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Almost two years ago, the Social Science Information Centre published a special issue of our Newsletter (1998, No. 3) on the occasion of the 29th German Congress of Sociology in which ten articles on different aspects of German social science research on Eastern Europe were presented. The purpose of this undertaking was to highlight the main research issues in the frame of transformation research, which stood in the center of attention of German social scientists after the fall of the Berlin wall. The September 1998 issue is available via Internet at http://www.berlin.iz-soz.de/publications/en/newsletter/socsci-eastern-europe/nl983/ or can be ordered free of charge.

The present issue is designed for the Sixth World Congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES) to be held in Tampere, Finland, July 29 to August 3, 2000. This time we have addressed well known and recommended researchers in a number of North, West and South European countries with the invitation to report on the situation of social science research on Central and Eastern Europe in their countries. As far as we know, a similar review still does not exist anywhere. Our aim is to encourage and support mutual information, networking and cooperation between social scientists from different parts of Europe.

Although we had started our call for papers rather late our request was accepted very positively. The invited authors were asked to deal with research topics, list outstanding research centres/institutions, name leading researchers in the field, describe institutions offering special information in the field, data sources and archives, list research networks as well as recent publications, important research projects, participation in international research projects, national funding sources/programmes. This was a very ambitious call for the time left for the contributors to prepare their articles was very short.

We would like to thank the authors for their national reports, which allow an insight into the framework of social science research in the different countries.

We are proud to present articles on the following eleven countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Norway, Spain,

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1 Requests can be sent by mail to Social Science Information Centre, Schiffbauerddamm 19, D-10117 Berlin, Germany or by e-mail to iz@berlin.iz-soz.de.

2 Our thanks go to all those colleagues who helped us find the right persons for the contributions.
Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom. Countries missing will get a chance in later issues of this Newsletter.

Almost all contributions report on recent trends in research on Eastern Europe. Frequent patterns are the reorganization of or reduced funding for the traditional area studies institutes (viewed upon as children of the Cold War) and the increasing interest of social scientists in focusing their research on Central and Eastern Europe. New sources of funding have been opened especially with regard to comparative research involving mixed research teams. In countries like Italy and Spain with very weak traditional interests in the area, the political events aroused some enthusiasm for such engagement, which could be stabilized only in Italy. Of all the countries presented the United Kingdom has the most elaborate tradition of research on Eastern Europe, which has been successfully restructured during the past decade to meet the new demand for scholarly information on Central and Eastern Europe.

Since the political bifocal division of Europe came to an end and the post-Communist countries were relieved from the political restrictions being imposed on them by the Soviet Union, the specificities of the individual countries in the area of Central and Eastern Europe have reappeared and had a chance to develop. Thus, some of the real or interpreted similarities between the countries have disappeared and have lead to the prediction that in a not too distant future most research on Central and Eastern European countries will be conducted within the frame of the different social science disciplines or will get integrated into the newly developing field of European studies. But even if it should be the case, we are of the opinion that there will be permanent demand for special information from and about the countries in transition.

We kindly ask our readers to comment on the articles offered and invite further remarks on the topic. Please feel free to submit articles from countries that have not been included so far.

Yours editorial board

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**Social Science Research on Eastern Europe: Country Reports**

### Austria

**Christian Haerpfer, Institute for Advanced Studies**

**Research on Social and Political Transformations in Post-Communist Eastern Europe: The Case of Austria**

In Austria, three research institutes have done extensive research on the dynamics of social and political change from the perspective of sociology and political science in the period 1990 until 2000. These specialised institutes are the 'Institute for Advanced Studies', the 'Austrian Institute for East and Southeast European Studies' and the 'Institute for Human Sciences'. All three institutes are located in the capital of Austria, Vienna. There is also some research on social and political transformations taking place in several Austrian Universities, but these activities are less focused and specialised.

#### A. Institute for Advanced Studies - IAS

The Institute for Advanced Studies is the biggest Austrian research institute in the social sciences with a staff of 110 research fellows and 30 administrative and technical personnel. The Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna has had a special research focus dealing with post-Communist Eastern Europe. The research programme in Sociology of Eastern European transformation is directed by Prof. Claire Wallace from the Department of Sociology, who is also Professor of Social Research at the University of Derby (UK). The research programme in Political Science of Eastern European transformation is directed by Prof. Christian Haerpfer. Christian Haerpfer is Head of the ‘New Europe Centre’ at the Institute for Advanced Studies and Visiting Professor of the Centre for the Study of Public Policy at the University of Strathclyde (Glasgow, UK). The data base for the comparative research programme consists of survey data from the Austrian 'New Democracies Barometer', directed by Christian Haerpfer, the 'World Values Survey' (1990, 1995) on the one hand and aggregate data from the Vienna Institute for International Economic Stud-

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3 Stumpergasse 56, A-1060 Vienna, Austria; e-mail: haerpfer@netscape.net, phone: ++43-1-59 99 1-111, fax: ++43-1-59 70 635
4 Institut für Höhere Studien – IHS, Internet: http://www.his.ac.at
ies and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD, London) on the other hand. Another important data source are qualitative data from the Eastern European Household Strategy Study, directed by Claire Wallace.

Publications on Social Change:

Publications on Youth

Publications on Migration

Publications on Xenophobia

Publications on Economic Sociology
Since 1991, Christian Haerpfer has served as Principal Investigator of a comparative research programme to analyse social, economic and political change in 17 post-Communist countries. The Austrian research programme is called 'New Democracies Barometer' (NDB) and was conducted 5 times since 1991 (see table). Christian Haerpfer organised and coordinated 49 cross-sectional representative sample surveys in the period between 1991 and 1998 (see: csp.strath.ac.uk/SEEC). Prof. Richard Rose from the Centre for the Study of Public Policy (CSPP) at the University of Strathclyde is International Scientific Advisor of NDB since 1991. Richard Rose is Principal Investigator of the 'New Russia Barometer' and the 'New Baltic Barometer', which are both organised from the University of Strathclyde. The New Democracies Barometer was financially supported by the Austrian Ministry of Research and by the Austrian National Bank between 1991 and 1998. The New Democracies Barometer 6 in 2001, which will include 17 post-Communist nations, is financed by the European Union.

### New Democracies Barometer

An Austrian Research Programme in Political Science, Political Sociology and Economic Sociology.

**Principal Investigator: Christian Haerpfer**

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<td>1.067(30)</td>
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<td>1.057(31)</td>
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<td>9. Moldova</td>
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<td>13. Ukraine</td>
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<td>16. Kazakhstan</td>
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<td>17. Kyrgyzstan</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(The numbers in cells are the number of face-to-face-interviews in a given country)


Publications on European Integration and Enlargement of the European Union


Publications on Subjective Security and Military Integration


Publications on Social Capital


Publications on Comparison GDR - Eastern Europe


postkommunistischen Transformation, in: Helmut Wiesenthal (Hg.): Einheit als Privileg. Vergleichende Perspektiven auf die Transformation Ostdeutschlands (Frankfurt/New York: Campus Verlag), 105–140.


**Contact person:** Prof. Dr. Christian Haerpfer, New Europe Centre, Institute for Advanced Studies, Stumpergasse 56 A-1060 Vienna, Austria, e-mail: haerpfer@ihs.ac.at phone: ++43-1-59 99 1-11, fax: ++43-1-59 70 635

**B. Austrian Institute of East and Southeast European Studies**

The research program of the Department for Social Sciences of the Austrian Institute of East and Southeast European Studies focuses on the development of the political cultures in the east-central and southeast European regions since 1989. The main program-lines are the construction of mental borders between western and eastern Europe and a (east/west) comparative view on national and European identity concepts in the process of European integration. Another topic of research is the conflict between gender-politics and family-politics during transition. Finally, we aim to build up a knowledge base in the process of European integration.

**Publications on the Political Culture of Transition**

- Brezovszky, Ernst-Peter; Suppan, Arnold; Vyslonzil, Elisabeth (Hg.) (1999): Multikulturalität und Multiethnizität in Mittel-, Ost- und Südosteuropa. Wien, Frankfurt am Main u.a., 342 S.

**Publications and Research Projects on Borders and Mental Borders**

- Haslinger, Peter (Hg.): Grenze im Kopf. Frankfurt am Main u.a. 1999. 208 S., Wiener Osteuropastudien, 11.
- „Migrationen im 18. Jahrhundert. Das Beispiel der Migrationen aus den österreichischen Niederlanden nach Wien, Linz, Brün, Prag, Pressburg“ (Principal Investigator: Prof. Waltraud Heindl)

**Publications on Social and Political Change in Hungary**

- Pribersky, Andreas (Hg.) (1992): Das Mehrparteiensystem in Ungarn. Wien (Schriftenreihe des Renner Instituts, Heft 14).
- Pribersky, Andreas; Forray, Katalin (Hg.) (1992): Grenzüberschreitende Zusammenarbeit und Bildung. Budapest (Oktatás Kutató Intézet).

**Publication and Research Project on Regional Studies**

- Transcarpathia - a regional socio-economic study (Principal Investigator: Prof. Peter Jordan)

**Contact Persons:** Prof. Peter Jordan, Deputy Director, e-mail: Peter.Jordan@osi.ac.at and Dr. Andreas Pribersky, Österreichisches Ost- und Südosteuropa-Institut, Head, Department for Social Sciences, A-1010 Wien, Josefsplatz 6, phone: ++43-1-512 18 95/48, fax: ++43-1-512 18 53, e-mail: andreas.pribersky@osi.ac.at

**C. Institute for Human Sciences**

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6 Österreichisches Ost- und Südosteuropa-Institut – OSI, Internet: http://www.osi.ac.at

7 Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen – IWM, Director: Prof. Krystof Michalski, Internet: http://univie.ac.at/iwm/
Research Field: Political and Social Transformation in Central and Eastern Europe

The Institute for Human Sciences’ research program on transformation is multidisciplinary (involving economists, political scientists, sociologists and historians from both the East and the West), comparative (with an emphasis on East-East comparison) and - despite its history of ideas approach - policy-related. Special attention is given to the fact that indigenous historical values, norms, attitudes and theories, as well as the exchange of ideas between East and West, all play a crucial role in post-Communist transformations. Given that Western societies are currently undergoing far-reaching changes as well, the Institute’s transformation studies focus on the problems common to both former blocs. While assisting the reintegration of academics of the former Eastern Europe in Western scholarship, Western experts are invited to reinterpret their own approaches and paradigms in light of the results of the Institute’s transformation research.

During 1998/99, the research activities of the Transformation Program focused on the historical results and future consequences of the 1989 Revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe. The Program culminated in a conference Ten Years After 1989: Politics, Ideology and the International Order held in June 1999. Transformation research in 2000 will continue to analyse the new roles the state in ex-communist countries may play in a global context; the Seminars on State and Globalisation: Eastern Europe’s Two Transformations will be carried on. The project is pursued in cooperation with a research program led by Peter Berger and Samuel Huntington on Cultural Globalisation, which examines the encounter of economic and political cultures from an international comparative perspective. The developments in Central and Eastern Europe are interpreted as a mix of US-style cultural imports, the effects of European integration, emerging Asian cultures in the region, remnants of the Soviet culture and specifics of national cultures. This program will lead into an international conference scheduled for 2001, which will highlight the Central and Eastern European specifics of cultural globalisation. Recomposing Eastern Europe, a joint workshop of the Institute and the New Europe College, will be organized in Bucharest in October 2000.

The Institute for Human Sciences’ transformation studies provide an intellectual background for its policy-related programme on the reform of social policy in the region (SOCO), and for the Central European Fora, which offer an opportunity for leading scholars and policymakers to discuss the most crucial issues of post-communist transformation.

The Institute’s long-term comparative programme on the Social Consequences of Economic Transformation in East-Central Europe (SOCO, Director: Don Kalb) has always paid attention to the institutional transformations in the welfare systems of the ex-communist countries of the region. There, a new mix of voluntarism, state regulation and market forces is in the making, from which new principles of social entitlement are emerging. The SOCO programme has accumulated a fair amount of knowledge about the basic three components of that mix. The comparative household survey on the social consequences of the transformation, which were conducted in five transforming countries of the region during 1995/96, resulted in a large database that allows for testing theories or policies of any welfare reform. In the following phase of the research program, special attention was paid to grassroots initiatives in the social sphere: to the new NGO sector, the privatization and “communalisation” of welfare, the implementation of social policy at the level of local governments, the invisible social assistance in the informal economy, the coping strategies of families, etc.

The SOCO programme of the Institute for Human Sciences provides adequate conditions to study the Eastern versions of welfare state reform. During the past couple of years, many dozen-research projects on institutional change in social policy in selected countries of Eastern Europe have been completed. In the course of the next year, a comparative study of welfare reform in Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic in the 1990s will be finished.

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Katlijn Malfliet, Institute for European Policy, Catholic University Leuven

Social Sciences Research in the Area of Central and Eastern Europe: the Belgian Case

Introduction
The Belgian universities’ map does not speak for itself, where it concerns area studies in Cen-

8 Director of this research field is Janos Matyas Kovacs.
central and Eastern Europe. It is indeed not an easy task to “discover” where exactly outstanding research centres or institutions, specialised in “East European studies” (Osteuropa-kunde), and in particular in social sciences, are located. One could argue that research institutes, specialised in Central and East European studies as a rule have “low profiles” in Belgium. Often they operate under a broader umbrella of a faculty, a department or an institute with a more general name. This picture did not really change after the collapse of communism. On the contrary, some specialised institutes on Central and Eastern Europe were merged into European institutes, with a broader pan-European scope or were integrated in a faculty and lost their multidisciplinary character. Often, one has to look for specific persons, fascinated by this area or for institutes with more general names. There are some exceptions: rare institutes profiling themselves as involved in the study of the region, such as the “Russian Institute” in Gent and the “Leuven Institute for Central and East European Studies”. Both institutes however are not focusing on social sciences but more on transition economics and (for the Russian Institute in Gent) on Russian language.

The fact that Belgium has quite some research activity going on in the discipline of social sciences related to Central and Eastern Europe is not the result of a focused policy of the governments (the Belgian, the Flemish and the French speaking) nor of the universities to create some centers of excellence in area studies or in social sciences related to Central and Eastern Europe. Instead of a result of a well-balanced policy, we can talk about “the survival of the fittest” on the one hand and (fortunately) about interesting examples of interuniversity cooperation in a differentiated and divided framework.

Area studies

Area studies remain a difficult field, especially for research in Belgium. Research funding sources, such as the Fund for Scientific Research, do not recognize area studies as a specific field of research. This implies that researchers have to apply through the (discipline-oriented) faculties. This structural problem makes inter-disciplinary cooperation more difficult.

At the Universite Libre de Bruxelles (ULB: the French speaking Free University), one discovers several centres involved in Central and East European studies. The ULB can rely on a tradition of several decennia of multidisciplinary research in Central and Eastern Europe. Prof. René Dekkers, a well-known specialist in civil and comparative law, at the end of his career became fascinated by Russian law and East European policies during communism. He established a “Centre des Pays de l’Est” at the Institut de Sociologie (Institut Solvay) at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. This centre disposes (the collection is still there) of some rare sources dating from the forties and fifties of the communist regime in the field of social sciences in all Central and East European countries. During the communist period, China was included as well.

Post-communist transition brought some fundamental changes in the ULB-concept of Central and East European studies. The Sociology Institute of ULB currently hosts a “Multidisciplinary Research Centre on the Transition of East European Countries to the Market Economies (CRITEME)". On the other hand, the Université Libre de Bruxelles has developed a Faculty Centre for International Research, which is related to its program of International Relations (Centre Facultaire de Recherches Internationales: CERIS) Central and Eastern Europe is one of the favourite research fields as some of the professors involved are specialised in Central and East European policies (for example Prof. Mario Telo). The research topics are as diverse as the interests of the participating scholars, ranging from “Democratic Transition in Eastern and Central Europe” and “Cold War and Civil Society” to “The Exile of Central European Intellectuals since 1945” and “Frontier Towns at the Turn of the 21st Century”.


In the Flemish part of the country, the university of Ghent hosts a Russian Institute, which is currently organising an educational programme in Russian Studies. In 1990, the State University of Ghent and the steel concern Sidmar founded this institute that by means of courses in history, literature, economics, law, politics, art etc. wants to contribute to the development of Belgo-Russian commercial relations. It is linked to both the Slavonic Department and the Centre for Central and East European Economies of

11 Centre de Recherches Pluridisciplinaires sur la Transition des Pays de l’Est vers l’Economie de Marché (CRITEME), Institut de Sociologie, ULB, av. F.D. Roosevelt, 1050 Brussels.

12 Université Libre de Bruxelles. Sciences Politiques. Licence en Sciences Politiques, orientation relations internationales. Module de spécialisation Europe Centrale et de l’Est (Centre facultaire de recherches internationales (CERIS) ULB, avenue F.D. Roosevelt, 1050 Brussels.
the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (which provides the director of the Russian Institute). The president of the Russian Institute is Prof. Hugo de Maegd, specialised in Russian economy. The director is Prof. Koen Schoors. Its functioning is currently under reconsideration, but it will resume its work from September 2000 onwards.

The Leuven Institute for Central and East European Studies (LICOS) was founded in 1990 as a multidisciplinary center, bringing together researchers of different disciplines who were working on Russia and her former satellite states. Soon afterwards, this institute was formally incorporated into the Faculty of Economics. It became a centre for Transition economics, focusing on labour market implications of developments in transition economies. It is no longer confining itself to Central and Eastern Europe, but tries to study China as a transition economy as well.


Last March, both the Institute for European Studies at the Catholic University Leuven and the Institute for European Policy at the Catholic University Leuven were engaged in a project to create a chair “Baillet-Latour” on the relations between Russia and the European Union. This project will not only focus on the economic and political aspects of this relationship, but it will also take into account the specific historical dimensions of the problem. At the same time, it is a careful attempt to develop Slavic and East European Studies as a real Area Study, refuting the splitting up of disciplines. Both institutes will organise teaching and research in this field, they will cooperate to analyse the new relation between Russia and the European Union. The chair aims to foster studies on Russian identity, Russian self-definition, throughout time as well as today. Likewise, The Chair will support the study of European policy towards Russia. During the 2000-2001 academic year the chair will sponsor a series of lectures.

At the Free University of Brussels, the Flemish counterpart of the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Prof. Erik Franckx is an expert on East European law systems within the Center for International Law. Prof. Franckx is the successor of professor Frans Gorlé, who founded the Centre for the Study of East European Socialist Law Systems (the so called “Centrum Oost”), at the end of the seventies.

