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2014 with a decrease of 4% from 2007 (The World Bank 2014, Eurostat main indicators). Although Romania had a low unemployment rate of 5.8% in 2014 declining from 6.4% in 2011 (Enache 2013), 18.6% of the employed people aged 18-64 years were working poor (Eurostat 2014). The low unemployment rate in Romania is explained by alternative strategies to unemployment: temporary work migration, permanent work migration, urban to rural migration and the practice of subsistence agriculture or undeclared work (Preoteasa 2013). The main research questions are: 1) who are the working poor and what are their risk mitigation strategies? 2) How do existing policies affect poverty risk mitigation strategies and the risk of poverty? The first section gives an overview of the Romanian economic and social policies over the last 25 years, describes the institutional framework and gives an overview of the public

policies and legislation adopted to tackle the economic crisis and their consequences on poverty and in-work poverty. The second section uses secondary aggregate data to describe the labour market in Romania, the coping strategies and the unintended effects of social and economic policies. The third section presents a brief literature review on poverty and in-work poverty in Romania. The fourth section gives an overview of the EU-SILC panel 2006-2014 dataset and the Family Household Budget Survey 2006-2014 and the methodology used. The fifth section presents the factors associated with poverty and in-work poverty in Romania and its main aim is to decompose the factors affecting in-work poverty supplemented by macro-economic data. This section compares findings from cross-sectional data to longitudinal models based on the EU-SILC 2006-2014 data. Further the chapter conducts robustness checks by comparing the findings from the EU-SILC income data to findings from expenditure data the Family Household Budget Survey 2006-2014 which captures the dimension of smoothing consumption. The sixth section concludes by discussing the main findings and integrates them within the existing literature.

Marinela Istrate (Al. I. Cuza University of Iași), Gabriel Camară (Al. I. Cuza University of Iași) & Raluca Ioana Horea-Șerban (Al. I. Cuza University of Iași) – *Economic and social-demographic determinants of crime. A statistical-territorial approach for Romania*

After the collapse of communism, Romania, just like other Centre and East European countries, has experienced profound social and economic mutations, reflected in all activity sectors (from the transition to a market economy and democratic freedom-based society to the decreasing number of active and working population, increasing unemployment, the growth of the risk of poverty, rising vulnerability of certain socio-professional groups). The economic and social inequality can have a severe impact on the most vulnerable local communities, including the growth of crime rate both on people and properties.

Starting from these ideas and applying an appropriate methodology, this study aims at making a statistical – territorial analyses of the crimes committed between 1990 and 2014, both at the national and regional level, pointing out the regional disparities in the distribution of this indicator. The second part of the study centres on identifying some correlations between crime rate and a series of economic variables (GDP per capita, GDP growth rate, male and female unemployment rate) as well as socio-cultural ones (education, age, gender, ethnicity and religion). Finally, the study intends to realise an ascending hierarchical classification (cluster) and to emphasise the areas where the correlations have a strong significant and positive relationship between these determinants.

The outcomes prove that Romania has entered a new social, economic and political paradigm and reducing poverty and crime, as well as rethinking the social policies by adapting to the new European realities remain some of the main challenges of the future.

Panel 7 - Identity changes

Radosveta Dimitrova (University of Stockholm, Hiroshima University), Pasquale Musso (University of Palermo), Skerdi Zahaj (University of Tirana), Iva Polackova Solcova (Czech Academy of Sciences), Venzislav Jordanov (University of World and National Economy), Delia Ștefenel (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), Fitim Uka (Kosovo) & Peter Tavel (Palacky University) – *National collective identity in European societies in transition: Salience and relations to life satisfaction for youth in Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Kosovo and Romania*

