



1989-2014: Twenty-five Years After. What has happened to the Societies in Central and Southeast Europe since the Fall of the Iron Curtain?

International Conference

Department of Sociology, University of Graz

September 18-20 2014

RESOWI-Center, Universitätsstr. 15/A2

forschungsschwerpunkt



Das Land
Steiermark

Occasion and aim of the conference

The downfall of the Iron Curtain in 1989 was a world-historical event. After half a century of Communism in Central East Europe, which also implied a deep-going break-up of formerly very close relationships between the countries and peoples of central and southeast Europe, the former state-socialist countries became western-style market economies and adopted democratic political constitutions. This was a revolutionary transition which in some cases implied heavy costs but which also opened up major new opportunities. The aim of this conference is to investigate the societal consequences which this transition had on both sides of the former Iron Curtain. For Austria, it implied that its eastern provinces turned from peripheral areas into central zones between West and East Europe; for its entrepreneurs and bankers huge investment opportunities opened up. For all former state socialist countries it implied a painful restructuring, for some of the successor states of Yugoslavia, in the first decade a terrible war. But later on, in the wake of economic reforms and the access of many to the European Union, it led to an economic recovery, new opportunities for work in the west and a relative consolidation of the new political systems. Twenty-five years seem to be a period long enough to draw a balance about the achievements, but also about the negative concomitants of this processes, such as the emergence of new inequalities.

Austrian sociologists have had scientific relations with sociologists in South and Eastern Europe already before 1989 and they have been very attentive about the events and their consequences since then. This applies particularly to sociologists in Graz which is located centrally in this area. In October 1987, the Austrian Sociological Association, with Max Haller as president at that time, organized its biannual meeting as an international conference at the University of Graz with the title “*Societies at Borders. Social Structure and Social Consciousness in East and West Europe.*” It was attended by hundreds of sociologists from Austria, but also from east and southeast neighbour countries and western Europe. In June 1988, a symposium was held in Graz on the distinguished Polish-Austrian sociologist Ludwig Gumplowicz (1838-1909), coordinated by Gerald Angermann-Mozetic. Several members of the department of sociology gave visiting lectures at the universities of Maribor and Ljubljana; Max Haller and Helmut Kuzmics directed a common course with colleagues of the University of Ljubljana. In October 2012, the members of the sociological department of Graz visited the sister department of the University of Maribor. Recently, a Joint Study Master Programme „*Cultural Sociology*“ was established as a cooperation between the Universities of Graz, Brno, Trento and Zadar with Manfred Prisching and Katharina Scherke (Graz) and Mirko Petric and Inga Tomic-Koludrovic (University of Zadar) as coordinators.

The aim of this conference is to renew and enlarge the contacts between sociologists in Austria and Central, East and Southeast Europe, also as a counter-weight to the predominant orientation toward Germany and the United States, and to explore new possibilities for scientific exchanges and cooperation. The contributions take stock of significant social changes that have been going on since 1989 and present new studies and findings from important areas of sociological research.

Scientific Committee

Max Haller (Coordinator), Christian Fleck, Klaus Kraemer, Stephan Moebius, Manfred Prisching, Katharina Scherke (Graz); Alberto Gasparini (Gorizia); Hadeja Igljic (Ljubljana); Mirko Petric (Zadar); Rudolf Richter (Vienna); Helmut Staubmann (Innsbruck)

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Max Haller: max.haller@uni-graz.at, Tel. (+43) (0)316 380 3541 (programme information)

Friday, September 19

9.00 – 11.00

Session 3: Patterns of transborder migration

Chair: Katharina Scherke, Graz

Saša Božić, Zadar, Simona Kuti, Zagreb	New international borders - old social spaces: Transnational migrant networks beyond post-socialist Croatia
Adrienne Csizmady, Gábor Csanádi, Budapest	The spatial-migration cycle in the last 20 years (New patterns of spatial segregation in Budapest)
Antal Orkeny, Budapest	Migration patterns of immigrant groups to Hungary in the new Millennium
Ursula Reeger, Vienna	Migrants from Central and Eastern EU-countries in Austria since the turn of the century
Roland Verwiebe, Laura Wiesböck, Raimund Haindorfer, Vienna	Circular Labor Mobility in the Central European Region: Job Finding and Labor Market Outcomes of Cross-Border Commuters from Hungary, Slovakia and Czech Republic in Austria