The recently founded Baltic, Central and East European network, situated in the heart of Brussels, is a non-profit organisation that offers a meeting place to anyone interested in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as the Baltic region, whether from official (governmental), private (corporate) or scientific origin.

European institutes

At Louvain-la-Neuve, the study of Central and Eastern Europe is integrated in the Institut d’études européennes. The institute gathered quite some knowledge on Central Europe, with Prof. Reszohazy (a specialist in Hungary) and Prof. Bernard, who studies, among others, the social policy of some countries of Central and South-eastern Europe. The institute is primarily involved in the study of the European enlargement. It is also the stake of ECSA Belgium (European Community Studies Association - Belgian Branch. The director of the institute is Prof. Michel Dumoulin (a well known historian).

At Leuven University (the Flemish counterpart of Louvain-la-Neuve), the Institute for European Policy (IEP) aims at the multidisciplinary study of institutional system transformations on the European continent. The IEP’s realm of study includes the European Union countries as well as those of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The institute consists of two research groups: “Institutions and Policy of the European Union” (Prof. Delmartino) and “Institutions and Policy of Central and East European Countries” (Prof. K. Malfliet). Each group has its own profile and approaches the European issues from its distinct point of view. Both groups have a coordinated policy, take joint initiatives and have common research projects. Concrete projects of the research group “Institutions and Policy of the Central and East European Countries” are for example: The federal concept of Russia; Russian foreign Policy, Russian minorities in the Near Abroad, Institu-

13 Russisch Institut, Sint-Pietersplein 4, 9000 Gent
15 Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Vakgroep Internationaal Recht, Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brussel http://www.vub.ac.be/INTR/
tional development in the CIS, Health Policy in Bulgaria, Roma minorities in Central Europe, Hungarian minorities in Central Europe, Political and social implications of EU-enlargement, EU-Russia relations.

At the European Institute of Ghent University, Prof. Marc Maresceau has made some major contributions - both in theory and practice, to the constitutional reforms in several countries of Central and Eastern Europe\(^\text{18}\) Legal aspects of EU-enlargement towards the countries of Central and Eastern Europe are in the focus of interest of this institute. Prof. Maresceau organised several conferences on this theme, the last one in February of this year on the problem of borders and enlargement in Europe. On the other hand, the Institute for European Studies is doing research in the field of enlargement of the European Union towards Central and Eastern Europe. The institute hosts a well-organised library and a documentation centre with a complete collection of official documents of the European Union.

The “Institut d’études européennes” at the université Libre de Bruxelles coordinates the dispersed knowledge of Europe, spread over different faculties of the university. Several sub-centers created a distinct profile in specific fields or disciplines. Besides ECARE (European Centre for Advanced Research in Economics), there is CEVIPOL. Centre d’étude de la vie politique, a cooperation between the Institut d’études européennes and the Faculty of Social, Political and Economic Sciences. CEVIPOL is involved in the study of political parties, party programs and ideologies on the continent\(^\text{19}\) Some publications: “De la question albanaise au Kosovo” (J.M. De Waele and Kolê Gjeloshaj, (eds.), Brussels, 1999; “La démocratisation en Europe centrale. La coopération paneuropéenne des partis politiques” (P. Delwit and J.M. De Waele, Paris, 1998.

Besides these university institutes, Brussels harbours some European centers, which established themselves close to the European institutions and which have European officials and diplomats as their target public. The Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) is a typical example of a research institute, specialising in policy studies and bringing together diplomats and European officials. SEP stands for the Study Group for European Policy and although it generally focuses on EU-matters, it turned in the last years to enlargement problems as well. SEP is a member of an international network of European institutes and centers: TEPSA (Trans European Policy Studies Association). This independent network promotes international research on European integration in order to stimulate discussion on policies and political options for Europe. TEPSA projects include research and studies commissioned by the European institutions (Parliament, Commission, Social and Economic Committee), foundations and national public and private authorities. These studies address the functioning of the political system of the Community and its institutions and relations with national and regional structures. Research is also carried out on several Community policies such as: the economic and monetary union, Economic and Social Cohesion, Common Foreign and Security Policy, Justice and Home Affairs, Economic and Social Policy in the Perspective of Enlargement. Some publications: Jacques Vandamme (ed.) “Dialogue social et fonction consultative professionnelle dans la communauté européenne”, Presses universitaires européennes, 1993; Paul van den Bempt and Greet Theelen “From Europe Agreements to Accession. The Integration of the Central and Eastern European Countries into the European Union”, Presses Universitaires européennes, Brussels 1996; Achille Hannequart, “Economic and Social Cohesion in Europe. A New Objective for Integration, Routledge, London and New York, 1992.

The “Observatoire Social Européen” (OSE), founded in 1984 is an information and research centre focussing on the social aspects of European integration\(^\text{20}\) Its aim is to provide - especially trade unionists, researchers, politicians, officials, journalists and students - with analytical data and critical comment relating to the European Union’s activities and policies. The OSE works in three areas in particular: institutional matters generally, social policy and citizenship, economic and monetary Union (EMU). An academic scientific committee carefully monitors the quality of the work of OSE. The Observatoire Social Européen’s monthly four-page e-letter, focussing on European social news is available on the Web. Recently, OSE published a working paper on social policy implications of the enlargement: Cécile BARBIER, “L’élargissement de l’Union européenne aux pays d’Europe centrale et orientale”, 1999, 28p.

The Royal Institute for International Relations (Koninklijk Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen) is involved in European and international studies and publishes the review “Studia Diplomatica”\(^\text{21}\) This review publishes regularly

\(^{18}\) Universiteit Gent, Europes Instituut, Universiteitsstraat 4, 9000 Gent http://www.law.rug.ac.be/europe/index.html

\(^{19}\) Université Libre de Bruxelles, Centre d’étude de la vie politique (CEVIPOL), http://www.ulb.ac.be/soco/sevipol

\(^{20}\) Observatoire Social Européen: Rue PE Janson, 1050 Brussels (http://www.ose.be)

\(^{21}\) Koninklijk Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen (Royal Institute for International Relations), Liefdadigheidsstraat 13, 1210 Brussels. Tel. 02/223.41.14; fax 02/223.41.16.
on Central and Eastern Europe, related to international relations and diplomatic issues.

**Individual research in the faculties**

Individual expertise in Central and Eastern Europe can be found at different faculties of the Belgian universities.

At the Free University of Brussels, the Flemish counterpart of the Université libre de Bruxelles (VUB) Prof. Bruno Coppieters of the Department of Political Sciences is a specialist in the Caucasus region, especially in problems of nationalism, state building, secessionism and federalism. He published several books on this issue.

In Slavonic studies, the knowledge of the Balkan countries is quite developed owing to the special expertise of Prof. R. Detrez, a specialist in the languages and cultures of South-eastern Europe.

Problems of defence and security related to Central and Eastern Europe are intensively studied by the “Koninklijk Hoger Instituut voor defensie” (K HID) with its Defensie Studiecentrum and at the royal military academy. One PhD student (M. Van Bladel) is for example preparing a study on the Russian army.

Prof. Yvan Vanden Berghe of the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Antwerp has a solid reputation in the field of the history of the cold war. At the same university, L. Tasmowski is leading a centre for Romanian studies, focusoning on linguistics.

Prof. Bergmans, professor of sociology at K.U.Leuven is the Belgian representative in the Observatoire Social Européen, which focuses on social policy in Europe. This research group published a paper on the implication for social policy of European Union enlargement.

**Interuniversitary initiatives**

Notwithstanding the general lack of governmental support and the catastrophic dispersal of people and funds, there are some remarkable inter-university initiatives. The Belgian Centre for Slavonic Studies, grouping some 20 scholars, is no longer merely philological and opened up to a broader field of disciplines. The Belgian Slavonic journal, “Slavica Gandensia”, which is closely related to this center, publishes articles in the field of languages and literature, with exceptionally some articles related to other disciplines.


Both initiatives will have to prove their viability in the future. However, for the time being they are the only sustainable ways of bringing together knowledge, people and means in the field of Central and East European Studies.

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**Denmark**

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Social Science on Central and Eastern Europe in Denmark

Since the Second World War Denmark has been politically and culturally oriented toward the Anglo-American world. This point of reference has had its definite impact on cultural and scientific developments. In Soviet and East European Studies, the dividing between pro-Western and pro-Eastern scientists was obviously reinforced, as the approach to and interpretation of their object of study had wide-ranging moral and political connotations. Being a small country with but a handful of people working in the field, the divide was at times reinforced by professional, institutional and even personal factors. After the fall of communism, Soviet and East European Studies in Denmark are, as in other countries, gradually loosing their professional isolation, becoming gradually integrated into the general social sciences.

**Soviet and East European Studies in Denmark in the 1980s**

Soviet Studies were a product of the political needs generated by the cold war. Whether seen from the pro-Soviet left or from the anti-Communist and Western oriented right, the understanding of the Central and East European societies, up till the very collapse of communism, provided ammunition for the political and ideological disputes about the virtues of capitalism versus socialism. Various professional and institutional perspectives were added to this divide.

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22 Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Politieke Wetenschappen, Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brussel [http://poli.vub.ac.be/]
23 [http://www.slavnet.com/]
24 Universitaire Instelling Antwerpen, Departement Politieke en Sociale Wetenschappen, Universiteitsplein 1, 2610 Wilrijk; Universitaire Instelling Antwerpen, Centrum voor Roemeense Studies (CERES), Universiteitsplein 1, 2610 Wilrijk [http://www.uva.ac.be/nl/onderzoek/index.html].
25 e-mail: on@ps.au.dk, Tel.: +45-89-42 1334; fax: +45-86-13 9839
Until the mid-1970s East European Studies (or Soviet Studies, the terms of that time) in Denmark were concentrated in the Slavic Departments at the universities of Copenhagen, Aarhus, and Odense. Led by a few classical historians, among them in particular the late professor Noerretranders at the University of Copenhagen, they emphasized traditional area studies. The ambition was primarily to understand the logic and functioning of the communist countries - and definitely not to engage in broader theory building. In mainstream social sciences remained the exception at the political, economic and social science departments for East European Studies. Impeded by linguistic barriers, by political sensitivities and in particular the absence of hard data during the heyday of behavioralism, social scientists avoided this region.

The challenge to the area study approach came from a new generation of scholars with a dual competence in a social science discipline and a Slavic (mostly Russian) language. While few in number, this new generation also benefited from the détente of the early 1970s, which partly revived social sciences in a number of the communist countries, partly provided opportunities for travel and scientific exchange programs. Yet, it was not until the early 1980s that this new generation of scholars had reached an academic age that opened positions at major social science departments. This new trend became institutionalized particularly at the Department of Political Science at the University of Aarhus, and at the University Center of South Jutland. Here a small group of people attached to the 'Institute of East-West Studies', had worked since the early 1970s on economic and political issues related to the East-West division and especially the détente process. The Copenhagen Peace Research Institute (COPRI), established as an independent institute by the Danish Parliament in 1985, also aimed at supporting and strengthening multidisciplinary research on Peace and Security, contributed significantly to East European Studies in their assigned field. Yet, when communism collapsed, East European Studies in Denmark remained largely monopolized by the Slavonic departments. This was to change radically in the 1990s.

**East European Studies in the 1990s**

The 1990s marked a significant shift in Danish East European Studies. While the Slavonic departments maintained their area study focus, a number of social science research institutions allocated substantial resources to the study of Central and East European politics, societies and economies.

Among these especially the Department of Political Science at the University of Aarhus, has hosted a sizeable number of major research programs related to developments in the former communist block. This development was initiated with the appointment of a few junior scholars specializing in Soviet Studies in the mid-1990s, and further augmented by a deep involvement in a number of bilateral and EU funded technical assistance programs on education and research in former communist countries. The research resulted in a number of major research publications: on socio-political development in Central Europe (Curt and Lene Sørensen); on Baltic Politics and Society (Ole Nørgaard and Lars Johannsen); on Russian Foreign Policy (Mette Skak); on Russian legal development (Karin Hilmer Petersen); on environmental policies in the Baltic States (Ole Nørgaard and Karin Hilmer Pedersen); on constitutional development in post-communist countries (Lars Johannsen), and on the interplay between economic and political reforms (Ole Nørgaard). This research is being continued in two major programs. One program managed by Curt Sørensen, on nation building, mass politics, and cleavage structures in Central Europe, applies a historical-sociological approach in an effort to improve our understanding of politics in post-Communist Central Europe. Another program, 'Democracy, the State and Administrative Reforms' managed by Ole Nørgaard, explores the function and role of the state and state administration in fostering democracy and economic development in the post-communist world. The program combines statistical analyses with macro-institutional and case studies. The comparative case studies focus on the capacity of state administrations in the privatization of telecommunications and agriculture.

During the 1990s the 'Institute of East-West Studies' at the University Center of South Jutland maintained its focus on Central and Eastern Europe, and made a number of important contributions in the field: on Russian domestic politics (Jens-Jørgen Jensen and Märta-Lisa Magnusson); on Eastern Europe and the EU (Finn Laursen and Søren Riishøj). In addition Märta-Lisa Magnusson achieved international standing as a major expert in Russian regional politics, in Caucasian politics and in particular in developments related to the conflict in Chechnya. However, at the turn of the century the University Center of South Jutland merged with the University of Odense to become the new University of South Denmark. In that process the 'Institute of East-West Studies' was dis-

26 [http://www.ps.au.dk/](http://www.ps.au.dk/)
27 [http://www.demstar.dk/](http://www.demstar.dk/)
solved and the staff integrated into the newly established Department of Political Sciences at the new university. Yet, the research focus of the staff remains on Central and Eastern Europe, and in particular on Russian European policy (Jens-Jørgen Jensen), Central European politics and society (Lene Bøgh Sørensen), political parties (Søren Riishøj), and center-periphery conflicts and federalism in Russia (Mårtha-Lisa Magnusson).

Turning to economic research, economists at Roskilde University Center have made important contributions in the field of political economy (Klaus Nielsen), environmental economy (Hans Aage), and environmental law, regulation, and policy (Børge Klemmensen). A significant development in Danish East European economic research was the establishment of the Center for East European Studies (CEES) in 1996. Since the beginning of 2000 it has been affiliated with the Department of International Business and Management. Directed by Niels Mygind, the Center focuses its activities in particular on governance and enterprise restructuring, on management in transition, and foreign investments in Eastern Europe. Also the Slavonic Institutes maintain islands of social science research. The Slavonic Department, University of Aarhus, hosts the leading Danish expert on Czech politics (Peter Bugge) and a Ph.D. program comparing political cultures in the Czech and Slovak republics. At the University of South Denmark, the Center for Russian and East European Studies concentrates on Danish-Russian relations and on internal developments in the former Soviet Union, taking advantage of the newly opened archives. At the East European Institute of the University of Copenhagen Niels Erik Rosenfelt has made important contributions to our understanding of the power structures in the Soviet system, and younger scholars are engaged in research on church-state relationships in Eastern Europe and on Russia-EU relations.

Finally, two major research institutions are continuously engaged in research related to domestic and international developments in Central and Eastern Europe, but each with their own focus. The Danish Institute of International Affairs (DUPI) is an independent government funded research institution established by statute in 1995. The Institute's aim is to strengthen Danish research, analysis and information activities on international relations and Danish foreign policy. In that context, Central and Eastern Europe obviously occupy a central position. Research at the institute is ordinarily undertaken upon governmental or parliamentary request if they require a thorough analysis of a specific topic. The focus is presently laid on three main areas of research: the New World order, the organization of Europe, and finally, Denmark's place in a new regional and international context. The Copenhagen Peace Research Institute (COPRI) was established by the Danish Parliament in 1985 for the purpose of supporting and strengthening multidisciplinary research on Peace and Security. Also here research on Central and Eastern Europe has had an important position, and at present the program on Security in the Nordic and Baltic Sea Area (NORD) in particular provides important insights into the dynamics of the post-communist countries in the Baltic region.

Concluding observations

Studies on Central and Eastern Europe (or Soviet Studies) in Denmark were born out of the political necessities generated by the cold war. These needs defined the research agenda and politics, framed the alternative perspectives on the communist system - and the ensuing conflicts. In addition, during the 1980s a new generation of researchers had made their way into academia, challenging the traditional area studies tradition. All, of course, changed with the collapse of the communist systems. With the disappearance of the old systems, however, the expertise on those systems was outdated too. Some scholars continued passionately to fight the battles of yesteryear - who had been right about what and when. However, the field became open to a new cohort of social scientists who used new and generally broader comparative methods and had theoretically based perspectives on Central and Eastern Europe. In this process the traditional strongholds of Central and Eastern European Studies on Central and Eastern Europe. In this process the traditional strongholds of Central and Eastern European Studies (the Slavonic departments) returned to cultural studies, to history or to languages, and only a few maintained a social sciences based perspective on the region. This role was instead taken over by major social science institutions, where a growing group of younger scholars became engaged in ‘transitionology’, or whatever became the label for those engaged in the study of the grand transformation in post-communist countries. All the general social scientists that have or are in the process of including Central and Eastern Europe into broader comparative ventures are beyond the scope of this article. From a Danish perspective, this seems, however, to be the general trend. The days of the East European

28 http://www.sam.sdu.dk/eindex.htm
29 http://www.ruc.dk/
30 http://www.copri.dk/
32 http://www.au.dk/en/hum/slavisk/
33 http://www.ou.dk/hum/studier/slavisk/index.html
34 http://www.dupi.dk/
35 http://www.copri.dk/
specialist are over. In the future, we will see East European Studies becoming a ‘normal’ part of the social sciences - just as we hope and believe that the post-Communist countries themselves will become normal societies.