We investigate national collective identity and life satisfaction among youth in Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Kosovo, and Romania. All countries are developing emerging nations following the collapse of the communism in late 1980s in Eastern Europe. We adopt the notion of collective identity framework denoting group membership, affective commitment, and closeness to other members of the group as well as behaviours (Ashmore, Deaux, & McLaughlin-Volpe 2004). Participants were 880 adolescents ($M = 15.57$ years, $SD = 1.34$) with Albanian ($n = 209$), Bulgarian ($n = 146$), Czech ($n = 306$), Kosovan ($n = 116$), and Romanian ($n = 103$) background who filled in the National Identity Scale investigating five collective identity domains (Dimitrova et al. 2016) and Life Satisfaction Scale (Diener et al. 1985). A multi-group path model showed that national self-categorization, evaluation, importance, attachment, and behavioural involvement were significantly positively related to a single underlying factor we labelled national collective identity. In all groups, youth with a stronger national collective identity reported higher levels of well-being. These results are particularly valuable in providing new knowledge on the construct of national identity from a collective identity perspective among under investigated samples from unique countries in Europe faced with dynamic societal changes.

Jennifer Todd (University College Dublin) – *Identity change in conflict and in peace*

It is often argued that protracted violent conflict polarises populations, provoking closure in boundaries, driving individuals to reaffirm their identity, legitimate their own responses and demonise the other. In short, once identities are forged in conflict, it may be very difficult to unmake them, while in peaceful situations people are free to take on new ideas, adopt global or cosmopolitan values and identities, criticize the old and move on. Yet there are important counter-arguments: that the experience of protracted conflict can also prompt considerably more reflection on traditional identities than exists in stable environments where identity is what Billig (1995) calls 'banal' and seldom challenged or questioned.

This paper allows an assessment of these competing claims through research in a natural experimental arena, comparing the extent and depth and impact of identity change in a conflict-ridden society that has recently reached settlement - Northern Ireland - and in a culturally comparable but long peaceful society - the Republic of Ireland. The paper is based on extensive qualitative research (220 interviews) and measures 'identity innovation' and its triggers in each society. It turns out that innovation is twice as extensive North and South and also has distinctive triggers - normative dissonance. The implications for societies in process of transformation is discussed.

Radosveta Dimitrova (University of Stockholm, Hiroshima University) – *Family ethnic pressure, identity and life satisfaction among Roma minority and Bulgarian mainstream girls*

This study investigates relationships between family ethnic pressure, ethnic and national identity and their relation to life satisfaction of Roma minority and Bulgarian mainstream girls in Bulgaria - an Eastern European country with significant Roma population (World Bank 2014). In Europe and in Bulgaria, Roma are particularly important group being the largest indigenous ethnic minority, historically subjected to marginalization and discrimination (Amnesty International 2013). Ethnic pressure refers to experiences girls have about efforts of their family to conform and follow the traditions of their ethnic culture; ethnic identity to feelings of attachment and belonging to the Roma culture and national identity to identification with the dominant Bulgarian culture (Phinney 1989). This study is novel in the following ways: 1) provides a multifaceted understanding of socialization within the family system of indigenous minority and mainstream girls in hardly investigated region and cultural groups; 2) examines family ethnic pressure that deals with specific norms, prescriptive rules of conduct, and practices that families adopt with regard to the conservation of ethnic traditions and customs; 3) provides unique perspective of girls themselves as reflected in their subjective self-reported experiences of socialization within their family. In so doing, this study poses two main research questions of whether (1) Roma girls differ in their experience of family ethnic pressure compared to Bulgarian mainstream girls and (2) How does family ethnic pressure relate to identity and life satisfaction among of Roma and Bulgarian girls. Participants were 51 Roma minority and 82 Bulgarian mainstream girls (mean age 15.96 years) who completed ethnic and national identity scales (Dimitrova et al. 2014), family ethnic pressure and satisfaction with life scales (Diener et al. 1985). Results showed that, Roma girls reported significantly higher scores on family ethnic pressure than mainstream girls. Correlation analyses showed that family ethnic pressure was significantly and positively associated with life satisfaction and national identity and negatively with Roma ethnic identity for Roma girls only. No significant relations among family ethnic pressure, identity and life satisfaction for Bulgarian girls emerged. These findings point out to the unique contribution of experiences Roma girls have about efforts of their family to follow the traditions of their Roma culture, which is positively related to their sense of strong national identity and improved life satisfaction. Yet, ethnic socialization pressure from the family is negatively related to the development of a strong sense of Roma ethnic identity. This study highlights the relevance of contextual influences on ethnic socialization experiences and their relation to identity and life satisfaction among Roma girls.

