

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

**European Sociological Association
Research Network 36
Midterm Conference**

**Sibiu, Romania
September 28-29, 2016**

Conference programme



THE CONFERENCE THEME

Social transformations: new challenges, practices, and critique

Transformative processes occur worldwide and can be subject to various interpretations from different theoretical perspectives. Despite the end-of-history rhetoric surrounding the initial stages of 'transitions' from state socialism to democracy and capitalism the transformations are far from being finished. Moreover, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Asia have experienced a broad variety of transformation paths leading to very different results, ranging from a spiral of economic decline to relative prosperity, from democratisation to the maintenance of hybrid or even fully autocratic regimes, from embracing Euro-Atlantic integration to insisting on traditional political and cultural divisions, and so on. These days we are witnessing the unleashing of forces that radically affect the stability of European social development. These forces manifest themselves in such aspects as rising social inequality and exclusion; widespread disillusionment after the expectations of the initial stages of transitions, increasing distrust in political and other institutions, mass migrations; political radicalisation and the threats to social welfare.

Societies in Central and Eastern Europe have gone through more or less radical transformations, while trying to balance in very different ways between universal prescriptions and their local specifics. The complex systemic changes, simultaneous reforms in different spheres, stimulated by technological developments have created social acceleration in post-communist societies. "Speeding up" is constructed as a 'natural' condition of social life in public discourses and seen as a main factor of successful transition. The socio-cultural implications beyond these processes (social stress, polarization between 'winners' and 'laggards', capacity of cultural reproduction, etc.) as well as the tensions between the agents of social acceleration and resistance are waiting to be discussed.

These problems set the stage for a more reflexive and critical way of thinking about social transformations. An in-depth exploration of transformations in this region might produce significant new lessons and ideas. Classical sociological approaches to social transformation tended to focus on large-scale changes – crises, revolutions, long-term economic and social development, whereas relatively 'small' changes can produce unpredictable and ambivalent challenges for a particular society. Such 'small' changes also require constant research monitoring, followed by theorising upon research data.

Change deserves to be explored in many areas of social life in CEE countries as well as all over the world. Some specific areas of research may be more mainstream, while others seem to be at a peripheral zone of scientific discourse. However, they are (or should be) more debatable and perhaps complicated than they appear to be. A wide range of factors arising from (and elucidated by) different analytical frameworks – institutionalism in particular – contribute to explaining the different trajectories of countries over time.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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PROGRAMME

Conference venue: LBUS Library Building, 2A Lucian Blaga Str.

Day 1 (September 28, 2016)

09:00-09:30	Registration (open the entire day) <i>Ground floor</i>	
09:30-10:00	Opening <i>Aula Magna – Ground floor</i>	
10:00-11:00	Plenary session Keynote speaker: Jan Drahokoupil (European Trade Union Institute) – <i>Transformations in Central and Eastern Europe and the sociology of economic dependence</i> <i>Aula Magna – Ground floor</i>	
11:00-11:10	Break	
11:10-12:50	<p>Panel 1 – <i>Room SA3-7, 3rd floor</i> Temporal conceptualisation of the process of social transformation Chairs: Marju Lauristin (University of Tartu), Triin Vihalemm (University of Tartu)</p> <p>Papers: Marju Lauristin (University of Tartu) & Peeter Vihalemm (University of Tartu) – <i>Transformations at the crossroads: from diachronic to synchronic perspective</i> Justyna Kramarczyk (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan) – <i>Winners or losers? Transformation, temporal changes and value of time in a view of Polish Slow Lifers</i> Triin Vihalemm (University of Tartu) & Halliki Harro-Loit (University of Tartu) – <i>Days of importance in generating rhythms and mediating power relations in the multi-ethnic Estonian society</i> Veronika Kalmus (University of Tartu) – <i>Transformations and social generations: An insight from within the sociology of time</i></p>	<p>Panel 2 – <i>Room SA3-8, 3rd floor</i> Civil participation and civil society Chair: Agnieszka Kolasa-Nowak (Marie Curie-Sklodowska University Lublin)</p> <p>Papers: Toma Burean (Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca) – <i>Political representation, salience and consolidation of democracy in Poland</i> Arkadiusz Peisert (University of Gdańsk) – <i>Regional civic traditions and contemporary civic participation in Poland</i> Aet Annist (University of Tartu, University of Bristol) – <i>Poverty and participation in post-socialist villages</i> Mihai Stelian Rusu (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu) – <i>Fashioning the post-national self: The changing politics of civic education in post-accession Romania</i> Ionel N. Sava (University of Bucharest) – <i>Changing patterns of civic participation in East Central Europe. From transactional to self-organization activism</i></p>
12:50-14:00	Lunch break <i>Ground floor</i>	
14:00-15:40	<p>Panel 3 – <i>Room SA3-7, 3rd floor</i> Transformation and development: objective and subjective domains Chair: Matej Makarovic (School of Advanced Social Studies Nova Gorica)</p> <p>Papers: Borut Roncovic (School of Advanced Social Studies Nova Gorica) & Jana Suklan (School of Advanced Social Studies Nova Gorica) –</p>	<p>Panel 4 – <i>Room SA3-8, 3rd floor</i> Citizenship and the state Chair: Elena Danilova (Russian Academy of Sciences)</p> <p>Papers: Petruța Teampău (Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca) & Daniela Angi (Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca) – <i>Women and public life under Communism. An analysis</i></p>