Selected list of recent publications on Central and Eastern Europe by Danish scholars

- **Friis, Lykke** and Anna Murphy: *EU Governance and Central and Eastern Europe - Where are the Boundaries?* HCM Occasional Paper 35, October 1997, from the Danish Institute of International Affairs: www.dupi.dk.
- **Friis, Lykke:** *Eastern Enlargement - A complex juggle (with Anna Murphy)* in M.G. Cowles and M. Smith (red.): *Risks, Reforms, Resistance or Revival: The State of the European Union (forthcoming 2000)*, from the Danish Institute of International Affairs: www.dupi.dk.
- **Hansen, Birthe** and Bertel Heurlin, (red.), *The Baltic States in World Politics, Birthe Hansen, Bertel Heurlin*, (red.), Surrey, Curzon, 1998
- **Nielsen, Klaus:** *Industrial Restructuring and Industrial Policy. The Dynamics of Change of Industrial Policy in Central and Eastern Europe in Response to Domestic Needs and External Requirements*, Working Papers on European Integration and Regime Formation, TKI, SUC, 42/98.
- **Rosenfeldt, Niels Erik:** *Stalin’s Secret Chancellery and the Comintern*, Copenhagen

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36 Compiled by Luise Pape Møller.
Social science research on Eastern Europe in Finland

Although Russia is Finland’s largest neighbour, Russian studies have traditionally not been deemed as a major field of the Finnish social sciences and humanities. This has been the case in spite of the fact that Finnish-Soviet trade was very significant for both sides and Finnish neutrality in foreign policy was based on the agreement on “Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance” with the Soviet Union. In other Scandinavian countries, several institutes existed during Soviet times. Finland was a rare exception: there were no organised Soviet studies to speak of. One really cannot point out any major Finnish academic experts on the Soviet world, at least not outside of Russian language and literature studies. Why was this the case? What was the Finnish relationship to the big neighbour in intellectual terms?

One of the main explanations for the scarcity of Soviet studies was plainly the lack of genuine intellectual interest. It should be noted in this context that Finnish social sciences and humanities were more generally concentrated on national issues. Not much interest in American society or even in European societies existed. One could almost claim that social and cultural studies were seen as an aspect of state building.

It would be misleading, however, to argue that there were no Soviet studies whatsoever in Finland before the 1990’s. Some major contributions were published as dissertations in economics (Susiluoto 1982, Iivonen 1990). Issues of Soviet economics (Sutela 1984) and in political science (Susiluoto 1982, Livonen 1990). Issues of Soviet trade were also analysed (Salminen 1981). Many books were published concerning the history of relations between Finland and Russia. Many important works were produced within the departments of Russian languages and literature studies. Altogether, by the mid 1990’s, the total number of doctoral dissertations concerning Russia was more than fifty. Even in those fields of study where general interest in Soviet issues was very marginal, prominent individual researchers were following their own way. This was the case, for example, with Juha Tolonen in legal theory (see e.g. Tolonen 1976). It is characteristic of the Finnish case that these and other scholars of the period are fundamentally self-taught. No Finnish university offered courses or seminars in Soviet and East European studies at the time. As international links were also almost totally lacking, this research has many of the hallmarks of individual effort. One existing institutional basis for Soviet studies was the Finnish-Soviet Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation. This committee had working groups in several disciplines both in the natural sciences and in the social sciences and humanities. And it was in this framework that Finnish scholars had the opportunity to get to know their Russian colleagues. In the beginning, contacts were restricted mainly to Moscow but during the Perestroika years, they already had enjoyed a broader geographical coverage. Although in many cases the joint empirical research done was not at an international state-of-the-art level, this co-operation did make initial empirical data collection possible. Even if theo-

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38 Bank of Finland, PB 160, 00101 Helsinki

39 This article is an abbreviated version of the “Introduction” in: Russia: More Different Than Most, Markku Kangaspuro (ed.) forthcoming in Kikimora Publications, series B, July 2000
In 1995, Finland became a member of the European Union (EU). The Finnish membership of the EU implied that the relationship with Russia was no longer a relationship between a superpower and a small country. Finland is quite determined in seeing its own situation as a part of a broader constellation between the European Union and Russia. In this context, a search for Finnish expertise on Russian issues was inevitable, not only for Finland, but also for Europe in more general terms. That partly explains the recent upsurge of Russian and East European studies in Finland.

In the middle of the 1990’s, the Finnish Ministry of Education started two comprehensive efforts to promote Russian studies in Finland. The first initiative was to launch a distinctive research programme at the Academy of Finland. The second initiative was to establish the Aleksanteri Institute as a special institution at the University of Helsinki. The institute is working as a nation-wide network for Russian and East European studies. The networking of the Finnish universities was regarded as inevitable because of the need for job sharing and the limited resources in individual universities. Finland has a highly dispersed set of universities, most of which have been founded within the last few decades, often as regional policy measures. Almost all of them have at least some activities in Russian and East European studies.

The Aleksanteri Institute has good connections to the administration and to economic life. The Ministry of Education provides its basic funding. The various research and development projects are financed with national and EU project funding consortia. In 1999, total funding was over 10 million Finnish marks. In 2000, the budget is about the same. Its staff comprises about 20 persons and is directed by Professor Markku Kivinen. The mission statement of the Institute is to:

- promote research on Russian and Eastern Europe
- promote and coordinate academic studies and continuing education on Russia and Eastern Europe
- maintain databases and information services
- offer expert services concerning research on contemporary issues in the region
- promote networking in the academic community with actors in business, politics and public administration
- promote Finnish expertise abroad
- offer consulting services particularly in connection with the EU funding of academic projects
- publish research results in Kikimora Publication series.

40 http://www.halvi.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/English/
In 1998, the Institute started both an M.A. programme and a Ph.D. programme for the field. About 25 young scholars are currently enrolled in the doctoral programme of the Aleksanteri Institute. The programme is based on multidisciplinary courses and it is assumed that all new scholars in the field have a rather thorough knowledge of transition, Russian culture and history and also of Finnish-Russian political and economic relations. The doctoral programme involves co-operation with leading Western and Russian specialists. The M.A. programme has a similar kind of multidisciplinary profile. Each of the Finnish Universities has developed a profile of its own in teaching Russian and East European issues. For example, the University of Lapland is active in arctic issues, while the University of Joensuu, which is geographically located near the Eastern border, is concentrating on the problems of Karelia and other border regions. The University of Jyväskylä is active in intercultural communication and the University of Tampere has a long tradition in analysing the working life and social structure of Russia. Of course, Russian culture and history is taught in several universities and the University of Helsinki has several strong departments in different faculties. Such division of labour is, of course, not determined from above, and it is all the time changing according to the interests of the researchers and students. Several universities have also launched their own M.A. courses and have even established a few professorships, although only on a temporary basis so far.

Specific units for studying East-West trade have long been working at the Turku School of Economics and Business Administration and more recently also at the Technological University of Lappeenranta. The Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration has recently established a new institute for Russian and Baltic issues.

In addition to the universities, several research institutes are working in the field. The Bank of Finland has an internationally renowned Institute for Economics in Transition (BOFIT), and an important body of Russian expertise has been groomed at the Finnish Institute of Foreign Affairs. Many Finnish ministries have been active in funding more practically oriented research and several development projects, financed by regional councils and the EU, have a research component in their approach. Worth mentioning here is the Finnish Institute for Russian and East European Studies (FIREES), which concentrates its activities on support services, such as library supply and conference organisation41.

The recently founded Finnish polytechnics have also been activating their teaching and even been conducting some research on Russian and Eastern European issues.

The research programme of the Finnish Academy was started with a comprehensive discussion of its focus. For example, the following issues were raised in the discussion:

To what extent should the programme concentrate on current political and economic issues? The Ministry of Education, which provides funding for the programme, was keen to point out the priority of economic, political and administrative topics. On the other hand, it was argued by many in the Academy that the present could be understood and analysed only on the basis of fundamental research on Russian culture and history.

- To what extent should the development of Finnish research and expertise be focused on those regions of Russia, which geographically are most attractive for practical interests, that is, mainly on northwest Russia?

- Should the funding be concentrated on the already existing strong fields, or should it especially generate interests in new disciplines, especially those that would be relevant for contemporary change?

- Should the programme support rather large research groups or individual researchers?

Given the fact that many universities and disciplines are represented in the decision-making research councils of the Academy of Finland the result seems to be a compromise allowing many kinds of approaches and emphasising the fact that the focus should not be too restrictively defined. In the actual programme, strong fields of study appeared to be social sciences (seven projects) and history (six). Culture and language were represented by several projects, altogether five. Four projects dealt with economic issues while only one project had a politological profile. Only one project dealt with change in the legal system. The relative quantitative weakness of political and legal studies in the programme is a clear problem, and presumably reflects the small amount of interest in these disciplines. Due to the lack of sufficiently strong proposals from the research community, the original priorities of the Ministry could not be fully implemented.

As the discussion above should make clear, the interest in Eastern and Central Europe in Finland is primarily a matter of interest in Russia. However, there are intensive connections with Estonia which result in a wide range of research projects. Since co-operation with Estonia is regarded as mainly problem-free, it needs much less co-ordination than its bigger neighbour Russia. At Aleksanteri Institute, there

41 http://www.rusin.fi
are eg. research projects conducted on: „Acculturation and Identity of Ingrian-Finns. Estonians and Russians in Finland“ (by Eve Kytjätä), „Everyday Life and Coping Strategies of the Rural Population in Estonia“ (Anna Kokko), and „The Estonian Orthodox Church in Soviet Foreign Policy 1917-1923“. Poland, Hungary, and other post-socialist Central European countries are of interest also, but the number of Finnish research projects targeted at Central Europe, is small. For example, the contacts with Hungary are still tight, especially in the field of Finno-Ugric studies. The programme of the Finnish Academy of Sciences also concentrates heavily on Russia. There were several projects on the Baltic countries but only two dealing mainly with Eastern Europe in more general terms. At the original launching of the programme some emphasis was put on the nearby regions, but it is a matter of conjecture as to whether this priority was actually carried through. As far as the organisation was concerned, many projects were fairly large and in many cases umbrella projects with a somewhat dispersed focus. It should be no surprise, given the background outlined above, that most projects did not really have a strong leader. Much of the output consists of licentiate and doctoral dissertations rather than of work of well-established senior scholars. That, naturally, also raises the issue of continuity in research funding.

All in all, the programme seemed to be a mix of compromises between different orientations and disciplines. Social sciences were actively involved. The programme clearly enforced Russian studies in that field. The scope of the projects was large and the orientation mainly empirical. It might be asked whether this is due to the empiricist nature of current sociology in general or whether it is simply a wise approach in the circumstances, where not very many theories on a social sphere in transition can be found anywhere. In any case, Finland is now one of those rather few countries where lots of sociologists are collecting and analysing empirical data on Russia. There can be no doubt that the professional level of empirical analysis has been improving. Jukka Gronow (1997) and Markku Kivinen (1998) made efforts to bring forth some new theoretical openings. Gronow analysed much neglected issues on Soviet patterns of consumption whereas Kivinen made an effort to conceptualise the Soviet system based on the basic cultural code of the Bolshevik revolution.

The relative lack of politological analysis is an obvious defect of the programme. Civil society, democracy and the law-based state are still the key political issues in Eastern Europe. With the exception of Juha Tolonen and his junior colleagues dealing with civil law, (e.g. Lehtinen 1997) Finnish research has not been able to create any comprehensive research group thus far, let alone a Finnish School on these issues. However, individual contributions were of a high quality. Within the programme, Christer Pursiainen (1998) produced a very fundamental analysis of the “End of Sovietology”, analysing the change of the paradigm concerning Russian foreign policy. He used the first war in Chechnya as the basis for his empirical case study. Some important individual contributions have been presented outside of the programme.

Marja Niissinen (1997) analysed the political aspect of Latvia in transition whereas Timo Aarrevaara (1999) made an empirical analysis on change in the Ukrainian administration. The fact that economics was not as strong in the programme as might have been expected, is probably explained by the specifics of Finnish academic economics, which tends to be more theoretically than country oriented. Among the economics projects, two approaches seem to dominate. There was much research on trade and particularly investment, but also network-based studies on empirical topics.

History, as mentioned above, was a strong aspect of the programme. Here, as might have been expected, the emphasis was on the utilisation of newly available Russian archives, in particular concerning Soviet-Finnish relations and the influence of Soviet authorities on Finland. Books on such issues by Ohto Manninen, Hannu Rautkallio, and Kimmo Rentola have been major best sellers. Antti Laine and others also did path-breaking work on the political history of Soviet Karelia. Cultural studies, spanning Russian language to art and literature, were another major priority in the programme at the time.

The research programme includes 28 projects, which present the great variety of disciplines, approaches and of universities. The project by Ritta Kosonen and Asta Salmi (both at the Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration) utilises a network-based approach to empirical material. But, the materials utilised are quite different, and so are the theoretical approaches. Markku Lonkilä (University of Helsinki) comes from a different discipline and makes use of different material - everyday life in St. Petersbourg - but comes close to Kosonen and Salmi in utilising a network-based approach. Altogether, the research of Lonkilä and others on everyday life in Russia is an important part of the whole programme. Erkki Kaukonen, Joan Löfgren and Gerd Schienstock (University of Tampere) tread a path between economics, industrial organisation, management and sociology. Their topic, industrial and technological modernisation, is a key issue for Russia's future. This project is also a product of long-term co-operation between Finnish, Russian and other scholars.
Ilari Karppi, Olli Kultalahti and Heikki Rantala (University of Tampere) base their research on the labour flow aspects of the European Union enlargement on the empirical work they have conducted together with local researchers in Central Europe. Mikko Kivikoski (University of Turku) is a historian with the approach of a current Woorian. The relation between pre-revolutionary dissident thought and post-revolutionary realities will continue to offer food for thought for a long time to come. Markku Tykkyläinen (University of Joensuu) is a geographer of rural change; he takes a comparative approach, looking at survival in the rural communities of Russian Karelia and Hungary.

The programme was rich in social and cultural projects. Three of them highlight different aspects of this field. Marianne Liljestrom’s (Swedish University of Abo) research is the happy product of a coincidence of Russian studies, women’s studies and the autobiographical research approach in modern sociology. The work of Sirkka Laihiala-Kankainen (University of Jyväskylä) focuses on a relatively neglected but surely a crucial topic, Russian education. Finally, the research by Tomi Huttunen, Pekka Pansionen, Sanna Turoma et al. is perhaps the largest of all the projects in the programme, studying different aspects of modernity and modernism in Russian culture.

The programme of the Academy of Finland on Russian and East European studies has been completed. As mentioned, this was an exceptionally large programme in social and cultural studies by Finnish standards. Priorities by definition must be temporary, but the Academy has an intention to finance high-quality Russian and East European research in the future as well. From the very beginning, science policy planning in Finland has opted for the discipline-based as opposed to an area-based approach. The scholars involved in this programme - like all researchers funded by the Academy of Finland - were based in research institutes and university departments, maintaining close contacts with their disciplines. In the Ph.D. and M.A. programme of the Aleksanteri Institute as well, students must have a disciplinary competence first and become Russian and East European experts thereafter.

The decision made by the Ministry of Education in the early 1990’s to make Russian and East European studies a science policy priority was, as pointed out above, in some sense an anomaly. By now a firm basis has been created for the future of the field in Finland. There will be an outside assessment of the programme, but the final assessment will be made by the international research community in the years to come. The Finns may not have always been there, but they have come, and will not go away. Much, naturally, remains to be done.

Some things will depend on the future development of the countries involved, but in all probability the old wisecrack will remain relevant: all nations, all countries, all states, all people are different, but Russia is more different than most.

References

- Tononen, J. (1976), Neuvostoliiton talousjär- jestelmä ja sen oikeudelliset perusteet.
French Research on Eastern Europe

French social science research on Russia and Eastern Europe is bearing marks of its origin. French visitors and social scientists have always had a strong fascination for Russia (among the best known the Marquis de Custine or Anatole Leroy-Beaulieu, but also Durkheim’s followers Marcel Mauss and Célestin Bouglé and even occasionally Emile Durkheim himself). After 1917, the Soviet Union, and afterwards, from 1945-1948 on, the whole Soviet bloc gave rise to lots of divisions about just interpretation, with strong ideological contents (aggravated by lack of information), motivated by partisan purposes, involving often political exiles.

But an upsurge of research marked the turn of the 60s and 70s. Three sets of facts caused the scholars’ interests to change: first, the arrival of new generations of social scientists who were able to get their inquiries free of certain inherited ideological burdens; second, increased transparency in East European countries; and finally, entering into the field, beside linguistic studies and classical studies of civilisations, both related to area studies, of social science approaches which, instead of emphasizing the specificity of this part of the world, applied to it their own paradigms and methods. Thus, economists, sociologists, historians, demographers, political scientists have contested the validity of culturalist paradigms or more simply culturalist hypotheses. This modernised approach has questioned explanations grounded on the uniqueness of political systems or on ethno-historical causalities. Since the 1980s, the scientists that have been studying this area have become increasingly aware of its complexity and diversity, as well as of the necessity to place their hypotheses into particular contexts. Moreover, French scientific work has gone international and French scholars, often invested with leadership roles, have become involved in multinational teams, particularly those with European Union’s funding. However, as regards financial resources, British research has an advantage over the French one as it has better foothold in Brussels, whereas German research has another advantage, that of enjoying better funding thanks to half private half public foundations.

1. A short history

Before 1989, as regards the development of studies on Soviet Russia, the USSR and Eastern Europe, different periods can be distinguished. The first period goes from the 1917 revolution to the creation of the Soviet bloc in the wake of the World War II. So, in 1917, the review Le Monde slave was started in Paris, which permitted Ernest Denis to bring together people for whom the Russian upheavals were worthy of scientific investigation. This period was marked by two kinds of empirical resources: evidence produced by émigrés and visitors back from the USSR. In both cases, suspicion about partiality of analyses caused their audience to be limited. As for the émigrés, “wrapped up in their personal tragedies, overcome by their bitterness, paralysed by the recent date of the event, haunted by the hope of a possible about-turn, (they) were only rarely able to go beyond plea and passion and achieve scientific objectiveness”.

The evidence presented by French intellectuals (Jacques Sadoul), as well as the Russian-born ones (like Victor Serge or Boris Souvarine) was suspected of being partial and in consequence rejected, because “passion – be it admiring or horrified – outweighs objectiveness and the science has nothing to gain by it”. Let us note for that period the strong intellectual ascendancy of somebody like Pierre Pascal, a Bolshevik’s friend, who reportedly “deliberately chose to keep silent”.