Panel 8 - Democracy and civil society at new risks: political challenges, public responses

Tadeusz Szawiel (University of Warsaw) – *The far-right voter: social bases or ideas? The predictors of voting for radical Right parties in EU countries*

The paper will address two problems: the social characteristics of voters who identify themselves as 'far-right' and vote for radical right (populist) parties. Secondly, what are the factors that are conducive (or are good predictors) to voting for radical right parties in distinction to all others? Beginning with H. Kitschelt's (1997) and P. Norris' (2005) seminal works we know that social bases, i.e. changes in social structure and economy are not sufficient conditions for the appearance and stability of radical right parties. Kitschelt and Norris identified the party system and the electoral rules as two additional factors for radical right parties' electoral successes. The analyses in this paper will concentrate on 4 types of factors. In designing different models of logistic regression it will be shown to what degree 1) social and demographic factors, 2) attitudes toward immigration, 3) satisfaction with institutional performance, and 4) ideological factors, contribute to casting a vote for radical right parties. The analysis will include 9 Western European democracies (Austria, Sweden Finland, Norway, Netherland, Denmark, Belgium, France, and Switzerland) and 4 Central European countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland). The analyses will be based on the cumulative ESS data set (2010-2012); a more detailed analysis of the Polish case will be based on additional recent (2014) national surveys.

Iza Desperak (University of Łódź) – *Anti-gender, homophobic, anti-European, anti-migrants... New threat or old well known classical conservatism radicalism in Eastern and Central Europe?*

We do observe emergence of new radicalisms: directed against something called gender, against LGBT rights, against abortion, against European Union, most recently against migrants.

On the one hand those movements seem to be emerging recently, around new issues and debates: so called anti-gender movement calls to protect families from making boys wearing skirts (and indirectly changing not only sexual orientation, but biological sex). Anti -migrant movement seems to be just a reaction to new wave of migration, and anti-European attitudes seem to result from crises inside Europe concerning not only migration crisis.

On the other hand those new threats to European democracy follow some earlier phenomena. Anti-gender movement follows old movement against abortion, contraception, in vitro fertilisation, having resulted in abortion [near] ban in Poland and pro-life marches in several Eastern and Central European countries. Anti LGBT-rights movements base on open homophobia in public discourse, and legal discrimination of the issue in such countries as Russia and Lithuania. Anti-migrant movement results from xenophobic and nationalistic discourses serving for state patriotisms, and anti-European discourses date from the beginning of European integration process. The paper is to analyse those phenomena and try to diagnose those threat s to democratic order.

Florin N. Feşnic (Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca) – *Institutional and societal determinants of democratic backsliding in post-communist countries: Comparing Hungary and Romania*

This paper will compare the role of some important institutional and societal determinants of democracy in two post-communist countries, Hungary and Romania, focusing on the role of political institutions. I argue that the severe democratic backsliding that we witness in Hungary in recent years is largely an effect of institutional design (I call this “institutional inequality” - e.g., gerrymandering, overrepresentation of pro-FIDESZ rural districts, facilitating the vote of pro-FIDESZ diaspora in neighbouring countries, while limiting the right to vote for Hungarian migrants, less inclined to support FIDESZ). Nonetheless, this is not just the effect of institutions; it is the interactive effect of institutional inequality and societal factors. For instance, in the last election (2014), the diaspora vote gave FIDESZ the extra seat needed for a two-thirds majority in the legislature, and FIDESZ used this to further its agenda (including further constitutional revisions). In contrast, Romania’s relative democratic stagnation can also be explained as the result of an interaction between political institutions (institutional equality) and more favourable societal conditions (a more active and pro-democratic civil society, including the diaspora, which played an important role on several occasions, including the last presidential election in 2014). Therefore, the contribution of this paper is not merely to offer a list of institutional and societal factors that play an important role in democratization, but also discussing how their interaction can turn either into a vicious circle (Hungary) or a virtuous one (Romania).