	<p><i>Causal structure and centrality of factors of development in Eastern Europe</i> Külliki Seppel (University of Tartu) & Maie Kiisel (University of Tartu) – <i>Perceptions of risk and risk avoidance strategies among the Estonian population</i> Triin Vihalemm (University of Tartu) – <i>Public reflection of lifestyle-related social problems in the transformation societies. Comparative snapshot of Estonian, Polish, Hungarian, Slovenian, and Romanian media</i> Tetyana V. Ivanova (Sumy State University) – <i>Social transformation and the emotional state of the population</i></p>	<p><i>of the discourse and practice of citizenship in Romania</i> Ojārs Stepens (Latvian Academy of Culture) – <i>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</i> Klaus Mueller (AGH University of Science and Technology) – <i>Post-communist stateness problems. Concepts and cases</i> Tomas Kostelecky (Czech Academy of Sciences) – <i>Voting patterns in Czechia – what transformation has changed and what has not</i></p>
15:40-16:00	<p>Coffee break 3rd floor</p>	
16:00-17:40	<p>Panel 5 – Room SA3-7, 3rd floor Transformation studies and challenges in sociology Chair: Mihai Stelian Rusu (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu)</p> <p>Papers: Tomasz Warczok (University of Warsaw) – <i>Centre and (semi)periphery: Polish sociology in the world space after 1989</i> Tomasz Zarycki (University of Warsaw) – <i>Is a politically non-engaged and impartial analysis of the social transformation possible?</i> Agnieszka Kolasa-Nowak (Marie Curie-Skłodowska University Lublin) – <i>Between universal tendencies and local responses. New challenges in Polish contemporary sociological research</i> Elena Danilova (Russian Academy of Sciences) – <i>Nature of individualization in post-communist society – sociological interpretations and limitations</i></p>	<p>Panel 6 – Room SA3-8, 3rd floor Social welfare, social policies, and public responses Chair: Arkadiusz Peisert (University of Gdańsk)</p> <p>Papers: Gavin John Rae (Kozminski University Warsaw) – <i>Divergence not convergence. The strengthening of the post-communist welfare state model in Central and Eastern Europe after joining the European Union</i> Katarzyna Piotrowska (Kozminski University Warsaw) – <i>The opinions of Polish society towards the welfare state. Comparing social attitudes in Poland with the characteristics of the post-communist welfare state model</i> Bianca Buligescu (Romanian Academy of Science) – <i>Surviving and coping strategies used by the working poor in Romania – unintended responses to economic and social policies</i> 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) – <i>Economic and social-demographic determinants of crime. A statistical-territorial approach for Romania</i></p>
19:30	<p>Dinner Hermania Restaurant, 2 Filarmonicii Str.</p>	

Day 2 (September 29, 2016)