In the aftermath of the 1939-1945 war a new state of political affairs marked the beginning of a new period, but France, in spite of its tradition shown little interest in East European studies. Yet the stabilization of the Soviet regime, its extension to Eastern Europe, followed by the cold war, provided sufficient reason not only for scientific studies but also for public support of such an undertaking. By contrast such supports were largely provided to scientists in the United States and Germany, while their French col-

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42 E-mail : georges.mink@u-paris10.fr
44 See the introduction by Hélène Carrère d’Encausse to the research guidebook L’Union Soviétique, by Lilly Marcou, Armand Colin, 1971, pp. 11-29.
46 Idem, p. 14. In fact, these statements also reveal how demanding the political arena was in the sixties as to carefully chosen words, the major argument being that of positivism, for those who aspired to become specialists of the Soviet Union.
leagues had to wait for changes that occurred in the sixties when De Gaulle’s particular political views on the question (based on the convergence theory) made French foreign policy independent of its American ally. But intellectual curiosity appeared before, maybe with the first big crisis of the Soviet bloc in 1956 that in a roundabout hit the pro-communist French elites. It was after the revelations at the 20th Soviet communist party congress and their consequences for the satellite countries that the stranglehold on the French research studies and university work got relaxed, so that the availability of new documentary resources (spreading of Soviet documents, liberalization of scientific exchanges, increasing numbers of personal accounts, and, since the beginning of the sixties, proliferation of dissident literature) opened new avenues to studies of the Soviet world. From that moment, historical studies made much progress in France (Georges Haupt, Marc Ferro, Michel Heller), as well as the studies of ethnic groups in the Soviet Union (Alexandre Bennigsen, Chantal Quelquejay, Hélène Carrère d’Encausse), of the social, political and juridical system, even of geostrategy (Basile Kerblay, René Girault, Michel Lesage, Henri Chambre, Jean Laloy, Pierre Hassner, Moshe Lewin before his leaving for the United States), of the economic system (Eugène Zalewski, Georges Sokolof, Marie Lavigne, Pierre Naville), of the cultural activity (Georges Nivat, Jean Bonamour), of the satellite countries (Pi- erre Kende, François Fejtő, Georges Mond, Pavel Tigrid, Zdenek Strmiska, Thomas Lowit), of the international communism (Annie Kriegel, Yiios Yananakis)48.

The seventies and eighties brought about various incentives for research work, such as: the appearance of democratic opposition leading to the epic Solidarność upsurge (that produced a major impact on French public opinion and the elites), the regime liberalization in countries such as Hungary and Poland, after attempts made at openings which had resulted in the Helsinki Conference, and a contrario, the Brezhnevian stagnation that reached its highest point with the invasion of Afghanistan, the Ceaucescu regime, the Czech and German gerontocracies. This is the period when certain institutions, such as French government agencies condescended to grant some additional funding to research groups, as for example P. Kende’s and Z. Strmiska’s Group for Inequality Studies, or Sociological Observatory for the USSR and Eastern Europe (Z. Strmiska and G. Mink) inside the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, or yet the Alain Touraine’s re-

48 This enumeration, of course, is not exhaustive.
Three research centres have distinguished themselves by their results and/or knowledge they have acquired of Eastern Europe. The most important beyond any doubt is the CEDUCEE (Le Centre d’études et de documentation sur l’ex-URSS, la Chine et l’Europe de l’Est at the Documentation Française) that was founded in 1962 by Françoise Barry, at French government’s special request, in accordance with General De Gaulle’s policy and placed close to the Prime Minister (Edith Lhomel, Marie-Agnès Crosnier, Michèle Kahn, Alain Giroux, Jaroslava Blaha, Daniela Heimerl, Céline Bayou are the centre’s outstanding members). Marked by the political climate of the time of its creation (war threats from the “opposing bloc” in the sixties and seventies), the centre developed economic analyses based on secondary sources. Its financial means, however superior to those of universities, were nonetheless inferior to those American scientists had at their disposal, whose works, published by the Joint Economic Committee, were taken as a model. Apart from this centre, intended for documentary purposes, there is the CEPIL (Centre d’Etudes Prospectives et d’Informations Internationales), an organism embodied in the Commissariat Français du Plan, grouping some very good economists, specialists of Russian and Chinese economies (G. Sokolof, Gérard Wild, Françoise Lemoine, among others). In both cases, the resources at the scholars’ disposal were their good knowledge of centrally administrated economies, as well as of accounting tools necessary for correcting “official” data through cross-national comparisons, and the construction of Industrial Exchanges Tables. Later on (after 1989), another group was established inside the Administration. Expertise activity of the Regional Development (Aménagement du territoire – DATAR), needed cooperation of specialists suited for initiating work in Eastern Europe under transition, in the domain of industrial conversion, a domain in which France possesses rich experience. The centre had a team that worked from 1990 to 1996 under the leadership of geo-politician Michel Foucher and the region’s specialist Jean-Yves Potel. This centre has now been taking part in
various consortiums funded by the European Union, but its expertise activity has been given priority over its research tasks. It is worth noting, as a sign of a late recognition of the expertise ability of the specialists in this geo-cultural area, but also of their more extended scientific basis that Michel Foucher has been appointed head of the Centre d’Analyse et de Prévision (CAP) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1999, while this function is usually carried out by a diplomat, and that Prof Marie-Claude Maurel, a renown specialist in agrarian issues in Russia and Eastern Europe, has been appointed director of the Département des Sciences de l’Homme et de la Société (in 1997) at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique.50

Between private and public spheres, there is the Institut Français des Relations Internationales (with geo-politicians like Dominique Moisi or Thierry de Montbrial and an economist specialist of the ex-USSR, Anita Tiraspolsky), as well as some smaller units such as that of Pascal Boniface (IRSIS).

Paper media

Two main reviews have been in charge of publishing multidisciplinary works in that field. First of all, Le Courrier des Pays de l’Est (editor in chief, Marie-Agnès Crosnier), a monthly review - a periodicity that makes it rather an information and trend review - published under the care of the CEDUCEE, a unit of the Documentation Française, with a public funding, though it has a quite satisfactory subscriber basis (about 800). The Documentation Française has been issuing now and then, in the series Problèmes Politiques et Sociaux, special issues on Eastern Europe, made up of selected papers on a given subject. Up to the year 2000, every year since the seventies, the Documentation Française published a yearbook on Central and Eastern Europe. The Revue d’Etudes Comparatives Est-Ouest (directors A. Blum and G. Mink, and editor in chief K. Rousselet) is the reference journal for academic circles. With a less large circulation, the review is multidisciplinary and all social science disciplines are represented in its editorial board. Anonymity principle as well as a double referees system serve as guarantees of scientific quality of the published articles. The review is financed by the CNRS. It has been able to gather some representative members of young generation scientists (Anne Gazier, Catherine Perron, Catherine Goussef, Jean-François Raviot).

The Institut d’Etudes Slaves publishes the Revue d’Etudes Slaves. The Institut also issues the Bibliographie européenne des travaux sur l’ex-URSS et l’Europe de l’Est, and it carries out policy of publishing works such as foreign language handbooks or proceedings of scientific meetings. It is also in charge of an editorial series Cultures et Sociétés de l’Est. The Russian centre, mentioned above, at the EHEES, publishes the Cahiers du Monde Russe. Two independent reviews that had their moments of glory during the eighties, the Nouvelle Alternative and the Autre Europe, are now striving to survive. However, certain general matter publishers are showing some more interest in East European subjects these days. The main issues seem to be the years 1989 and 1991, the wars in former Yugoslavia, the extension of the European Union, the consequences of the archive openings, the emergent economies, the Russian circumstances.

3. Expansion of the research after 1989

The process of breaking up of the Soviet-type system and almost general opening of research and observation fields, that previously had not been easily accessible if not completely forbidden, on the one hand, and demand for more or less basic expertise and knowledge concerning certain socio-economic reality undergoing revolutionary transformation, on the other hand, put pressure on the authorities to grant substantial funding, as they never had in the past, for studies of Central and Eastern Europe. A program valid for a number of years, given the title “Intelligence of Europe”, a part of which was entitled “Transition processes in Central and Eastern Europe”, was launched on July 20, 1989 by two major institutions, the Scientific Research Ministry and the CNRS. The program, which was in operation until 1994, was endowed with important financial resources. In 1991 and 1992, 202 projects were presented, 66 of which were approved with grants amounting to 11 million francs. In 1992, as a response to a second call for proposals, 115 projects were submitted and 40 were accepted, but with diminished funding (3.5 million francs, to which 1.2 million was added for researches on enterprises, technology and work problems). According to the evaluation report requested by the Scientific Research Ministry, these programs permitted to identify 27 CNRS research units, 20 units from universities and 8 units coming from other bodies, all of which having proved their capabili-

50 It is more or less common that specialists of this geo-cultural area apply for positions connected with scientific diplomacy, as for example A. Berelowitch who was appointed to be cultural attaché in Moscow, or historian Antoine Mares appointed director of the Centre Français des recherches en Sciences Sociales in Prague.

51 Report on the science teaching and research, Central and Eastern Europe, to the Mission scientifique et technique (DSPT 6), March 1995.
It is certain that this exceptional institutional support gave a momentum to French social science research. Sociology, economy and history have most benefited from it, juridical science, political science, demography and geography coming next. Thanks to these grants, several works were published and dozens of reports were submitted for assessment to the Scientific Research Ministry. As a part of the programs, dozens of scholars from Central and Eastern Europe could afford to spend between a month and a year working in French research units. The works carried out were related to the following fields:

- analysis of attitudes of people faced with social, economic and political constraints during the period of regime transition (30% of research work carried out). Studies were focused on very different subjects: adaptive strategies of individuals and social classes (farmers), or social groups (elites, ethnic minorities), emergence of partisan movements (political parties, counter-power, etc.)
- privatisation, competitiveness of economy (30% of research work)
- job management and employment, emergence of new managers, salary and wage policy and problems directly connected to enterprises were subjects of a dozen of studies
- re-interpretation of history and its use was also a subject of a dozen of studies

4. Some problems
The collateral effects of the disappearance of the Soviet bloc have destabilized the profession of researchers specialized in Central and Eastern Europe (Russia included). Several causes can be considered:

1) Endogenous facets of the professional legitimacy crisis
- The upsetting of the frontiers in the real world has unsettled the boundaries between scientific disciplines. The collapse of the ideological fronts and crumbling of the single true frontier that was the border separating the Soviet system as a whole from the rest of Europe, then a growing number of new geo-political frontiers, as well as new sub-groups in search of their particularity (Russia, CIS, Central Europe, Balkan Europe, selection of candidate countries for entry into the European Union), all these facts have raised new and relevant questions about the dividing lines between professions. Should

in future Russian studies be separated from those of Central Europe as from those of Southeastern Europe? What kind of unity in the real world justifies the maintenance of the ancient professional unity?
- Constraints of professional legacies didn’t stop operating. Before 1989, the professional body was actually disunited, cliquish and overideologized. The perverse effects of this legacy appear in continuing partisan views and are shown in some people’s need to justify their past views by projecting their concepts onto the present. Let us just remind the multiplicity of self-definition “concepts”: post-socialism, post-Communism, post-Sovietism, “authentic” socialism. The debate that opposed “shock therapy” to “gradualism” was ideologically distorted, which also revealed how the past was pressing down on the present. Some focused their attention exclusively on the social effects in order to condemn the market; others neglected social problems in order to give the market absolute priority.
- It was the field’s unity that was seriously thrown into confusion, revealing to what extent the profession was ill at ease. What could justify the perpetuation of a multidisciplinary body of regional specialists? Is it geography, Slavic ethnic origin, a dominant linguistic family, similar trajectories of emergent economies, the beginning of political pluralism, or, last but not least, a common starting point, that is, the end of the Soviet system?

2) Exogenous questioning of the profession’s legitimacy
- The profession was to undergo the sudden arrival of comparative transitology, which asked “its share of the cake” of the knowledge concerning that geo-cultural area, but its claim was based on the knowledge gained through studying other societies that had managed to get rid of their authoritarian regimes (Latin America, Southern Europe, etc.). This special branch of political science was seen by many specialists of Central and Eastern Europe as a threat of competition, even a danger of calling into question the very usefulness of post-communist transition studies.
- The advent in the field of approach diversity that put forward particular disciplines (economy, sociology, demography, etc.) and behind, in second place, the area specificity, did not produce good results only. For a moment, highly specialized economists disputed the capability of Soviet or post-Soviet economy experts to account for the current state of affairs, which in their opinion pertained to the methods of classical economy. Initially disconcerted by this

53 Didn’t people used to say, by way of joke, that Poland had 5 borders with the USSR - those with East Germany, the USSR, Czechoslovakia, and also those with the sky and the sea...
A new generation of scholars are fretting at the doorstep of different scientific institutions and waiting for achieving full academic status. Things were easier for them than for previous generations. First of all, the access to these countries is quite easy nowadays; so, for example, doctoral degree course students at the Institut d’Etudes Politiques in Paris can make their field trip to Eastern Europe in order to accomplish empirical surveys before writing their theses. This is made all the easier by scholarships granted for particular subjects. In general, long-term scholarships have been increased in numbers and they have been diversified. Today there are doctoral grants for the best students but there are also European scholarships. A set of new academic institutions is ready to accept French doctoral students (Central European University, Natolin branch of Bruges College, Collegium Budapest, etc.) France has created new establishments like kinds of out-posts for scientific observation that have been taking care of doctoral students, as the Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin, the Centre Français des Recherches en Sciences Sociales in Prague, and there will be soon a similar centre in Moscow. This active policy of direct contact with the field is a sine qua non condition for the advent of new generations in the research domain of Central and Eastern Europe.

At the same time, partisan cleavages are losing ground, giving way to promotion on the meritocracy criteria alone, which is a fact of paramount importance for the future of this generation of scientists.

Getting East European scholars out of their locked up condition was a real performance test for French social scientists. The challenge consisted in being able to offer these scholars a value-added that was impossible for them to gain in Eastern Europe. For example, France could offer to sociologists coming from the post-communist world a different tradition in social theory, more focused on qualitative sociology issues (life histories applied to social mobility, conversion theory and symbolic, social and cultural capital theories, sociology of social move-

ments). The most spectacular of all was undoubtedly French historians’ contribution to the “archives revolution”, even if now and then there was some lack of epistemological distance toward their contents.

We can say that the results of the past decade are rather good: the changes that took place in the East forced the research and university units to react quickly and properly; they were able to defend their specificity against attacks coming from outside their domain. The weak point, a kind of “French deficiency”, by contrast with many other countries is the lack of a unique professional corporation functioning in accord with democratic principles, imposing its authority as a national and representative association.

**Italy**

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**Italian Research on Eastern Europe**56

After the Second World War, the interest of Italian social scientists for socio-political events in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe had been rather marginal for several decades. Only the collapse of the communist regimes in 1989-90 attracted their attention towards Eastern European issues. During the last ten years, this continuously growing interest has not only resulted in a large number of publications, but it has also stimulated the creation of new research centres at the main universities of Northern and Central Italy. Nowadays, we can observe that it has developed into a broad research area that can hardly be reviewed in its entirety. The following selection of contributions of Italian social science on Eastern Europe should be considered simply as a rough outline, which intends to present a purely indicative introduction to this research area. Being there, to our knowledge, no articles or essays which could be considered as a sort of guide-book to this continuously burgeoning research area, this article aims only at presenting the first results of a provisory recognition over this field. Thus, conceived in this light, it should not be misunderstood as a value judgement attributed to individual research works.

In the next paragraphs, we will focus our attention on five sub-sectors of Italian social science:

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55 OSDEE-Observatory on Democracy in Eastern Europe, e-mail: siclala@libero.it

56 We are grateful to Laura Bergnach, research fellow at the ISIG, for her bibliographical help concerning Italian sociological research on Eastern Europe. Daniel Spizzo wrote the Introduction and the first four paragraphs, Alessia Vatta wrote the part dedicated to Italian economic research.
political science, international relations, sociology, history and economics. We will use a rather loose 'common sense' criterion for distinguishing the different scientific sub-fields of reference of every single researcher. We will look mainly at their institutional affiliation at departmental level. This classification may seem arbitrary as there are strong inter-disciplinary overlappings (especially among political scientists and political sociologists or between historians of international relations and scholars of comparative sociology and political science), but this vague criterion allows us to put a minimum of order in this research sector.

**Focal points of Italian political science**

A major focal point of Italian comparative political research on Eastern Europe lies in the field of regime change and democratic consolidation. The first attempts to interpret regime transition in Eastern Europe were presented in the late eighties. At this stage, the researchers' interest focused mainly on the institutional aspects of regime transition in Central and Eastern European countries (Grilli di Cortona 1989a and 1989b). During the nineties, especially those scholars who were attracted by a new-institutionalist approach to political system change have continuously cultivated this research area. Great attention was paid to the processes of constitution-, state- and/or nation building in East-central European countries. (Bartole/Grilli di Cortona 1998, Morlino 2000, Ieraci 1999, Spizzo 1999).

With regard to the non-institutional dimensions of democratisation processes, great concern was also shown for the new parties and party systems in Eastern Europe. There have been several works dedicated to the impact of long-term socio-economic and political cleavages on the resurgence of new Eastern European parties (Cotta 1992 and 1995). Deeply studied are also the fields of party coalition dynamics and electoral behaviour (Grilli di Cortona 1997). We can find also some case studies of communist and nationalist parties (Bosco 1999 and Grilli di Cortona 2000)

The main Italian research centre in political science in this field of research is the Observatory on Democracy in Eastern Europe (OSDEE) of Trieste. The Observatory, which was created in 1998 and which is headed by Prof. Liborio Mattina, is an association promoted by the Department of Political Science of the University of Trieste and other research institutions, such as the Department of Political Science of the European University Institute, the Center for European Documentation appointed at the Department of Political Science and Sociology of the University of Florence and the Jacques Maritain International Institute of Rome.

The main goal of the association are: a) to foster the promotion of studies dedicated to democratic consolidation and to the impact of the EU enlargement strategy on the process of institutional transition in Eastern Europe and in the Balkans; b) to set up a documentation centre which should be able to offer to the scientific community and to several political institutions useful information on the political transformations under way in the young democracies of Eastern Europe, and; c) to organise seminars and conferences where social scientists can discuss the results of their research on Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. Over the last three years, the OSDEE has organised several international seminars. During the annual meeting of the Italian Political Science Association (SISP) in Trieste in September 1999, the Observatory promoted several workshops specifically dedicated to Eastern Europe. A major research project, aimed at understanding the consequences of the political impact of the EU institutions on the Central European countries' candidates to become members states, is now carried out by the Observatory, under Prof. Liborio Mattina's direction. The Italian Ministry for University Research and the Italian Ministry for International Studies (Ministero per la Ricerca e Studi politici (Political Studies) was dedicated in 1999 to the fundamental research results of the OSDEE group presented during the SISP meeting. There were three chapters dedicated to Eastern Europe, which concerned respectively: the institutional consolidation of democracy, the role of parties and interest group in the transition towards democracy and the impact of the European Union on the national question in Eastern Europe.