Panel 9 - Innovations and labour market

Borut Rončević (School of Advanced Social Studies Nova Gorica) & Victor Cepoi (School of Advanced Social Studies Nova Gorica) – *Social embeddedness of innovation: East and West compared*

Innovation processes are recognized as the key aspect of competitiveness of contemporary societies and the differences in innovative capacities can explain the differences in economic performance between the innovative (core) countries of the Western Europe and less innovative (semi)peripheral countries of Eastern Europe. The paper is recognizing that innovative processes do not exist in a vacuum but are embedded in their social settings, are influenced by this setting and are also influencing social setting. This leads to either virtuous circle, where environments conducive to innovations enjoy sustained long-term prosperity based on innovative high value-added products, or vicious circle, where policies to enhance innovation consistently fail to achieve positive results. This also helps to explain why it is so notoriously difficult to replicate examples of successful innovation systems on national or regional levels. We use social fields theory to explain this dynamics, or lack thereof. In line with social fields theory, innovative processes as shaped by the three social forces, i.e. the institutions, social networks and cognitive frames. Relying on this theoretical framework, the paper proposes and tests a model that explains the outcomes of innovation processes, as well as the possible differences between European East and West.

Empirical research is based on secondary analysis of indicators from various international reports on competitiveness or innovations (Innovation Union Scoreboard, Global Competitiveness Report, Global Innovation Index, World Competitiveness Yearbook etc.) which are carefully selected and tested to measure the three social forces and innovation performance. Our sample includes 29 European countries, including 12 post-socialist countries from Eastern Europe for which data is available. These indicators are used to test robustness of our theoretical model, its ability to explain differences in innovative performance between Eastern and Western European countries and to explore differences in specific causal structures. To test our model and its applicability we combine multivariate statistical analysis, structural equation modelling and especially fuzzy-set analysis.

Ciprian Pânzaru (West University of Timișoara) – *Human against machine in the age of Industry 4.0: a zero sum game?*

The term 'Industry 4.0' has its origins in the German business environment. It has been used for the first time during the Hannover Fair in 2011, with reference to the need for transformation of the industry by means of adding flexibility and individualised production in order to increase competitiveness. Thus, the term defines the new social and economic context characterised by the occurrence of 'Cyber Physical Systems', artificial intelligence and extended digitisation. From this point of view, the essence of Industry 4.0 is the connection between people, things and machines.

This research analysed, from an empirical point of view, the possible evolution of Labour Market in Industry 4.0. Regarding this issues, there are contradictory views. On the one hand, there are fears that Industry 4.0 could be a generator of traditional jobs loss due to interconnected robots, automation and dehumanised smart systems. Thus, it is expected that the demand for workers who perform simple and repetitive tasks shall decrease, because these activities can be performed by

machines. For example, the World Economic Forum warns in 2015 that Industry 4.0 will likely lead to millions of jobs being lost. On the other hand, there are approaches derived from a historical observation according to which, all the technological waves occurred up to this moment have not led to an overall drawback of the labour force size. Despite having a series of jobs which have disappeared over time, it has to be considered that others were created, following new needs for abilities.

Regardless of the approaches taken, it is clear that Labour Market in Industry 4.0 should be based on a high interoperability between labour force and smart factories facilitating a bidirectional communication flow via intelligent technologies. Since Industry 4.0 means digitisation, automation, and robotisation, the discussion concerning the need for new abilities on the labour market ought to become a priority. This discussion refers mainly to the need of generating and implementing the educational elements that are relevant for the technologies or sectors which are expected to appear in Industry 4.0.

