



Call for papers

Workshop

Europeanization and urban transformation in Southeast Europe

Venue: University of Graz

Date: November 24 & 25, 2022

Organizers: Ana Pajvančić-Cizelj and Dorian Jano, University of Graz

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In the last two decades, Europeanization has become a very broad and overarching social science concept and theoretical framework for analyzing various social, political, economic, and historic transformations within and outside of the European Union. The literature on the Europeanization of Southeast Europe (SEE) has grown rapidly, mainly focusing on the relationships between the EU and the Balkan nation-states and/or specific issues (e.g., regional policy, environmental sector, public administration, justice and home affairs, party politics, statehood issues). Yet, the debate on the Europeanization of SEE is very complex, and it has been still overridden by the enduring conservatism of nationalism, related to Balkan political conflicts and wars.

This workshop aims to overcome the particularistic methodological nationalism and the underdeveloped spatial optics of the Europeanization studies in SEE by initiating a dialogue between urban and Southeast European studies. We follow a critical and reflexive approach, by paying more attention to the local dynamics and 'self-understanding' from within the region towards its proper 'self' and the outside world (Mishkova 2019), and by emphasizing the multidirectional and multivocal reflections of images, ideas, and discourses of Europeanness being mirrored to and from the SEE and Europe alike (Petrovic 2014). The workshop opens a discussion



about the multiple spatial scales of Europeanization in the SEE, with a special emphasis on urban spaces. Cities here are particularly suitable analytical units for a critical and multi-spatial rethinking of Europeanization because they most clearly reflect the in/equalities within Europe, the tensions between unification and differentiation, between the homogeneous and the culturally specific, heterogeneous faces of Europe. The rescaled perspective should also reveal the role of multiple actors and perspectives that are shaping and reshaping Europeanization in various places. There is a rich literature about cities and Europeanization but it is mostly dealing with the cities in the EU member states (Hamedinger and Wolffhardt 2010; Carpenter et al. 2020; De Frantz 2021; Bachmann 2021). We intend to widen this discussion by including the currently missing SEE perspectives.

We intend to focus on the mutually constitutive relationships between urban spaces and Europeanization in SEE. Our main questions are how the production, reproduction, and transformation of urban spaces in Southeast Europe take place in the context of Europeanization and/or how the various urban phenomena in SEE influence Europeanization. Thus, we don't approach Europeanization as an overreaching and uniform one-way macro process that emanates from some localities and influences others, but rather as a socio-spatial, multidirectional and heterogeneous process where (urban) actors actively engage with, interpret, reproduce and transform.

We are interested in creating an interdisciplinary dialogue focused on cities as social entities composed of the built environment, spatial policies, and social relations and we welcome contributions coming from a wide range of disciplines such as political and social sciences, urban sociology, history, geography, economics, urban anthropology and ethnology, urban/spatial planning and architecture, or other disciplines interested in these topics. Particularly, we welcome contributions that look at the urban transformation in the context of Europeanization from a comparative and/or historical perspective or in relation to other (inter-urban, rural, national, regional) scales.

The workshop will be held at the **University of Graz on November 24 and 25, 2022**. We plan to have a small live event, but there is a possibility of switching to



an online or hybrid form in the case of the worsening of the COVID-19 pandemic situation. We kindly invite all interested participants to submit an abstract of their presentation by October 10, 2022 to ana.pajvancic-cizelj@uni-graz.at or dorian.jano@uni-graz.at. The abstract should be between 300 and 500 words, and it should include the author's affiliation, the title of the presentation, the main research question and methods, and any preliminary findings or conclusions.

The workshop is financially supported by two Marie Skłodowska-Curie projects that the organizers are conducting at the University of Graz.¹ Participation in the workshop is free of charge and the organizers can offer the reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs (up to 300 EUR) for 10 selected participants coming from outside Graz and unable to cover expenses with their own funds. The request for the reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs can be made upon the abstract acceptance.

We want this workshop to result in a special issue proposal for a relevant international peer-reviewed journal and the authors will be additionally supported by organizers. When submitting the abstract, please indicate whether you wish to contribute to the special issue proposal.

Tentative timetable is below:

Abstract submission deadline: 10 October 2022

Notification of abstract acceptance: 17 October 2022

Workshop: 24-25 November 2022

Special issue proposal submission (by editors): 15 January 2023

Full paper submission to the editors for an internal review: 1 March 2023

Submission to the journal: 1 April 2023

Special issue published: November 2023

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