**Main focal points in International Relations**

A second research area of Italian political science research on Eastern Europe, which has been particularly influenced by the Italian experts in international relations, pertains to the study of foreign and security policies. Thorough theoretically and empirically oriented analyses were dedicated mainly to the problems of geopolitical stability and security in Eastern and Balkan Europe (Santo 1990, Vitale 1998, Bozzo/Simon Belli 1997, Lucarelli 2000). During the nineties, the main Italian journals specialised in international relations, Politica Internazionale (International Politics), Relazioni internazionali (International Relations) and Limes published several essays dedicated specifically to the wars in former Yugoslavia and to the former Soviet Union. One of the most investigated themes was surely the impact of ethno-nationalism on the balance of power of the whole region (Santo 1995, Bonanate 1997, Conciori 1998, Spizzo 2000). There were also numerous studies carried out in this research sector concerning the Eastern Enlargement of the EU and the integration in the EU of Eastern European countries (Istituto Affari Internazion-
Sociological research on Eastern Europe in Italy

In the case of Italian sociological research on Eastern Europe, there is especially one area, which deserves special mention: the study of ethno-national minorities. Italian sociologists from the Northeastern regions have published innumerable analyses concerning, for instance, the socio-economic characteristics, the cultural specificities and the territorial settings of the most relevant ethnic groups and minorities of Eastern Europe (Demarchi 1993, Bergnach/Sussi 1993, Gasparini 1994, Bergnach/Delli Zotti 1994, Piccolomini 1995, Gubert 1996). Many of those researches can be consulted in three Italian journals specialised in sociological research: Futunibili, Isig Magazine and Rassegna italiana di sociologia.

The leading research centre in this field is certainly the Istituto di Sociologia Internazionale di Gorizia (ISIG). The main research interest of ISIG, whose director is Prof. Alberto Gasparini, lies in the field of sociology of borders, with special and political reference to the concepts of centre and periphery and in the area of regional sociology, with reference to regionalism and the relations between regions (Europe of regions) viewed as a transcendence of nationalisms. The scientific and cultural activity of the Institute is at present carried out in five departments, which in their turn are subdivided into research programmes. The Department of International Sociology carries out the great majority of researches on Eastern Europe. The main collaborators of the ISIG, which have dedicated some of their research projects to Eastern Europe, are principally Laura Bergnach, Luca Bregnantini, Giovanni Delli Zotti, Antonella Poccico and Emidio Sussi.

Another research centre, which is particularly active in the field of research on ethnic minorities in Eastern Europe, is the Interuniversity Center "Etnicos" of the Department of Sociology at the University of Milan. Currently, Etnicos participates at a joint research project with the University of Sarajevo, which aims at interpreting the origins of the war in Bosnia and the future institutional developments of the federation. Among the most prominent Italian experts (sociologists, historians and political scientists) on Eastern Europe who participate to this project, we can find Prof. Paolo Calzini from the University of Milan, Marco Dogo, Paolo Segatti and Carlo Tullio-Altan from the University of Trieste and Stefano Bianchini from the University of Bologna.

Historical research on Eastern Europe

Historical studies on Eastern Europe have certainly a longer tradition than the three socio-scientific sub-fields mentioned before (Tamborra 1973). For this reason many Italian historians have been the first academics to understand immediately the great importance of the Big Transformation of 1989-1990. Among the Italian experts of medieval, modern and contemporary history of Eastern Europe, we can cite Marco Dogo (1993, 1999), Georg Meyr (1995), Franca Mian and Annamaria Vinci from the University of Trieste.

One of the best-known contemporary Italian historians in this area is Stefano Bianchini, senior researcher of East European History and Politics at the University of Bologna/Forli. His works on the Yugoslavian contemporary political history are particularly stimulating (Bianchini 1991, Bianchini/Shoup 1995 and Bianchini/Dassù 1999). Bianchini is actually director of the Centro per l’Europa centro-Orientale e Balcanica (CECOB) and coordinator of the International Network "Europe and the Balkans". Established at the end of 1993, the Network was aimed to develop academic research projects that can meet the everyday needs for information regarding Southeast and Central-East Europe. For this reason it is actively supported...
by the University of Bologna, the Bologna and Forli City Councils, the Emilia-Romagna Regional Council, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Commission, while attempting – at the same time – to raise financial aid from business enterprises in the country. The aim of the Network is to foster the growth of relationships among scholars focusing on Balkan and East European issues. One of the main goals of the Network is to examine Europe's view of the Balkan countries and vice versa, in order to determine the language registers – in the fields of politics, mythology, economics and law – that allow for closer communication and those that, on the other hand, hinder it, due to the negative influence of stereotypes.

In order to achieve its goals, the Network actively promotes an interdisciplinary approach. This aspect has been developed through annual work-in-progress meetings and concluded in 1996, when all the results were gathered in four books to be used for diplomats, policymakers, journalists, and educational purposes within the European Union. Research has been focused on the following themes: nation and state building; international and regional relations; economic integration processes; geopolitics and geoconomics; national and minority issues; the formation of civil societies and intellectuals; security and the political manipulation of history aimed at the legitimisation of power. Meetings and round table conferences have been organised by the Network in different countries, amongst which Italy, Israel, and United States. After 1996, the Network promoted new researches on several topics, as follows: self-determination, the role of small and medium-sized enterprises in East-Central Europe, intercultural relations in Bulgaria and Bosnia, Albanian State collapse and reconstruction, Italian-Hungarian co-operation. Furthermore, a newsletter and a series of publications guarantee adequate dissemination of the results attained by the scholars involved.

**Economic Scientific Research on Central and Eastern Europe**

Before 1989, economic research on Central and Eastern European countries was strictly related to the debate regarding the opposed features of socialism and capitalism. Especially in macroeconomic textbooks, it was possible to find sections devoted to Marxist theories, usually limited to specific subjects like inflation or economic policies (for an exhaustive bibliographic review, see Jossa 1987). Apparently, research in that area tended to be strongly separated from studies regarding Western economies, and probably nobody expected that such an abrupt change was going to take place at the end of the eighties. After 1989, the development of a market economy in former Communist countries has become a subject of interest to many scholars, on the ground of the different aspects of the transition. This opened the way to a series of works regarding the comparison of economic systems (Dallago 1993; Frateschi e Salvini 1994). At first, the situation in Central Europe was analysed with reference to its beginnings and to the perestrojka (De Vincenti e Mulino 1990), but later scholarly attention concentrated on specific topics, like privatisation and structural reform, agriculture, industrial relations, trade and monetary policy.

As far as privatisation is concerned, it has initially been treated with reference to the different "national ways" adopted in the countries involved in this process (Pedersini 1998), and to the consequent creation of small and medium firms after the beginning of liberalization (Revoltella 1998). Special attention has been devoted to those countries where Italian investments have proved to be more substantial, and to the innovations deriving from the privatisation process (Dallago, Ajani e Grancelli 1992). The state and the prospects of agriculture in Central and Eastern Europe have raised considerable concern, especially in connection with the possible reform of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union; international assistance has also been studied, due to its often complicated procedural aspects and disputed results (Cannarella 1999; Corazza 1998; Brunori e Segré 1995).

The reflection on industrial relations has started from the consideration of the socialist model (Grancelli 1987), to proceed with analyses concerning labour market policies (Boeri 1994; Boeri et al. 1993) and changes in labour law and in the role of economic actors and interest groups (Casale 1997; Vatta 1999). Particularly in this field, English prevails as the working language of Italian experts, since their reports are often published by international organizations (mainly the OECD and the ILO). To some extent, this is true also of a number of publications regarding monetary and banking policy, either prepared or co-authored by Italian scholars for institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (Barbone e Marchetti 1994; Coricelli 1998; Manzocchi 1999; Giavazzi e Dornbusch 1999). However, there are indeed Italian sources on this subject (Manzocchi e Ottaviano 1999; Lanzoni 1994), even if - in the latest years - much debate has risen especially about the EU enlargement and its possible effects (Bruzzo 1998; Frateschi 1999; Tarditi 1998; Coricelli 1996). The discussion has been promoted mainly by some journals and academic structures. Among the former, *Est-Ovest, Europa Europe, Economia Italiana, L'Industria, la Rivista di politica agraria, la Rassegna economica, Banche e banchieri* are possibly those, which most frequently included...
contributions about Central and Eastern Europe. As far as research structures are concerned, thematic studies have been carried on in some traditionally important Italian institutions (like the Bocconi University, and the State University in Milan, and the European University Institute in Florence), and academic associations have organised seminars on Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs) (e.g. the Associazione Italiana per lo Studio dei Sistemi Economici Comparati, AISSEC, http://www.econ-pol.unisi.it/aissec/). The comparatist perspective, especially on EU-related matters, tends to be favoured, like in other social sciences, but case studies are also frequently found. However, there is a geographical factor influencing the research remarkably, since universities and other organisations located in the north-eastern part of Italy seem to be more often involved in studies and contacts with the Central European area. This is the case of the universities of Padua, Trento and Trieste, where the enlargement of the European Union has originated interest and research in recent years. At the University of Trento there is a research centre called Euroest, with a specific interest for economic and social developments in Central and Eastern Europe. It cooperates with the European Association for Comparative Economic Studies. In Trieste, beyond the ISDEE (Istituto di Studi e Documentazione sull’Europa dell’Est), which issues the quarterly Documentazione sull’Europa dell’Est), which is presented both research contributions and economic information. The cooperation of practitioners has somehow helped to expand knowledge, particularly regarding firms and their strategies in this area (Costariol 1995), and to link academic debates with empirical observation. In this sense, the most important economic and financial Italian newspaper, Il Sole 24 ore, publishes a weekly supplement dealing with economic and political developments in Central and Eastern Europe.

E-mails and web sites of some Italian research centres with special interest in Eastern Europe:
- CECOB – International Network Europe and the Balkan
  http://www.spfo.unibo.it/balkans/eurobalk.html
- Ce.REPI – Centro Ricerche Etto-politiche internazionali
cerepi@newtech.it
- CSNE – Centro Study Nord-Est
  http://www.alpeadriadonau.it/aboutcsne.htm
- ETNÍCOS – University of Milan
  info@fondazionenordest.net
  http://www.alpeadriadonau.it/aboutcsne.htm
- FNE- Fondazione Nord-Est
  http://www.fondazionenordest.net
- INFORMEST
  http://www.informest.it/

Photography:


Dallago, B. (1993), *Sistemi economici comparati*, Roma, NIS.


• Tamborra, R. (1973), Storia dell'Europa centro-orientale, Firenze.


**Anton Steen, The Norwegian Institute of Foreign Affairs (NUPI)**57

**Social Science Research on Eastern Europe and Russia**

After more than 40 years of research, NUPI is one of Norway's foremost independent centres for research and information in the fields of international politics and economic questions. NUPI has a long tradition for studies in Eastern Europe and Russia. The Russian department of the institute continuously produces reports about the domestic political development in Russia and its relationships to Norway and other countries as well. 

**Current research projects:**
1) Russian security- and foreign policies: Some projects are analysing conflicts in the former Soviet areas; others are focused on the relationship to Europe and in particular on the Northwestern regions of Russia and the Baltic-area. 2) Institutionalisation and consolidation of the Russian Federation includes projects about the functioning of new democratic institutions (The state Duma and the government), the new constitution and political parties. 3) Centre-periphery relations are increasing in importance and some projects are studying how the more powerful regions influence these relations. Important aspects are consequences for the military forces and the position of the central government.

**Selected publications:**
In "Russia Today", researchers from the Centre for Russian Studies comment the political development in Russia. So far this year (2000), twelve issues have been published.

**Books:**

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57 Postal address: NUPI, P.O. Box 8159 Dep., N-0033 Oslo, Norway, Internet: [http://www.NUPI.no](http://www.NUPI.no)
Reports:

Working Papers:
- University of Oslo

Department of Political Science

Current research projects:
- 'Governance and economic reforms in Russia: the Role of the Elites';
- 'Elites and democratic development in the Baltic States'.

Selected publications:

Department of East European and Oriental Studies

Current research projects:
- 'Nation-building and ethnic integration in post-soviet societies'

Selected publications:

University of Tromso

Department of Political Science

Current research projects:
- 'Social classes, power and democracy in post-communist societies'
- 'Political change in Russia and the role of the West'

International Peace Research Institute (PRIO)

Founded in 1959, PRIO was one of the first centres of peace research in the world and is Norway's only peace research centre. The foundation of the institute and its early influence was instrumental in promulgating the idea of peace research. PRIO is an independent, international institute in staff, audience and perspective.

Current research projects:
- 'Nationalism and the Russian Army: Getting settled in a new state';
- 'Regionalism in Russia and transformation of the Russian army'; 'Russian military development'

Selected publications:

The Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR)

The Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research is an independent institute for applied social science research. Its main office is situated in Oslo but NIBR also has a department in Northern Norway.

Current research projects:
- 'Polish policies in the European borderlands';
- 'Modern environmental strategies and single enterprise towns in Russia and Latvia';
- 'Co-operation in the Barents-region'

Selected publications:

 Postal address: Fuglehauggata 11, N-0260 Oslo, Norway, Internet: http://www.PRI0.no.
 Postal address: Norsk institutt for by- og regionforskning, P.O. Box 44 Blindern, N-0313 Oslo, Norway, Internet: http://www.NIBR.no.


The Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI)63
The Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI) is an independent foundation engaged in applied social science research on international issues concerning energy, resource management and the environment. The academic approach is multidisciplinary, with emphasis on political science, economics and international law. The Institute collaborates extensively with other research institutions, in Norway and abroad. 

Current research projects:
- Polar Programme, European Energy and Environment Programme.

Selected publications:

Institute for Applied Social Science (FAFO)64
FAFO Institute for Applied Social Science is an institute for commissioned research. The researchers are primarily political scientists, sociologists and economists.

Current research projects:
- ‘Comparative living conditions in the Baltic states’;
- ‘Social policy and social exclusion in the Baltic countries’.

Selected publications:

The Defence Research Institute (FFI)65
The Defence Research Institute has as its goal to carry out research and outline development for the Norwegian Defence. The FFI acts as an advisor to the political and military top-leaders within the Norwegian Defence.

Current research projects:
- Strategic Analysis.

Selected publications:
- Bukkvoll, Tor et al. (2000): Russia - Towards Chaos or Stabilization: end report (Russland - mot kaos eller stabilisering: sluttrapport), 99/04446, FFI.
- Flæte, Jan (2000): Intellectuals as Idea Entrepreneurs in Russian Foreign Politics (Intellektuelle som ideentreprenører i russisk utenrikspolitikk), 99/04212, FFI.
- Andrewsen, Rolf; Vogt, Inge (2000): The Rising of the Oligarchs in Russia (Oligarkiets fremvekst i Russland. 99/01132, FFI.
- Kjølberg, Anders (2000): Russia and the European Institutions (Russland og de europeiske institusjoner), 99/00932, FFI.

Sweden

Kerstin Nyström, Department of East European Studies, Uppsala University66

Social Science Research on Eastern Europe in Sweden

63 Postal address: Fridtjof Nansensvei 17, P.O. Box 236, N-1326 Lysaker, Norway. Internet: http://www.FNI.no.

64 Postal address: Forskningsstiftelsen Fafo, P.O. Box 2947 Tøyen, N-0608 Oslo, Norway. Internet: http://www.FAFO.no.


66 Box 514, S-751 20 Uppsala, Tel.: +46(0)184711693, e-mail: kerstin.nystrom@east.uu.se, Internet: http://www.east.uu.se
The development of Russia is no longer crucial for Eastern Europe - actors in Russia and Central Europe, respectively, have now different teleological perceptions. The Baltic states are orientating themselves in relation to Russia, the Nordic countries and Europe. The Bulgarian and Romanian political leaderships aspire to develop their countries into European states. However, they are situated in the Balkans, where the security political situation is quite different from that of Russia and Europe.

In the bipolar world of East and West, the term Eastern Europe implied a certain problem orientation, referring to the position of the states as Soviet satellites. This implicit problem orientation is now gone, and the use of the term might prevent us from identifying what important patterns are emerging from the structure of the new multipolar situation of world politics. Contacts between researchers in Western, Central and Eastern Europe develop continuously. States, which formerly belonged to Eastern Europe, will be included in the multifaced Europe. Therefore we could expect that in the near future, research on Eastern Europe will become part of „normal“ research on Europe and will be carried out together with - or at least in dialogue with - the researchers in this area of study. Research on Eastern Europe will probably disappear as a phenomenon, at least as regards problems of modern Europe. Social science research on Russia, the Baltic states and the Balkans will find research problems with their roots in the structure of the present day situation of these former East European regions which are increasingly becoming very different from one another.

The last ten years have accentuated the need for rethinking the label Eastern Europe as a handy name, summarizing the states included in the former Soviet sphere. Which countries are included in the term today? Russia, the Baltic states, the Russian Federation, including the problem complex involving the states in North and South Caucasus? Is Central Europe to be considered part of Eastern Europe - Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary; possibly also Slovenia and Croatia? Germany is situated in Central Europe but is not considered as part of Eastern Europe. Should Bosnia-Herzegovina and Yugoslavia together with Bulgaria, Romania and Albania be labelled the Balkans again and, consequently, these former East European states should be excluded from Eastern Europe in the 21st century? Or is South-eastern Europe a proper term for this region to be included in Eastern Europe? The term Eastern Europe grew out of the Cold War and denotes a specific political and cultural reality. For a decade, this reality has existed only as a common historical heritage of a number of states, which are developing along many different tracks. The difference between these states might be more important than their common recent past. Thus, it might be misleading to use this term for contemporary conditions. With Maria Todorova's words: „Isn't Central Europe dead?”67 If that is so: what about Eastern Europe?

Social science in Sweden, dealing with research on countries traditionally referred to under the label Eastern Europe, is carried out at university departments and at specific research institutes, among them some institutes with an obligation to do research of relevance for the needs of the country, i.e. they are financed by the government. The Department of East European Studies, Uppsala University, is the only institution in Sweden, which is designed to study the region from a social science perspective. There are three professors with chairs in East European history, law and economics, respectively. The other departments where research on Eastern Europe is carried out, are the usual discipline based departments, such as political science, sociology, economics. The same is the case with the special institutes financed by the government, such as the Defence Research Establishment (Swedish: FOA) and The Swedish Institute of International Affairs (Swedish: UPI).

Centers for European studies are created with the aims of promoting studies on Europe, sometimes including East and Central Europe. For instance Centrum för Europaforskovning, CFE (Center for Research on Europe) at Lund University and Center for European Research (CERGU) at Göteborg University. These centers are pooling resources from both the social sciences and the humanities, such as history and languages.