Leonidas Skerletopoulos (The Nest Hellenic Centre on Social Entrepreneurship), Delia Ștefenel (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Contemporary Balkania Athens) & Sorina Corman (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu) – *Learning from the Greek know-how on social entrepreneurship*

According to the latest data provided by EURISCE, in the whole Europe, there are 4.7 million employees in social enterprises. Given that every European country has its own framework for launching social enterprises, each state runs the so-called *socent* based on the legal, the socio-economic and cultural environment, and then promotes appropriate acts that allow their formation and growth. Having in mind this statement, within this paper we aim to provide an overview on social enterprising in two European countries: Greece and Romania. More precisely, we intend to analyse the most common types of social enterprises, either under the form of social enterprise for inclusion, for collective and productive purpose, or designed as community enterprise or cooperative. Best practices from the Hellenic experience are presented, in an attempt to lead to less effort on replicating and adjusting successful social ventures, providing thus greater social value and innovation for further social enterprises in Romania. Also, social entrepreneurship pitfalls and failures encountered in both counties are been discussed.

Panel 10 - Migration and responses to the new challenges

Bartosz Mika (University of Gdańsk) – *‘Migration tool’ revisited. Some remarks on how technology, economics and society affect each other*

‘Migration tool’ is the title of a short essay on technology migration written by Stefan Czarnowski. This Polish, Durkheimian, an inter-war sociologist wondered what (social) conditions are conducive to the assimilation of new technologies by the community. His conclusions pointed to three key factors / questions: (1) how new technology affects the organization of the work of a single member of the group, (2) how new technology affects the collective organization of work (cooperation and its social facilities), and (3) how new technology infringes routine and habits. It is easy to notice that Czarnowski’s comments relate primarily to the techniques of production. This is crucial because of the importance of the economy and market relations for modern societies. As Johan Soedeborg (2010) points out a theoretical understanding of commodity exchange as a relation that permeates the whole of capitalism which should be a starting point of an analysis of social importance of technology. But at the same time - almost 100 years after Czarnowski’s work - many everyday consumer goods are the high-tech devices. So we should expand his list to at least two more questions: (1) how consumers adopt the new technologies, and (2) - again according to Soedeborg - how technology and its spreading reflects, creates and animates social conflicts.

The main objective of the proposed presentation is to investigate if the questions proposed by Czarnowski are still relevant. Avoiding technological determinism we will attempt to identify certain complex relations between technology, economy, politics and social life. In particular, the importance of economy (or accurately: commodity relations) for the innovation process will be exposed. We assume that the science-based economy - especially in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe - requires reflection not only on the social side of innovation process but also understanding the importance of technology assimilation for the relations of production and consumption as well as conflicts based on these relations. One of the examples that we are going to use applies to expansion of intellectual property rights associated with technological development. This case is particularly important in transition countries that attempt to build a modern science-based economy in a situation of structural dependence from the highly industrialized countries.

Horațiu Rusu (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu) & Alin Croitoru (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu) – *International migration and attitudes towards intergenerational solidarity*

Our paper seeks to uncover the relations between intergenerational solidarity and migration experience in Romania, comparing people who had at least three months of migration experience abroad with people without experience of migration. We have used purposeful sampling to select both persons without migration experience and returned migrants. Observations were collected within a regional survey framework between June 2015 and May 2016. These data allow us to analyse if and how the destination country, the length of stay and the main purpose of migration (work, study, family reunification) are connected with attitudes toward intergenerational solidarity. In addition, other categories of variables, like those expressing the family structure, social status and capital are explored.

Liena Galeja (Latvian Academy of Culture) – *The semantics of the forced migration master narrative in the public discussion space of Latvia*

The so-called migration crisis in the middle of the 2nd decade of the 21st century has affected not only the Western European countries selected by the majority of the asylum seekers as their destination, but also Eastern Europe both due to the assigned number of asylum seekers due to the refugee quotas and to echoing the actual events related to different aspects of the intensification of the migration flow. The migration crisis discourse in the public discussion space in most Eastern European countries has been deeply affected by particular socio-economical and historical experiences composing the forced migration master narrative. The post-socialist condition plays an important role in respect to the thematization of the forced migration and its actors in most Eastern European communities. Also the historical master narrative specific to each community must be taken into the account. The research paper specifies the forced migration master discourse in the public discussion space of Latvia as a case study, focusing on the applied rhetoric and the semantic means referring to the involved actors. In order to trace the historical development of the forced migration master narrative, the focus has been put onto highlighting certain semantic units benchmarking specific milestones in the migration narrative affecting the population of Latvia. The proposed research paper aims not only discussing the specifics and causalities of the development of the forced migration master narrative in the case of Latvia, but also questions the possibility to compare discourse practices within a broader Eastern European context.

