**Race science: Undiscovered Power of Building the Nations**

**2019-2021, supported bY FWF**

This project revisits the history of race science in Central Eastern European countries. Those engaged in the study of the history of race science often encounter the dilemma of local vs. global – though scientific racism seems to be ubiquitous, its performance varies in terms of temporal, ideological, and spatial boundaries. Recognizing these contexts predisposes mastering the ‘bad’ past of the sciences historically closed to racism. While the role of race science in Western countries, especially in Germany and USA, started to be accepted as the apotheosis of its malign influence, in other regions including Central Eastern European countries the impact of eugenics and physical anthropology, the main vehicles of race science, is opposed to this negative ‚benchmark‘. This unduly abundant contrast relegates the legacy of race science with the margins of contemporary historical reflections. Despite the obvious systematic segregation against ethnic minorities and people with disabilities in the past and present of CEE countries, understanding the legacy of race science remains in tethers. The task to critically revise the legacy of race science shall remain unattended until the ongoing reproduction of overt and enlightened scientific racism is explored beyond historical contexts. In order to solve this task, I bring into analytical focus the interrogation between race science and nation-building. The core of races science, providing the theorized arguments in favor of various hierarchies of population subgroups, makes it an indispensable tool for nation-building. Concurrently, many realms of scientific knowledge such as developmental psychology, genetics, population studies were shaped by serving the interests of statehood and the nation. While this operation of race science as an agent and structure of nation-building seems to be universal, the specifics of race science in CEE countries call for revisiting the trajectories of shaping the states and nations. In this project, I focus on Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia; the countries where nationalism developed from being peripheral to becoming unified. Along with this comparability, during my previous studies, I gathered credible evidences of inter-country cooperation among racially minded scholars of these countries that inclined me to recognize a complex transnational setting of race science, which ensured the reproduction of race science in these countries after 1945. By gathering and interpreting data about the most prominent scholars and academic projects, I explore how race science at intra-country and global levels responded to the most urgent calls pertaining to nation-building. Mainly, my work traces the course of the analogy between ethnicity and disability; one of the longest-serving metaphors elaborated by racially minded scholars in this region.