Generally, research is organized in projects, and in many cases, a research project involves scholars from different departments, at the same university or at different universities. Thus, if a project is based in a department, let us say in Uppsala, the participating researchers may come from other departments, both in Uppsala and from other parts of the country. Moreover, the projects may involve departments belonging to different faculties, such as a department of History and/ or a department of Slavic languages. Consequently, to name the host department of a research project does not necessarily mean that all research in the project is done at only this department.

In the following, some tendencies in Swedish social science research on Eastern Europe are highlighted. The presentation is based on hast-

ily compiled information and not on a systematic and thorough investigation of all that is done in the field at the various universities and university colleges in Sweden. Swedish Social science research on Eastern Europe is focussing on the following themes:

Security problems and war
Russia and especially Northwestern Russia from a security perspective, including problems of national interest and national identification, is a theme which occupies researchers at several social science departments in Sweden, among them the Department of East European Studies, Uppsala University, the departments of Political Science at the universities in Uppsala, Stockholm and Lund, and the Department of Cultural Geography, Umeå University, the Defence Research Establishment (FOA) and the Swedish Institute of International Affairs in Stockholm (UPI). - There is also a researchers’ network „Northwest Russia and the Nordic Area“ on the Internet.

A programme on crisis management in a national and international perspective is initiated by the Swedish Agency for Civil Emergency Planning (ÖCB) and is financing research on crises in Russia and Eastern Europe at various university departments, FOA and UPI.

From a security perspective, including political, economic and social developments as well as questions of the bases of identity formation and perceptions of threat, the Baltic states are dealt with at the Department of East European Studies, the Department of Political Science and the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University. These departments form an integrated research and educational center in the heart of Uppsala, Gamla Torget. This center at Gamla Torget consists of the departments of East European Studies, Political Science, Peace and Conflict Research, Center for Multi-ethnic Research, the Swedish Institute for North American Studies (SINAS), and the Department of Law: division International Law. Research on the Baltic states from a security perspective is also conducted at Södertörn University College as well as at the above mentioned institutes UPI and FOA.

Further research topics are:
- Ethnopolitical conflict in the Caucasus (Departments of East European Studies and Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University)
- The Stability Pact on South-eastern Europe (Department of East European Studies, Uppsala University)
- Genocide in the Balkans (Uppsala Programme for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Center for Multiethnic Research, Uppsala University).

Transition: economic consequences
- Economic developments during transition and the development of privatisation and a market economy in Russia (Department of East European Studies, Uppsala University)
- Economic developments during transition and the development of privatisation and a market economy in Eastern Europe (Economists at Stockholm University, in some cases in cooperation with researchers in the respective East European countries)
- Comparisons between underdeveloped countries and „emerging economies“ (Economists at Stockholm University).

Transition: social and political consequences
- Transition - its social consequences, democracy and the development of civil society in Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic states (departments at Gamla Torget, Uppsala University, at the Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University and the Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University, the Department of Political Science, Lund University, and at some regional university colleges)
- Transition and the problems of democracy in Russia (project with researchers from the Departments of East European Studies, Political Science and the Department of History at Uppsala University.
- Social problems in Russia (doctoral students at the Department of Sociology, Göteborg University and the Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University.
- The public health situation in Russia and the Baltic states 1960-95 (Department of Sociology, Stockholm University, see the journal Sociologisk Forskning No 1/2000)

Eastern Europe and Europe
- Northern Europe: the Baltic Sea community (Department of East European Studies, Uppsala University and the Department of History, Lund University)
- Regional Developments in Europe and the role of history in creating models for the future, especially concerning Eastern Europe (Department of East European Studies, Uppsala University)
- Europe as a community of intellectuals and the role of science and cultural endeavours in shaping the state as a project in the 17th century (Department of East European Studies, Uppsala University)
- Criminal activity across boundaries (Department of Criminology, Stockholm University)

Other research activities
Some of the research projects at the Forum for Central Asian Studies, Stockholm University are dealing with former Soviet Central Asia. At many social science departments at the various
universities in Sweden there are individual doctoral studies on Russia, the Baltic states and Central Europe from social, political, economic, social geographical, sociolinguistic perspectives, and from many other disciplines.

Christian Giordano, Daniel Henseler, Andreas Künzli, Interfaculty Institute of East and Central European Studies, University of Fribourg

Social Science on Eastern Europe: Country Report Switzerland

Introduction

Whereas research in the field of Slavic Languages and Literature in Switzerland possesses a long tradition, and East European history as well as Soviet philosophy may also look back on a certain tradition here (see Roland Aegarter, Die schweizerische Wissenschaft und der Osten Europas. Zur Geschichte der Slavistik und Osteuropakunde, Slavica Helvetica (Peter Lang 1998)), it was not until 1989 that research institutes of other academic disciplines in this country showed a strong interest dealing with East and Central European topics. The social sciences are the most predominant of these "new" disciplines. If one considers the term "social science" in its broadest sense, the following fields can be considered to be working with Central and East European themes: sociology, political science, ethnology, social history, economics, law and socio-linguistics. The reason for this delayed interest in Central and Eastern Europe is obvious; reliable data and source materials, which form the basis for any serious study, were hardly available to Western researchers during the period of Communist rule. In the cases of sociology and ethnology – the disciplines that are expressly empirically defined – the possibilities for proper fieldwork (with the exception of Yugoslavia and Poland) were extremely limited. Police control, bureaucratic hindrances, and limited freedom of movement discouraged many potentially interested social scientists from realizing research projects in Communist-ruled countries. It was only after 1989, when barriers fell in the shortest amount of time, that the countries of Central and Eastern Europe began to open themselves to social scientists from Switzerland.

Institutions and Researchers

Different Swiss universities offer courses in social science education and research relating to Central and Eastern Europe, but only a few institutions have institutionalised East European research. The actual center for East European research in Switzerland is considered the Interfaculty Institute of East and Central European Studies (IIECE, www.unifr.ch/iieo) at the bilingual University of Fribourg/Freiburg. It was founded in 1997 and continues the tradition established by the Institute of East European Studies, which was founded in 1958 by J.M. Bochenski and which, at the time, was concerned with Marxist philosophy. The IIECE, in its current form, seeks to plan, offer, and coordinate continuing education and research activity relating to Central and Eastern Europe, support interdisciplinary research and develop contacts both with the countries of this region and with similar institutions. The institute currently includes the following fields: Slavic Languages and Literatures (Rolf Fieguth), Philosophy of Culture (Edward M. Swiderski), Political Science (Nicolas Hayoz), Ethnology (Christian Giordano), Law (Paul Volken), Economics (Pawel Dembinski) and Religion and Culture in Eastern and East-Central Europe (Barbara Hallesleben). Additionally, the Institute publishes the journal Studies in East European Thought (Edited by Edward M. Swiderski, Kluwer Academic Publisher, Dordrecht).

The main research focus of the institute covers the broad category of the social sciences including ethnology: peasant societies and agricultural reform; ethnicity and nationalism; transition and privatisation strategies; multiculturalism and citizenship. Political Science: political sociology, especially state sociology; state and power structures and their transformation in Central and Eastern Europe (esp. Russia); the emergence and transformation of structures of trust and networks of power in Russia. Economics: competition in global industries; financial vs. real economy; development of small and mid-sized companies; entrepreneurship; The role of finance (stock markets) in the transition; systems analysis of transition; transition from a planned economy to a market economy; privatisation; inflation; unemployment; budget deficit; recession. Larger research projects currently in progress with a social science component include: "Ethnic Albanian Emigration to Switzerland since 1970"; "Civil Society and National Religion in the Work of Vladimir Solov’ev" (Swiderski, in collaboration with the University of Nijmegen); "The Restructuring of Intellectual Elites, Social Sciences, and Transitional Developments in Post-Communist Discourse" (E.M. Swiderski); "Perceptions and Self-Perceptions of Roma in Central and East European Countries" (Christian Giordano, in collaboration with the Centro per le Scienze Sociali, Rome); "Terre, territoire et nation" (Christian Giordano, in collaboration with the Laboratoire d’Anthropologie Sociale, Paris, and the Maison
Bern des Sciences de l’Homme, Paris). In respect of individual countries, the emphasis is placed on the Russian Federation and Poland, as well as on the states of South-eastern Europe, especially Bulgaria, Romania, and Albania. Courses at the Institute are held in German and French, and in Russian and Polish. The Institute is planning a closer level of cooperation with the Russian State University for the Humanities (RSUH) in Moscow that foresees, among other developments, the setting-up of a branch of the Institute in Moscow.

At the History Department of the University of Zurich there is a special field of concentration in East European History (www.hist.unizh.ch/oeg/OEG.html). The chair was created in 1971 and its holder has, since then, been Carsten Goe-hrke. East European History in Zurich concerns itself especially with the early history of Eastern Europe and with researching diplomatic relations between Switzerland and East European countries. The research focus includes the history of emigration, diplomatic history, gender history, Siberia and comparative urban history. The History Department of the University of Basle (www.unibas.ch/histsem) has had a Chair for East European History since 1991. Heiko Haumann, Professor for East European and Modern History, holds the chair. Field concentrations in Basle include the history of Eastern Europe in the 19th and 20th century and allow specialization in social and economic history. It includes also the history of East European Jewry. The departments in Basle and Zurich attempt to make their course offerings as complementary as possible.

At Geneva’s Graduate Institute of International Studies (heiw.unige.ch), which has existed since 1927 and is dedicated to the ‘pluraldisciplinary study of international relations’, André Liebich, Director of the International History and Politics section, has specialized in East European topics. His research interests include statehood and nationalism, minority issues, diaspora politics and current political issues in post-Communist Europe. Courses are offered in the fields of history, politics and foreign policy of Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and the USSR, as well as in 19th and 20th century ideologies.

East European topics are also researched at the Institute for Ethnology at the University of Bern (www.cx.unibe.ch/ethno/) under the direction of Hans-Rudolf Wicker. These include issues on the ethnology of migration (the return of refugees to Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as to Kosovo) and ethnicity, culture and nationalism, as well as peacekeeping. The Institute of Federalism (www.federalism.ch) of the University of Fribourg should be mentioned as a research center that, among other things, occupies itself with Central and Eastern Europe. Under the direction of the constitutional lawyer Thomas Fleiner, the processes of political transformation and consolidation in the post-socialist democracies are examined, above all, in respect to their compatibility with federal institutions.

In conclusion, Patrick Sériot, professor at the University of Lausanne, must be mentioned here for his work with the Russian language, because he emphasizes the importance of the socio-linguistic dimension. In Bern is located the Swiss East Europe Library (Schweizerische Osteuropabibliothek) which is the largest library in Switzerland specializing in Eastern Europe with its collection of about 150,000 volumes and journals (www.stub.unibe.ch/html/sob/index.html). Its collection concentrates on the successor states of the former Soviet Union, East Central Europe, the Baltic states and the countries of South-eastern Europe. Topical concentrations include materials concerning the development and history of East European countries and societies in the 20th century, especially during the communist period. There is also extensive documentation of current political, economic and social transformation processes, as well as the reappraisal of the communist past, latent fields of conflict in Eastern Europe (the problems of nationalities and minorities), as well as the problem of the comparative historical backwardness of Eastern Europe in its significance for contemporary development. The collections of the library date from the period following the Second World War; about 60% of the materials are written in East European languages. Among the larger libraries that maintain archives of papers related to the social science and social history of Eastern Europe, the Social Archive (Sozialarchiv) in Zurich (www.sozialarchiv.ch) and the library of the Institute for Agriculture (Institut für Agrarwirtschaft) in Zurich (www.ethbib.ethz.ch/bibleth/Agrarwirtschaft.htm) should be named.

Publications If one continues with our original conception of the social sciences as a broadly-defined collection of disciplines, one may point to not a few research papers and publications in Switzerland that have more or less strong connections to East Central and Eastern Europe. While at most sociological institutes in Switzerland East Central and Eastern Europe were hardly examined before 1989, the East European historians were able to fill this gap somewhat. Until the present time, publications have mainly been submitted from the disciplines of East European Studies and Slavic Studies, which, however, look at the societal dimension in Central and Eastern Europe. The just published collection Transformation und historisches Erbe in den Staaten des europäischen Ostens (Bern: Peter
Lang Verlag 2000) edited by the Zurich Eastern Europe historians Carsten Goehrke and Serena Gilly, is marked, for example, by the above-mentioned interest in social historical questions which touch burning contemporary issues on the part of Swiss historians. Carsten Goehrke (University of Zurich) has supervised numerous dissertations and theses in the course of his professorship, some of which deal with socio-historical topics.

The Zurich dissertations published so far dealt with the following topics:


Numerous contributions of Swiss Eastern Europe historians and Slavists outlining socio-historical perspectives have been published in periodicals such as the Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas, Forschungen zur osteuropäischen Geschichte, Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Geschichte, Zeitschrift für Ostforschung, Acta Ballica, Cahier du monde russe et soviétique, etc.

The cooperation of the East European History Department (Carsten Goehrke, Werner G. Zimmermann) with the Zurich Slavists (Peter Brang, Robert Zett and their successors) should also be acknowledged here. This interdisciplinary cooperation between linguists and historians, which has been particularly initiated by the Slavists, has resulted in a few publications relevant to social scientists. The Swiss National Science Foundation (www.snf.ch) provided the financial support:

- "Zwischen Adria und Jenissei" (Reisen in die Vergangenheit), Hans Rohr, Zürich 1994.
- "Fakten und Fabeln". Schweizerisch-slavische Reisebegegnung vom 18. bis 20.

- The "Kommentierte Bibliographie zur slawischen Soziolinguistik", a three volume bibliography which was published in 1981 as part of the series Slavica Helvetica by Prof. Peter Brang and Monika Züllig (née Bankowski) can by right be considered as a pioneer effort in this field.

In Heiko Haumann, Basle has found a researcher whose work is marked by socio-historical and social science methodology. He made a name by his Geschichte Russlands (Piper 1996) and especially by his important Geschichte der Ostjuden (appeared in a revised, updated edition with Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag (dtv-Verlag) in 1998).

This panorama of socio-historical works should be closed by mentioning the comparative and politically oriented study Das Fanal von Sarajevo. Ethnonationalismus in Europa (Zurich: NZZ Verlag 1997) by Urs Altermatt, professor for Modern and Swiss History at the University of Fribourg. This book analyses the political roots of the new nationalistic tendencies and movements in the eastern part of the continent.

In addition to this rich variety of social historical works, sociologists, political scientists, economists and ethnologists have offered relevant contributions to the diverse problems that are encountered in the continuing phase of post-socialist transformation.

Iris Stucki of the Institute for Ethnology at the University of Bern analysed social networks of Bosnian households in Basle as well as local and cross-national relations as a resource for healthy integration (www.cx.unibe.ch/ethno/diss-ilz.htm).

The works of André Liebich in Geneva, especially the books From the Other Shore: Russian Social Democracy After 1921 (Harvard 1997) and Les Minorités nationales en Europe centrale et orientales (Georg 1997) as well as his numerous articles about the Soviet past should be mentioned. Some issues of the Geneva journal Relations internationales have also been dedicated to Eastern European topics in recent years. Nicolas Hayoz from the University of Fribourg published L’Étreinte soviétique: aspects sociologiques de l’effondrement programmé de l’URSS (Geneva: Librarie Droz) in 1997.


The results of research in South-eastern Europe (especially in Romania and Bulgaria) and in the Baltics (Latvia and Estonia) by Christian Giordano, Chair of the Department of Ethnology at the University of Fribourg, appear in his numerous contributions to collections and international journals (Études Rurales, Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Soziologie, Anthropological Journal on European Cultures, Focal. Journal for Anthropology, Ethnologica Balkanica, Journal of Rural Cooperation, Studi di Sociologia, etc.). Christian Giordano edited in cooperation with Edouard Conte not only the special issue on "Paysans au-delà du mur" of the French journal Études Rurales (1995: No.138-140, 270 pages), but also the collection Es war einmal die Wende... Sozialer Umbruch der ländlichen Gesellschaften Mittel- und Südosteuropas (Berlin: Les Travaux du Centre Marc Bloch 1998). Both works portray the attempt to shed light on the diverse and difficult problems surrounding rural transformation in post-socialist Europe with a comparative perspective. His most important contributions regarding ethnicity, nationalism and citizenship are to be found in Hans-Rudolf Wicker (Ed.), Rethinking Nationalism and Ethnicity. The Struggle for Meaning and Order in Europe (Berg: Oxford and New York 1997); in Robert Hettlage, et al (Eds.), Kollektive Identitäten in Krisen (Opladen: Westdeutscher Verlag 1997); in Balint Balla and Anton Sterbling (Eds.), Ethnicity, Nation, Culture, Central and East European Perspectives (Hamburg: Krämer Verlag 1998); in Rupert Moser (Ed.), Die Bedeutung des Ethnischen im Zeitalter der Globalisierung, Einbindungen, Ausgrenzungen, Säuberungen (Bern, Stuttgart, Vienna: Paul Haupt Verlag 2000); in Umberto Melotti (Ed.), Etnicità, Nazionalità e Cittadinanza (Rome: Edizioni SEAM 2000).

Under the direction of Christian Giordano, two MA theses were prepared on topics concerning Central and Eastern Europe (Andrea Boscoboinik, "Images of Change: Bulgaria’s Transformation to a Post-Communist Society" in 1996 and Geneviève Piérart, "Nationalisme et gestion de l’identité ethnique. Les Hongrois de Transylvanie et l’enjeu de l’Histoire" in 1998). At the time there are also four dissertations being prepared on the construction of national identity in Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria by Elke-Nicole Kappus, Marlena Nitu, Teodor Nitu and Maria Pescheva.

Concluding Remarks

Undoubtedly, one may conclude that although Central and East European topics in Switzerland do not form an area of specialization in the social sciences and although the coordination of relevant branches and structures need
strengthening in the future, a small group of motivated researchers has crystallized and has gained international recognition due to its stimulating academic efforts.