Joanna Bielecka-Prus (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Lublin) & Marzena Kruk (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Lublin) – *Foreign student's migration from the Eastern Partnership countries*

In recent years we can observe an increasing number of young people who take up studies in foreign countries. This phenomenon is clearly associated with a variety of factors. The paper is to present educational situation of migration in Europe with pushing and pulling factors. These factors will be presented on the basis of quantitative research conducted in Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine) with young people (N=500) who are planning to study in the EU. We will discuss some aspects of foreign educational migration: factors important when choosing the location and degree courses, chances and barriers associated with studying, expectations in terms of educational needs.

Delia Ștefenel (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu) – *Understanding transformations in conflict behaviour among minority and majority groups*

The aim of the present presentation is to analyse how cultural imprint works in intercultural dialogue. As a part of a larger study, within this paper we attempt to explain why migrants use to manage conflicts in a different way than natives do, sometimes on typical routine issues. Data were collected among first-generation Romanian migrants living in Athens, Greece (N=192). The main findings of our research are discussed in terms of differences versus similarities in communication

behaviour along situational parameters, intra-individual attributes and cultural dimensions between Romanian migrants at different acculturative stages and Greek hosts.

Panel 11 - Religion: dimensions to explore

Mirosława Grabowska (University of Warsaw) – *Religiosity, Catholic Church, and politics in Poland*

The aim of this presentation is to provide a description, and as far as it is possible, an explanation of the influence of religiosity and the Catholic Church on politics, and specifically on the electoral behaviour in Poland after 1989.

1. Short review of the theory and research on the relationship between religiosity and church(es), and politics (S. Huntington, R. Inglehart, P. Norris and R. Inglehart, J. Casanova).
2. Peculiarity of the Polish case – historical ramifications (the formation – since the late XVIII century – the national-religious identity of the Pole-catholic; the role of the Catholic church during the occupation and communist times; the Catholic church and the democratic opposition and “Solidarity”).
3. Short description of the difficult process of shaping church-state relationships in Poland after 1989.
4. Religiosity and electoral participation
5. Religiosity and voting for postcommunist and post solidarity parties up to 2005
6. The role of religiosity in electoral behaviour after 2005
7. Radio Maryja – Polish religious right?
 - (a) Radio Maryja and associated institutions; social rooting
 - (b) Who are the listeners of Radio Maryja?
 - (c) Political attitudes of the listeners of Radio Maryja
 - (d) The role of mobilization in elections and the shaping of electoral behaviour

Janja Mikulan Kildi (School of Advanced Social Studies Nova Gorica) & Matej Makarovič (School of Advanced Social Studies Nova Gorica) – *The impact of religion on social transformations: Towards understanding the impacts of Islam on (the failures of) democratisation*

Five years after the Arab Spring, the region of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is facing one of the hardest periods so far, also in terms of failures of democratization and authoritarian strengthening. Since modernization scholars have not been able to explain failed democratization in the MENA states with the certain income levels, they have searched for explanation in the so-called ‘cultural exceptionalism’ of the region, with a special focus on Islam. Advocates of ‘clash of civilizations’ thesis (Huntington 1993) argue that there is a fundamental incompatibility between Islam and liberal democracy. Various studies (Midlarsky 1998; Barro 1999; Karatnycky 2002) find a significant gap in democracy between Muslim majority states, particularly Arab ones, and others even when controlling for other variables. On the other hand, there are scholars who insist that Islam should not be seen as an independent variable that is hindering democratization but only as intervening variable that is reinforcing authoritarian regimes (Hinnebusch 2006). According to Rowley and Smith (2009) the crucial issue is less favourable opinion regarding freedom, especially religious freedom. While others stress (Fish 2004; Donno and Russett 2004) the aspect of subordination of women in Islamic, especially Arab states. Furthermore, public opinion surveys (Inglehart and Norris 2001; Sawani 2014) even indicate that Muslims have comparatively positive attitudes towards democratic political system. Therefore, testing the impact of Islam on democratic