09:00-09:30	Registration (open the entire day)		
	<i>Ground floor</i>		
09:30-10:30	Plenary session Keynote speaker: Lazăr Vlăsceanu (University of Bucharest) – <i>Social transformations and reflexivity: are they convergent and are there various convergence degrees in the European Union?</i> <i>Aula Magna, Ground floor</i>		
10:30-10:50	Coffee break <i>Ground floor</i>		
10:50-12:10	Panel 7 – Room SA3-7, 3 rd floor Identity changes Chair: Triin Vihaelemm (University of Tartu) Papers: 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) – <i>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</i> Jennifer Todd (University College Dublin) – <i>Identity change in conflict and in peace</i> Radosveta Dimitrova (University of Stockholm, Hiroshima University) – <i>Family ethnic pressure, identity and life satisfaction among Roma minority and Bulgarian mainstream girls</i>	Panel 8 – Room SA3-8, 3 rd floor Democracy and civil society at new risks: political challenges, public responses Chair: Elena Danilova (Russian Academy of Sciences) Papers: Tadeusz Szawiel (University of Warsaw) – <i>The far-right voter: social bases or ideas? The predictors of voting for radical Right parties in EU countries</i> Iza Desperak (University of Lodz) – <i>Anti-gender, homophobic, anti-European, anti-migrants... New threat or old well known classical conservatism radicalism in Eastern and Central Europe?</i> Florin N. Feșnic (Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca) – <i>Institutional and societal determinants of democratic backsliding in post-communist countries: Comparing Hungary and Romania</i>	Panel 9 – Room SA3-4, 3 rd floor Innovations and labour market Chair: Cristina Stănuș (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu) Papers: Borut Rončević (School of Advanced Social Studies Nova Gorica) & Victor Cepoi (School of Advanced Social Studies Nova Gorica) – <i>Social embeddedness of innovation: East and West compared</i> Ciprian Pânzaru (West University of Timișoara) – <i>Human against machine in the age of Industry 4.0: a zero sum game?</i> 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) – <i>Learning from the Greek know-how on social entrepreneurship</i>
12:10-13:10	Lunch break <i>Ground floor</i>		

13:10-14:50	<p>Panel 10 – <i>Room SA3-7, 3rd floor</i> Migration and responses to the new challenges Chair: Ionela Vlase (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu)</p> <p>Papers: Bartosz Mika (University of Gdańsk) – <i>‘Migration tool’ revisited. Some remarks on how technology, economics and society affect each other</i> Horațiu Rusu (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu) & Alin Croitoru (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu) – <i>International migration and attitudes towards intergenerational solidarity</i> Liena Galeja (Latvian Academy of Culture) – <i>The semantics of the forced migration master narrative in the public discussion space of Latvia</i> Joanna Bielecka-Prus (Marie Curie-Skłodowska University Lublin) & Marzena Kruk (Marie Curie-Skłodowska University Lublin) – <i>Foreign students migration from the Eastern Partnership countries</i> Delia Ștefenel (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu) – <i>Understanding transformations in conflict behaviour among minority and majority groups</i></p>	<p>Panel 11 – <i>Room SA3-8, 3rd floor</i> Religion: dimensions to explore Chair: Tadeusz Szawiel (University of Warsaw)</p> <p>Papers: Mirosława Grabowska (University of Warsaw) – <i>Religiosity, Catholic Church, and politics in Poland</i> Janja Mikulan Kildi (School of Advanced Social Studies Nova Gorica) & Matej Makarovic (School of Advanced Social Studies Nova Gorica) – <i>The impact of religion on social transformations: Towards understanding the impacts of Islam on (the failures of) democratisation</i> Zaheer Ali (Royal Holloway – University of London) – <i>Religious minorities in contemporary Pakistan: An emic approach to understand the dynamics of ideological domination</i> Cristina Mădălina Ștefana (National University of Political Studies and Public Administration Bucharest) – <i>Witchcraft between tradition and modernity. Characteristics of witchcraft in contemporary society</i></p>	
14:50-15:30	<p>Special book project discussion organized by Borut Rončević (School of Advanced Social Studies Nova Gorica): <i>Cultural political economy of East European Capitalisms</i></p> <p><i>Room SA3-8, 3rd floor</i></p>		
15:30-18:30	<p>Social event</p> <p><i>ASTRA Open Air Museum, 16-20 Pădurea Dumbrava Str.</i></p>		
19:30	<p>Dinner</p> <p><i>Ground floor</i></p>		

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CONFERENCE VENUE

The conference takes place in the building hosting the building hosting the Centre for Social Research (2-4 Lucian Blaga Str.). The building is located within walking distance of the old town centre. The closest bus stops are Teatru (Theatre) and Spitalul Judetean (County Hospital).

All conference events, except those for which there are other mentions, take place at the main conference venue, 2-4 Lucian Blaga (Library Building).

SA rooms are on the third floor. Aula Magna is on the ground floor. The coffee breaks will be available on the ground floor or on the third floor. Lunches and dinner will be available on the ground floor.

Wireless Internet access will be provided at the main conference venue. Colleagues coming from institutions using *eduroam* will be able to connect using the usernames and passwords provided by their home institutions. Information concerning WiFi access for colleagues not holding an *eduroam* account will be provided.