Francisco Veiga, Departamento de Historia Contemporánea, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona

The situation of research in the social sciences on Eastern Europe: A Spanish overview

In Spain, the landscape of the studies in the social sciences on Eastern Europe is a desert with some isolated oases. The reasons for this situation are very logical. Spain has not maintained regular contacts with Eastern Europe in its near historical past: no commercial relationships, neither cultural contacts nor strategic implications existed. There are not even significant colonies of immigrant populations from Eastern Europe in Spain. The traditional interest of Spanish academics on the social sciences was focused on South America and, in a very minor scale, North Africa and Western Europe. The last decade brought a new interest in those countries, due to the fall of the Iron Curtain and the wars in Yugoslavia, especially when the Spanish Army and NGOs were involved in some of the crises. But, unfortunately, the impact of those events was too much disturbing for a society long time unconscious of the Eastern half of the European continent. During the change from the eighties to the nineties, the debate on the “Spanish pattern of transition” from the dictatorship of Franco to democracy was very animated in our country. So, the widespread discussion in the western countries about the political and historical meaning of the collapse of the Soviet system, or the ethnic wars in Yugoslavia mixed in Spain with the debate on papers of the leftist parties and the nationalisation in the Spanish autonomic regions. The result of this intense politicisation was the proliferation of self-proclaimed experts in Eastern Europe. Only a handful of social science professors continue with research in that field and train new scholars. These professors are the last representatives of the “first generation” that emerged at the beginning of the eighties. In our days, a small group of young professors, graduates and scholarship holders are already the “second generation”. They come from three centers: Madrid, Valencia and Barcelona, although there is also some activity in Oviedo and Santiago de Compostela.

In Madrid, the Department of Political Sciences at the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED) is the largest center for graduate work on politics in Eastern and Central Europe. The programme on Eastern Europe and on the former Soviet Union’s political transitions provides eight courses coordinated by Prof. Carmen González, who wrote a doctoral thesis on the Hungarian transition at the beginning of the nineties and is now leading two research groups on national minorities in Eastern Europe. The first one, on the Hungarian minorities in the countries neighbouring Hungary. The second, financed by the Gutiérrez Mellado Institute, is researching the political tools for the management of conflicts among ethnic minorities in Eastern Europe and the former USSR. The Gutiérrez Mellado Institution is not devoted to Eastern European topics, but at present it financed a number of research projects in this field.

Two other professors working as full-time staff members of the Department of Politics in the UNED, and teaching Master of Philosophy or Doctor of Philosophy programmes are: Jesús de Andrés, a researcher on Russian transition,
and Ignacio Torreblanca, whose subject is the enlargement of the European Union towards Eastern Europe. The Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM) has lost the leadership in this particular field of research since the closure of the Instituto de Estudios sobre la Europa Oriental, but its Department of Applied Economics still has a great weight in the analysis of post-socialist economies. In the UCM, the professors Fernando Luengo and Enrique Palazuelos are two of the most remarkable names in the “first generation” of Spanish specialists in Eastern Europe economics, and the founders of the Instituto de Europa Oriental. They teach, respectively, the subjects: “The external insert of the economies of Central and Oriental Europe” and “The energy sector in the economy of the Soviet Federation”. But not all professors of the Complutense specialized in Eastern Europe are economists. Juan Carlos Monedero is a political scientist, and he studies the former GDR; Mercedes Herrero, a professor in Communication / Journalism, is a researcher specialized in the political evolution of Poland from 1989 onwards.

At the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM), Department of Political Sciences, professor Carlos Taibo, one of the outstanding academics in the “first generation”, is the author of a doctoral thesis on the Red Army and director of the Program of Russian Studies. This program was born ten years ago, but today it stagnates because of lack of financing. Although initially an expert in the Soviet political system, professor Taibo has also worked on transitions in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics. He has published a large amount of diffusion books, written for the general public, some of them dedicated to the wars in former Yugoslavia with more political conclusions that academic ones.

At the Universidad de Valencia, the Department of Constitutional Law supported interdisciplinary contacts among Spanish experts in matters of Eastern Europe. The first “Encuentro Español de Estudios sobre la Europa Oriental” has taken place in November 1998, thus opening a window that brought fresh air for the first time since the end of the Instituto de Europa Oriental. A group of political scientists, jurists, historians and economists from all generations worked together in an atmosphere of open cooperation. The promoter of this experience was doctor Carlos Flores, professor of Constitutional Law with wide experience in the study of the juridical structures of Eastern Europe. His almost 50 publications have been focused mainly on the comparative study of electoral processes, the formation of party systems and the institution building processes in the new East European democracies.

The Research Unit Social Formations in Transition (Unidad de Investigación Formaciones Sociales en Transición -UIFST-) at the University of Valencia attached to the Department of Applied Economics also should be mentioned. UIFST is directed by professor Antonio Sánchez Andrés and has a very qualified staff of Valencian and Russian professors. UIFST analyses the transformation processes that began at the end of the eighties in the old economies with centralized planning, although its main center of attention is the Soviet Union and the present Russian Federation.

UIFST works in close collaboration with the Group for Analysis of Economic Transition Economy (Grup d’Anàlisi de la Transició Econòmica -GATE-) based in Barcelona. Although GATE is not devoted explicitly to studies on transitions in Eastern Europe, it has some veteran researchers of the first generation, such as Benjamín Bastida, director of GATE, and Teresa Virgili. They are both experts in the economic transitions in Central and Eastern Europe. Also, Xavier Martí works on the economic transition in Poland, whereas Carles Batlle studies the Czechoslovakian case. Worth mentioning in Barcelona is also the CIDOB Foundation (Centro de Información y Documentación de Barcelona). It is a research, teaching and documentation centre on interna-

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74 Some of the doctoral theses in course of the UNED are those of Ruth Ferrero, on national minorities in Ukraine, Slovakia and Romania and Pedro Chaves, on enlargement of the European Union to Eastern Europe.
77 Professor Pedro Gómez Serrano, the only expert in Balkan Economy (former Yugoslavia and Albania) five years ago, now he abandoned that research line.
78 Published under the title: Las fuerzas armadas en la crisis del sistema soviético (1993).
79 He has been a Fulbright Scholar (1993-94) and visiting professor (1994-95) at the University of California-San Diego, as well as a guest researcher at the Universities of Veszprém and Budapest (1992), Virginia and Triest (1996) and the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RU) Research Institute in Munich (1993). He has edited Las nuevas instituciones políticas de la Europa Oriental (Madrid/Valencia, 1997), Derechos y libertades en las nuevas democracias de la Europa del Este (Pamplona, 1998-9).
80 http://www.uv.es/uifst.
81 Professor José María March, co-author with professor Antonio Sánchez Andrés of several books on the socio-economic transition in Russia, some translated into Russian, is an outstanding scholar, also remarkable are the professors Isabel Plà and Vicenta Fuster. Thanks to the close relationship that the center keeps up with the Russian University of the Friendship of the Peoples, the Russian professors Nikolay A. Shkolyar and Gennady I. Martyushchev have worked in the staff of UIFST.
82 Professor Raúl de Arriba researched and published on the economic transition in Bulgaria.
83 http://www.cidob.org/.

NEWSLETTER Sozialwissenschaften - Osteuropa, July 2000 43
tional relations and development studies. It was registered in 1973 as a non-profit association. In 1979, it became a private foundation with a board consisting of several institutions and individuals. The main geographical areas are Latin America, the Mediterranean and the Arab World, Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and the former USSR. The responsible person for research is Carmen Claudín, a researcher who studied in Moscow. She is also the director for studies in Central and Eastern Europe and the former USSR. CIDOB has its own documentation databases, hotline service and library. Among the seminars and conferences that CIDOB offers every year, at least one is dedicated to issues of the day in Eastern Europe or Russia.

Francisco Veiga84, the author of this contribution, also works in Barcelona. He is one of the very few Spanish historians who are experts in Eastern Europe, he teaches two subjects at the Department of Contemporary History of the Autonomous University of Barcelona: “History of Eastern Europe, 1919-1945” and a doctorate programme: “Of Yalta to Dayton and Ramboullet, 1944-1999: Guidelines for the study of Eastern Europe in the second half of the XX century”. In 1987, he presented his doctoral thesis about fascism in Romania, published in 198985, and later on, he wrote two books on the political and social crises in the Balkans between 1989 and 199986. Two of these works have been published and translated into Romanian and Bulgarian87. He is a member of the Council of the CIDOB Foundation and collaborates as an expert in Balkan politics with several Spanish and international media, such as “El País” or the BBC (Spanish programmes). At present, professor Veiga supervises several research works on issues related to the history or the politics of Eastern Europe and the Balkans88.

Together with the three core institutions mentioned above, it is also necessary to name two minor centres: Galicia and Asturias. At the University of Santiago of Compostela, professor Xosé M. Núñez Seixas is a veteran researcher of the Central European nationalities, and especially the Czech national process. His thesis, presented in 1992 at the European University Institute of Florence is entitled: “The problem of the nationalities in the interwar Europe. The Congress of European Nationalities (1925-1938)”. From then on, professor Núñez Seixas has completed many research works of great quality on nationalism and the derived nationalist doctrines resulting from the Great War89. Another historian but professor of political science at the same university is Raimundo Viejo, a significant academic of the second generation who is now working on a doctoral thesis about the German reunification.

The Department of Contemporary History at the Universidad de Oviedo (Asturias) has become an organizing centre for conferences and courses on politics in Eastern Europe. Thanks to their initiatives, every summer some groups of Spanish experts in Eastern Europe. Since 1990 and by professor’s José Girón’s initiative, the University of Oviedo has organized at least six courses on political transition, economic evolution, ethnic conflicts and wars in Yugoslavia, with the participation of professors and Spanish experts in Eastern Europe. The same university publishes most part of the conference proceedings and reports presented during the summer courses90.

Although the enumeration of the institutions and Spanish researchers dedicated to Eastern Europe have filled several pages, the situation is not satisfactory. Spain is a country of 39 million inhabitants, member of the European Union, with more than four big cities and 74 universities. Despite of this, there is no single academic institution dedicated entirely to social science studies on Eastern Europe. In fact, there prevail the isolated researchers who, unfortunately, persist in being isolated from one another. Most of them only trust in public financing, and private institutions and companies that work in Eastern Europe don’t usually trust them. As there is no money, there are no important projects. There are no indicators that the situation will improve and it will take a long time before we will again have an Institute of Studies on Eastern Europe; and still more time, before Spanish researchers and professors of the diverse social sciences will again work together.

88 Professor Roberto Rodriguez Milán, who lives and works in Athens, works on a thesis on the Party New Democracy and the contemporary Greek right. It is also necessary to highlight the researches of Teodora Toleva on the relationships between Bulgaria and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
89 Soon he will publish the book: Entre Ginebra y Berlín. La cuestión de las minorías nacionales y la política internacional en Europa, 1914-1939 (Madrid: Akal).
Continuity and Change in United Kingdom Transition Research

The social sciences in the United Kingdom (UK) dealing with Eastern Europe have in general successfully met the intellectual challenges of the nineties. The gestalt switch required when a major paradigm, however defined, underpinning research activity, loosely understood, is replaced has been achieved. In other words, there is life after sovietology! Suffice to say that the as yet incomplete replacement paradigm currently concerned with transition or transformation research is being produced out of a melting pot of ideas and data that have been generated in the words of one eminent authority through the

“collaboration between specialists on authoritarian regimes who never had the opportunity to conduct serious survey research and political scientists experienced in survey techniques but ignorant of the cultures and languages of the countries which have become candidates for inclusion in wider comparative studies.”

The last ten years of transition social science research in the UK, confined in this case to political science and sociology and related disciplines, can be summarised for the purposes of this all too brief overview by examining the role of

- Co-ordinated research programmes
- Dedicated research centres
- Research issues
- Human capital

Research Programmes

Serendipity placed a key comparative, interdisciplinary research programme, namely the Economic and Social Research Council's (ESRC) East-West Programme in the right place at the right time. Originally conceived on the cusp of the collapse of communism in 1989/1990 out of an interest in the processes of decentralisation evident at the time, it provided the first vehicle for the tentative collaboration mentioned above. Subsequent triangulation as it came to be called, bringing together language, area and social science disciplinary specialists reconfigured east European studies. More importantly it did not assume that research into the post communist transformation would be self-terminating but that the changes underway, however liminal, would nonetheless require sustained long-term research endeavour. As a recent conference amply demonstrated the legacy of state socialism will remain a fruitful area of research for the foreseeable future.

The East-West Programme comprised of 20 projects selected out of over 300 initial applicants. It sought to understand the processes at work at the level of the enterprise, farm and household including changes in property regimes, management and labour relations. It dealt with social issues such as homelessness, the family and law, youth and most importantly political parties, elites, local democracy, social movements and changing political attitudes. It is generally accepted that no other study was in a position to capture this particular moment in time of systemic collapse and thus provide not only valuable insights into the early stages of transition but also lay the foundations for subsequent research.

The programme was constrained however by the intellectual agenda of scholars at the time, more so than by the perceived needs and priorities of the programme’s initiators. This was not commissioned research and therefore gaps were inevitable although the proven saliency of the 20 projects vindicated the conviction of the programme director that intellectual preoccupation was to be the touchstone for the research agenda in these fluid times rather than any attempt to second-guess possible transition scenarios.

One achievement of the programme was to provide key groups of scholars with launch pads for subsequent more embedded research activity in the area. It also provided the resources and the venues for the establishment of research networks with eastern European colleagues. David Lane at Cambridge and John Scott working with Polish colleagues oversaw the first research into the milestone Contract Parliament elected in 1989 while at the

91 E-mail: george.kolankiewicz@btinternet.com / Kolankiewicz@ssees.ac.uk
95 Further information on the East-West Programme can be obtained from its former director at G.Kolankiewicz@ssees.ac.uk.
same time initiating a line of research into economic and political elites in the Gorbachev and Yeltsin eras. Geoff Evans and Stephen Whitefield, newly in tandem, brought the intellectual powerhouse of Nuffield College into what is one of the most fruitful and stimulating series of attitudinal research projects dealing with political, economic and more recently social processes in the New Independent States (NIS) as well as Central and East European (CEE) countries.97 Simon Clarke at Warwick was able to begin to build his highly effective research teams in Russia thereby tracking the processes of enterprise restructuring and more recently household adaptation strategies.98 Nigel Swain provided impressive insights into the rural transition in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary and continues to research the area. More established researchers such as Waller, Lewis, Wightman and Lomax working with Pridham99 were able not only to carry out research on the complex process of party formation but generated a vast array of publications for the broader academic community. The East-West comparison became more relevant in projects such as Ken Roberts100 work on young people in Poland, an extension of his UK and German research whereas Bartlett and Hoggett examined the growth of small firms. Richard Rose used the programme funding to extend the scope of what was to become a prodigiously large-scale comparative study of life in post-communist societies to stand alongside his New Democracies Barometer located at Strathclyde101. Excellent ethnographic studies such as those by Nick Manning and Katy and Chris Pickvance at the University of Kent working with their east European colleagues102 on environmental and housing movements and Thirkell, Scase and Vickerstaff also at Canterbury on case studies dealing with labour relations in 5 countries103 contributed to what was judged eventually to be a successful programme despite having to deal with a range of uncertainties not least in the former Yugoslavia.

The East West Programme also benefited from parallel projects commissioned at the same time not least of which was the Social Justice project whose UK partner, Gordon Marshall of Nuffield College, provided what was a missing dimension. Primarily however the programme was able to channel the creative tension, which existed between the challenge of uncertainty and the need to apply the conceptual apparatus drawn from other spheres of research. The ESRC's commitment to area based research was further in evidence by what can be seen as a follow-up undertaking namely the "One Europe or Several" Programme104 launched in January 1998. Here the research agenda took on board some issues which had only been signalled in the earlier project outcomes, namely EU enlargement, security concerns and cross border crime (P. Rawlinson). The effect of exclusion from the NATO and EU inclusionary processes, not even considered in the early nineties projects, rightly came to be seen as a core issue. Judy Batt with her team based at CREES105 are looking at most of the "in-out" permutations in a project with a strong cross-border dimension dealing with the concept of "fuzzy-statehood". Once again the cumulative research capital gleaned from pre-1989 research involvement made these scholars eminently suited to studying the fate of the excluded where stalled transition is producing hybrid processes only comprehensible in the context of the pre-existing communist systems. This project as well as that associated with one of her co-workers at that time, Saul Estrin106 from the London Business School (LBS) who is now working on the economic impact of European Union (EU) and European Monetary Union (EMU) exclusion, also demonstrates the value of the continuity of research provided by such programmes. In between the two programmes, Batt and her colleagues had earlier completed a follow-on project on new post Soviet states. Stephen White’s team from Glasgow with Margot Light at the London School of Economics (LSE) are also looking more closely at the "outsiders" such as Russia, Belarus, Moldova

97 G Evans and S Whitefield “Identifying the Basis of Party Competition in Eastern Europe.” British Journal of Political Science. No 23 , 1993 This was the first of a series of highly regarded publications.
102 Katy Lang-Pickvance, Nick Manning and Chris Pickvance (eds) Environmental and Housing Movements. Grassroots Experience in Hungary, Russia and Estonia. Avebury 1997
104 www.one-europe.ac.uk
105 Centre of Russian and East European Studies, Univ. of Birmingham, www.bham.ac.uk/crees
and the Ukraine with a series of elite interviews, focus group studies and broader surveys in order to assess the policy impact of enlargement at the elite level. In another ambitious project, the combination of Essex University political scientists (Frances Millard and Sarah Birch) and the School of Slavonic and East European Studies (Kieran Williams) brings the electoral process in some eight of these countries under specialist scrutiny in an examination of how electoral regulations effect political systems.

Finally, regional and local governance, which had been the object of research in the East-West Programme under Hanson, Gibson and Campbell, is once again under scrutiny. James Hughes at LSE this time is looking at the relevance of geography to successful democratisation through the transfer of traditions and best practise across borders.

Of course, other ESRC programmes continued to invite and support east European oriented research where it fitted their research theme. Thus under the Transnational Communities programme Stewart and Mandel are engaged on research into citizenship and belonging, a study of the Hungarian diasporas in Slovakia, Romania and Serbia and the Kazakh and Russian Jewish communities in Germany. Steven Webber at CREES is working within the ESRC Youth Citizenship and Social Change Programme on perceptions of security and citizenship, a qualitative study addressing attitudes to varieties of militarism in Russia, Germany and the UK. All of these projects have to acknowledge the additional factor of “globalisation” in the transition trajectories.

Outside of formal programmes, interesting new networks have emerged especially among younger scholars working on the Ukraine (Birch, Wilson-SSEES107, Kuzio, Wolczuk-CREES). In part, this is a reflection of conscious recruitment policies in the area and in part is attributable to the growing importance of Ukrainian studies and the intellectual dynamism of these younger researchers.

It needs to be emphasised how central these programmes have been in developing genuinely collaborative ties with eastern European colleagues without whose efforts some of the high quality survey and participative research would not have been possible.