transformations requires a systematic analysis considering both a precise operationalisation of the key concepts and a broad range of controlling variables. This is the main objective of the paper. Our regression analysis covering countries from all continents, will consider the following aspects: political issues (failed or weak states, political legitimacy), limited socio-economic development (literacy, urbanization, social trust, GDP, poverty, dependence on natural resources), cultural (religious freedom, position of women) and strong foreign influence (foreign interventions).

Zaheer Ali (Royal Holloway – University of London) – *Religious minorities in contemporary Pakistan: An emic approach to understand the dynamics of ideological domination*

Pakistan emerged as an Islamic nation-state in 1947, following the collapse of British colonialism in the Indian-sub continent. Although the new nation was intended as a special home for the Muslim population living in the then British India; the country's founders sought to ensure that its constitution would embed values of religious tolerance, freedom of belief and religious practice (Mahumd 1995). This was an important gesture for religious minorities who found themselves on the Pakistani side of the border. By drawing upon original empirical mixed-methods research, this paper seeks to promote theoretical and empirical understandings in relation to the experiences of religious minorities. Through a content analysis of key educational texts, and qualitative ethnographic in-depth interviews with individuals from religious minorities (n=30, comprising Hindus, Sikhs, and Christians), the paper helps shed light on contemporary Pakistani society. Interview findings reveal the everyday struggles of minority groups in surviving religious domination, repression and discrimination. The author provides an important insight into the utility of the notion of cultural hegemony to understand religious domination. Key concerns around human rights, tolerance, religious discrimination, social segregation, domination, social identity construction and legitimacy are explored to advance the notion of cultural hegemony.

Cristina Mădălina Ștefana (National School of Political Studies and Public Administration Bucharest) – *Witchcraft between tradition and modernity. Characteristics of witchcraft in contemporary society*

Witchcraft was and is a topic which aroused interest in almost all the historical eras, especially in the contemporary society, by the magnitude of the phenomenon and the explosion of forms through which it is manifesting. Once with the globalization, the modernization of the Romanian society and the emergence of the media empires, witchcraft, spiritualism and divination experienced a process of transformation; there was a process of revitalization and renewal of the archaic practices, by the import of practices from the Asian World, China, India, occurring New Age practices and manifestation forms. The paper proposes an analysis of the practices of witchcraft in the contemporary society: incantations, disenchantments, healing rituals, rituals of absolution, rituals of bringing the headway etc. The main objectives of the paper consist of the analysis of the modalities of performing practices, the analysis of the objects used for performing the practices, the analysis of the methods and techniques used, the analysis of the behaviour of the actants, the main purpose of the paper consisting in identifying the characteristics of witchcraft in the contemporary society and identifying the changes experienced by the rituals and practices of witchcraft in the contemporary

society. Research universe consists of people who practice the witchcraft ritual (actants) and people who have resorted to these practices (the beneficiaries of the witchcraft ritual). Research is carried out both in the urban environment (Bucharest, Ploiești, Târgu Jiu, the cities of Buftea and Bragadiru located in the outskirts of Bucharest), and in the rural environment (Țânțăreni commune, Runcu, Ștefănești village from Gorj county and Slobozia commune from Argeș county), for identifying the changes by making a comparison between the practices performed in the urban environment and the practices performed in the rural environment. The main research methods used are the interview and the observation, in some cases resorting also to "the method of the charmed one". Within the research process we are guided by the following questions, directly linked to the research objectives: "What are the major changes that occurred in the practices of witchcraft in the contemporary society?", "What are the main differences between the practices performed in the urban environment and the practices performed in the rural environment?" This paper brings to the fore the subject of an already ongoing research, representing a part of the topic of the doctoral dissertation to which the author is working.

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