11.30 – 13.00

Session 4: Policies and consequences of migration

Chair: Josef Langer, Klagenfurt

Miloslav Bahna, Bratislava	Slovak care workers in Austria: How important is the context of the sending country?
Sigrid Lipott, Klagenfurt	The model of cross-border cooperation in the Alps-Adriatic borderlands: From euro-regional experiences to EGTC prospects
Martina Mysíková, Jiří Večerník, Prague	(Un)happy transition? Subjective Well-being in European Countries in 1991-2008 and beyond
Ágnes Pakot, Budapest	Transnational migration and political identities, loyalties and activities. Discourses about Romanian diaspora and homeland politics

14.00 – 16.00

Session 5: Family structures and processes (Parallel Session)

Chair: Franz Höllinger, Graz

Sergej Flere, Maribor	Changes in family patterns in post-Yugoslav countries
Armando Guida, Firenze	Quality of life of old people in the societies of Central Europe: Changes since 1989 and current problems
Letitia M. Morar, Cluj-Napoca (Romania)	Changes in patterns of family formation, marriage and fertility in Romania
Smiljka Tomanović, Belgrade	Families in Serbia within the context of domestification of everyday life

Session 6: Entrepreneurial and media elites (Parallel Session)

Chair: Dieter Reicher, Graz

Drago Čengić, Zagreb	Croatian elites, enterprises and economic crisis: Searching for new growth drivers
Josef Langer, Klagenfurt, Nikša Alfirević, Jurica Pavicic, Mira Krneta, Zagreb	Entrepreneurship in transition societies: Attitudes and knowledge among Croatian students
Mirko Petrić, Zadar	The media and modernity. A report from Croatia (1990-2014)
Leo Šešerko, Velenje	The nuclear industry as a symptom of the disturbed balance between achievements and negative concomitants after democratic changes 1990 in Central and Eastern Europe

16.30 – 18.00

Session 7: The transformation of gender relations (Parallel Session)

Chair: Sabine Haring, Graz

Ivan Bernik, Valentina Hlebec, Ljubljana	Has post-Socialist transformation implied a change in social organisation of sexuality?
Maca Jogan, Ljubljana	Social gender inequality in Slovenian post-socialist consciousness
Fatos Tarifa, Dorina Zenelaj Tirana	How Democracy has Affected the Social Organization of Sexuality and Family Relations in Albania
Inga Tomić-Koludrović, Mirko Petrić, Zadar/Split	Values in transition: The continued modernization of women in Croatia after Socialism

Session 8: Experiences, perceptions and values of youth (Parallel Session)

Chair: Bernadette Müller, Vienna/Graz

Vanja Dergić, Augustin Derado, Zagreb	Croatian youth on politics and society: Legacy of war in Croatia, disputes about democracy and possibilities for radicalism
Anja Gvozdanović, Zagreb	Determinants of generalized trust: University students in Croatia
Andrej Kirbiš, Marina Tavčar Krajnc, Tina Cupar, Maribor	Predictors of protest, conventional and civic participation: A representative study of Slovenian youth
Miran Lavrič, Maribor	Youth employment in Slovenia

19.00 Reception by the City of Graz, City Councillor Ingrid Heuberger, Rathaus (Hauptplatz)

Saturday, September 20

9.00 – 10.30

Session 9: Changes in political values and participation

Chair: Manfred Prisching, Graz

Anja Eder, Graz	Albania, the former 'North Korea of Europe' on its way towards Democracy. Changes of political trust in the course of transition
Zoltan Kmetty, Julia Koltai, Budapest	The loss of wonder. The low level of political and civic participation as the function of transition
András Máté-Tóth, Szeged	A second wave of transition in religion and politics in Central And East Europe
Natalia Waechter, Graz	The formation of European identity among ethnic minority groups in Central and Eastern Europe in generational perspective

11.00 – 12.30

Session 10: Concluding Discussion: Can liberal-democratic values assert themselves against the trend toward the new Right?

Chair: Sergej Flere, Maribor

Florian Bieber, Graz	The new authoritarian temptation
György Csepeli, Budapest	Closing of the Hungarian mind. New authoritarianism in Hungary
György Lengyel, Budapest	The dark side of charisma
Vladimir Vuletić, Jovo Bakic, Belgrade	Extreme right-wing politics in Serbia

We are grateful to the Sponsors:

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