Research Centres

Inevitably, perhaps the tectonic shifts in the field of east European studies have thrown up new centres of excellence whilst allowing others to consolidate or coalesce. The European Research Institute at Birmingham University created out of the amalgamation of CREES and the Institute of German Studies with the School of Social Sciences and supported by an initial £4.8 million from the Joint Infrastructure Fund is a prime example of the realignment of research organisation following the redrawing of the geopolitical map. Under its auspices not only do some of its “One Europe” projects find an enlarged home but leading area scholars such as Hilary Pilkington can continue their research in youth studies and spin off projects such as that on local elites in Russia, Poland and Lithuania can find logistical support.

For its part the Strathclyde Centre for the Study of Public Policy has generated a series of reports produced out of the large-scale comparative databases and the tireless research activity of Richard Rose and his co-workers. Building on a wide network of social scientists in eastern Europe, Rose has compiled reports, which are particularly attractive to policy makers given their accessibility and broad sweep. Recent research into social capital and poverty studies is providing an important sociological dimension to a field understandably perhaps dominated in its first post 1989 years by economics and political science. Stephen White and W L Miller108 complete the picture of research into political values and voting which along with the proximate Glasgow University Institute of Central and East European Studies combine to make Glasgow a focal point for political science transition research in the new millennium.

Warwick’s Centre for Comparative Labour Studies is the home to Russian Research Programme and is now a premier centre for the sociological study of employment restructuring, household survival strategies and associated projects on contemporary Russia. Its 800 research papers many available on the web are the outcome of the several funding grants received from the ESRC, Department for International Development (DFID) and Leverhulme. They are of enormous value to academics as well as students writing dissertations and projects and retain considerable intellectual mileage.

Traditional centres such as SSEES newly merged into University College London can only benefit from the access to colleagues working in social anthropology and geography and the School of Public Policy. Indeed the newly established Centre for the Study of Democracy and Society with its lead figure Michael Stewart and bringing in colleagues from Cambridge such as Frances Pine is indicative of institutions finding new forms co-operation. SSEES is well served by a whole cohort of younger scholars such as

107 School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London.

Alena Ledeneva109 Vesna Popovski, Gerlachus Duijzingsand110 working alongside established figures such as George Schopflin, Kieran Williams and Peter Duncan. Thus, the social sciences at SSEES are producing their own brand of interdisciplinary innovation, combining the best of EU enlargement research with east European studies.

Another interesting response to the need to marry outstanding disciplinary departments to the requirements of area studies in a time of tumultuous change was provided by Essex University home to Millard111, Birch, Williamson and Walker as well as Peter Frank and Emil Kirchner. The Pad European Institute built around the new HEFCE112 appointments to the area (see below) combined the previous activities of Russian and European Studies and drew upon the tradition of comparative studies, which had stretched across the social sciences and humanities since the university’s foundation, to bring together social scientists in teaching and research.

Other universities in the UK such as Salford (Polish Studies), Keele (South East Europe Unit), Leeds with its research centre LURECES, Sussex and the European Institute with an East central Europe in Transition research group, Nottingham, Bradford (The Baltic Research Unit) and Durham (The Ustinoiv Centre) and Wolverhampton (Russian and East European Research centre) all maintain active research activities in selected fields which has been recognised and enhanced in some cases by the allocation of new HEFCE lectureships. Centres of excellence like St Antony’s College Oxford home to outstanding scholars such as Archie Brown and Alex Pravda retain their intellectual gravitas and remain venues for the exchange of ideas, However it is difficult not to notice that a process of research led consolidation of eastern European social sciences is underway, driven by empirically oriented projects. Thus, the ESRC funded centre for Research Into Elections and Social Trends (CREST) lodged partly at the Department of Sociology at Oxford provides access to east European election data through the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems. Similarly, the network based around the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) maintains important links to sociological and political science communities.

Researchers at SREES are providing their own brand of additional democracies it was inevitable that the first stages of transition research appeared to be dominated by studies of elections, elites and to a lesser extent electorates. The analysis of new political classes emanating out of dissident or nomenclature backgrounds called for research into political identity formation amongst both leaders as well as led. Electoral and party systems, presidential vs. parliamentary regimes, constitutions and courts were all grist to the mill of the newly enabled political science community in the UK.

Sociology followed up and provided an understanding of interest groups, civil society, and indeed class formation and its impact on voting behaviour. In due course party competition and the embedding of political parties required a more complex level of analysis and in-depth ethnographic studies by area specialists have come back into favour.113 Elsewhere the continuing role of clientilism and corruption in political life (W L Miller and A B Grodeland) has drawn attention to other post authoritarian transitions and a renewed interest in the “Italian Road”.

It would be remiss to overlook the role of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House who have generated much useful research over the years. Roy Allison heads the highly productive Russia and Eurasia programme whereas Heather Grabbe associated with the European programme under Julie Smith has been a major force in publication and conference activity on the subject of the politics of eastward enlargement of the EU and NATO. Perhaps more than was at first anticipated, the extended transition is throwing up theoretical challenges which demand close collaboration at all levels and at all stages between researchers here and in eastern Europe. There is a special need to recognise the intellectual input that the sociological and political science communities in countries such as Poland, Hungary and Russia are providing in pushing forward the boundaries of understanding in their own and neighbouring countries. The best of east European indigenous research output needs to have a larger platform in the UK and a greater voice, with more active mediation by area based social scientists whose responsibility it is to be more inclusive in setting the mutual research agenda.

Research Issues
Given the new found access to a whole range of additional democracies it was inevitable that the first stages of transition research appeared to be dominated by studies of elections, elites and to a lesser extent electorates. The analysis of new political classes emanating out of dissident or nomenclature backgrounds called for research into political identity formation amongst both leaders as well as led. Electoral and party systems, presidential vs. parliamentary regimes, constitutions and courts were all grist to the mill of the newly enabled political science community in the UK.

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However, it is second-generation democratisation questions, which are now being addressed. Why have the political classes seen so little new recruitment? Will the wonderful varieties of

110 Working for the Netherlands State Institute on the fall of Srebrenica.

113 The work of younger scholars such as Alex Szczerskiak (Poland) Sarah Birch and Katarzyna Wolczuk (the Ukraine) Edwin Bacon (Russia) comes to mind.
political parties encountered in eastern Europe begin to take on the pattern of western parties and is it possible that they are simply following the general direction of dis-organised political behaviour in the west? Is the search for the replication of a left-right divide pointless? The imitative revolutions of eastern Europe are at once catching up on being pre-modern, modern and post modern where markets exist for political ideologies as much as for consumer goods.

The sociological agenda which was originally shaped around the “winners vs. losers” question has gradually evolved into an examination of household survival strategies with all the reservations that researchers such as Simon Clarke and Nick Manning hold for that term, implying as it does co-ordinated decision-making rather than being the contingent outcome of independent opportunities seized. Richard Rose who focused on household portfolios of different economies and was eventually led into the study of “capitals” and assets followed a similar tack. This approach of necessity involved the continuing study of the informal sector, self-help, multiple jobs and the generation of typologies of individual responses to the market. Poverty studies and later the patterning of social exclusion through long-term unemployment imported many of the concepts of economic sociology into transition research. The sociology of time, of the body and of leisure have quickly come on to the research agenda.

The final and most ambitious part of this research direction has come with the Evans and Whitefield project into class formation in Russia and ECE countries and especially how this is reflected in voting preferences and political partisanship. Their ambitious attempts to operationalise Goldthorpe’s class schema within the context of post communist Russia involve making connections between economic strategies and structuring of assets at their disposal.114 The making of the middle class as the anchor of market led reforms and foundation for a liberal civil society is equally resonant throughout such research and stands at the interface of politics, economics and sociology.

Another part of the sociological agenda follows on from the civil society debate and concerns the emergence and reaction to “otherness”. This has provided scope for research into youth cultures, sexuality, the Roma, migration, borders, and the return of “forced migrants” to Russia. Mars and Webber have studied Jewish identity in post communist Hungary and Poland whereas elsewhere discourse analysis has been deployed to understand identity formation in German and Polish cross-border families.


A quick snapshot of the range of research funded by the ESRC provides reassurance that most social science concerns continue to be addressed by individual scholars outside of the large centres and programmes. The rich tapestry of ESRC funded research projects points to the vibrant research imagination of the UK scholarly community. A prime example is Peg Watson who maintains her eminent research into mortality and morbidity most recently through a study of Polish Nowa Huta steel workers and especially the factors determining the “survivors” from an earlier study, Caedon Staddon’s project on the local environmental governance in Poland and Bulgaria deals with resources dependent communities in this case forestry.

Individual country specialists such as David Tummock from Leicester continues his research on the human and social geography of Romania. Chris Corrin in the field of women’s movements, gender and politics, Frances Pine looking at various aspects of the lives of peasant women in Poland and Mary Buckley on women in Russia are just a few of the examples of gender oriented research. Rosemary Crompton brought Russia and the Czech Republic into a larger comparative project occupational segregation and the social construction of occupations. Finally, Chris Hann continues his finely crafted social anthropological studies of minority communities, post socialist nationalism and most recently the fate of the Greek Catholics of central Europe.

Edwin Bacon is also examining religion this time in Russia and at the level of high politics whereas Neil Melvin at Leeds continues his established interests working on post-soviet local elites in Novosibirsk and Pavlodar as well as looking at the Russian diasporas in the Ukraine and Estonia.115

Finally to “Death in Russia”, both historically experienced at the collective level and individual responses, trauma and mourning are all part of an intriguing project being undertaken by Catherine Merridale at Bristol.

**Human resources**

The above resume does not reflect the full depth and breadth of research activity much of it geared towards consultancy, both public and private sector, briefing activities and report writing. The HEFCE Review of Former Soviet and east European Studies published in October 1995 identified a serious shortfall in provision for study of the area especially amongst the

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115 The British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies Directory of Members 2000 used alongside the ESRC REGARD database of research grants and resources provides a good overview, albeit selective, of the UK research community.
non-Russian specialists.\footnote{Review of Former Soviet and East European Studies. Higher Education Funding Council for England. October 1995 p. 33.} It recognised that a generational exchange was in train with many more mature scholars retiring from active research. In order to manage this process and make up some of the shortfall 33 new posts were allocated to 13 Higher Education Institutions in the UK chiefly in the politics and international relations of the eastern European non-Russian countries. Since the process was based upon peer review and competitive bidding, some disciplines such as sociology continue to be under-represented. The remit for these new appointments included providing expertise to business and the world of diplomacy, something that in fact was difficult to avoid. The major recipients of the new posts were SSEES, the Universities of Essex, Birmingham, Nottingham, Leeds and the School of Oriental and African Studies. The single largest country beneficiary in terms of new appointments was the Ukraine although recognition was given to other under-resourced areas of study such as South Eastern Europe and the Baltic States.

Excluding economists, who have not been the subject of this admittedly rather personal overview, there appear to be in the region of 200 social scientists, chiefly political scientists, and including 35 plus self declared sociologists in the UK working on eastern Europe. That number is unlikely to grow in the coming years although this does not imply that the research activity of this group will stabilise. In all likelihood east European studies will continue to be incorporated into mainstream comparative research and this will only serve to increase the demand for scholars who are not only familiar with the area but who are also able and willing to address broader issues.

With all these resource limitations in mind, it is difficult not to conclude that the social and political sciences in the UK are dynamic with a cohort of younger scholars waiting in the wings.\footnote{See the most recent issues of Slovo published at SSEES for articles based on presentations by younger researchers largely from the UK.}

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

- Gel’man, Vladimir; Golosov Grigorii V. (Eds.): Elections in Russia, 1993-1996.


**CONFERENCES**\footnote{The printed information on conferences is an extract from the Internet conference calendar of the GESIS Branch Office. The calendar is updated every two weeks, it also contains information on events in the German-speaking area.}

See also the Conference Calendar under the URL: [http://www.berlin.iz-soz.de/events/eastern.html](http://www.berlin.iz-soz.de/events/eastern.html)

**Announcement**

**Civil Society and Democracy in the New Millennium - 20th World Congress of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences**

**Date:** 09.08.-13.08.2000
**Conference site:** Washington, USA
**Organiser:** The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU)
**Contact:** SVU President – Mila Rechcigl
**Tel.:** 301-881-7222
**Fax:** 301-881-9667
**E-mail:** [rechcigl@aol.com](mailto:rechcigl@aol.com)
**Internet:** [http://www.utoronto.ca/crees/conferences/czech.html](http://www.utoronto.ca/crees/conferences/czech.html)

**Announcement**

**Approaching a New Millennium: Lessons from the Past – Prospects for the Future – The 7th ISSEI Conference**

**Date:** 14.08.-18.08.2000
**Conference site:** Bergen, Norway
Organiser: International Society for the Study of European Ideas (ISSEI)

Topics:
- The Progress of Integration – Religious and Cultural Minorities in the New Central European Democracies
- Democracy in the European Union – Integration through deliberation?
- The Impact of Political Culture on the Democratization in Eastern Europe – Theoretical Remarks and Empirical Results
- State Building, Democracy in the Post-Soviet States: Risks and Challenges at the Close of the 20th Century
- Theories of Democracy for Europe: Principles and Preconditions

Contact: Univ. of Bergen, Centre for the Study of European Civilizations
Haakon Sheteligsplass 11
N-5007 Bergen, Norway
E-mail: ISSEI2000@uib.no
Internet: http://www.uib.no/issei2000/

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Announcement

Minorities in a Pluralist Society in the New Millennium

Date: 01.09-03.09.2000
Conference site: Brno, Czech Republic
Organiser: Masaryk University, School of Social Studies, Brno; The British Embassy, Prague
Contact: Masaryk Univ., School of Social Studies, Dept. of Psychology
Gorkého 7
CZ-602 00 Brno, Czech Republic
Tel.: ++420-5-41 61 51 26
Fax: ++420-5-41 61 51 00
E-mail: polaskov@fss.uni.cz

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Announcement

Building Communication in Europe: People and Organisations – Seventh European Summer Seminar in Intercultural Studies

Date: 05.09.-10.09.2000
Conference site: Krakow, Poland
Organiser: Institute for International Communication; Amsterdam in cooperation with Jagiellonian Univ. and SIETAR Europa
Contact: B. van Houten, Institute for Intercultural Communication
Marnixstraat 154-I
NL-Amsterdam
Tel.: ++31-20-624 2212
Fax: ++31-20-624 1513
E-mail: bv_houten@euronet.nl

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Announcement

Globalisation and European Integration

Date: 07.09-09.09.2000
Conference site: Univ. of Barcelona, Spain
Organiser: The Council of the European Association for Comparative Economic Studies (EACES)
Contact: Benjamin Bastida, GATE, Univ. of Barcelona, Dept. Politica Economica
Avenida Diagonal, 690
E-08034 Barcelona, Spain
Tel.: ++34-93-40 21 949
Fax: ++34-93-40 24 573
E-mail: gate2000@eco

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Announcement

Ethnic Borderlands in Europe: Coexistence and Conflicts

Date: 09.09-10.09.2000
Conference site: Suprasl, near Bialystok, Poland
Organiser: Univ. of Bialystok, Institute of Sociology
Contact: Anna Borkowska, Univ. of Bialystok, Inst. Of Sociology
Ul. Liniarskiego 3
PL-15420 Bialystok, Poland
Tel.: ++48-85-745 71 04
E-mail: soc@noc.uwb.edu.pl

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Announcement

The Changing Role of Borderlands and Regional Policy

Date: 13.09.-15.09.2000
Conference site: Zgorzelec, Poland
Organiser: Univ. of Lodz, Chair of Political Geography and Regional Studies; State Scientific Institute “Silesian Institute”, Opole; Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany
Topics:
- European integration and regional policy
- The function of borderlands in view of European Community integration processes
- Comparing Western practice to the capacities of Poland and Eastern and Central Europe

Contact: Prof. Dr. Marek Koter or Dr. Marek Sobczynski
Ul. Kocpenskiego 31
Tel.: ++48-42-635 45 90
Fax: ++48-42-635 45 92
Internet: http://www.uni.lodz.pl/ulinfo/sesm23.htm

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Announcement

NEWSLETTER Sozialwissenschaften - Osteuropa, July 2000 51
The Anthropology of Southeast Europe – Ten Years After: Socio-Cultural Aspects of Transformation

Date: 14.09.-17.09.2000
Conference site: Sofia, Bulgaria
Organiser: The Association for Southeast European Anthropology (InASEA)
Contact: Prof. Dr. Klaus Roth, Institut für deutsche und vergleichende Volkskunde Ludwigstr. 25
D-80539 München
Tel.: ++49-89-16 28 09
E-mail: k.roth@lrz.uni-muenchen.de or: Dr. Milena Benovska, Sofia
E-mail: milena@tusk.icn.bg

Policing in Central and Eastern Europe: Ethics, Integrity, and Human Rights – Third Biennial International Conference

Date: 21.09.-23.09.2000
Conference site: Ljubljana, Slovenia
Organiser: Univ. of Ljubljana, College of Police and Security Studies
Contact: Milan Pagon, Univ. of L., College of Police and Security Studies Kotnikova 8
SL-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Tel.: ++386-61-172 4678
Fax: ++386-61-302 687
E-mail: milanp@vpvs.uni-lj.si

Totalitarianism and Authoritarianism in Europe: short time and long-time perspective

Date: 28.09-30.09.2000
Conference site: Warsaw, Poland
Organiser: German Historical Institute, Warsaw; Polish Academy of Sciences, Historical Institute; Italian Cultural Institute
Contact: German Historical Institute Warsaw Palac Kultury i Nauki (17th floor) Plac Defilad 1, skr. 33 PL 00-901 Warszawa
Tel.: ++48-22-656-7182, -7185
Fax: ++48-22-693-7006
E-mail: dh@dhi.waw.pl
Internet: http://www.dhi.waw.pl

Czech Political Science at the Beginning of the New Millennium – The first congress of the Czech political scientists

Date: 29.09.-01.10.2000
Conference site: Brno, Czech Republic
Organiser: Czech Political Science Association in co-operation with the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk Univ., Brno
Contact: Ass. Prof. Dr. V. Dvoáková, Univ. of Economics, Dept. of Political Science Nám W. Churchilla 4
CZ-130 67 Prague 3, Czech Republic
E-mail: tvorakv@vse.cz

Sixth Nordic-Baltic Conference in Regional Sciences

Date: 04.10-07.10.2000
Conference site: Riga, Latvia
Contact: Dr. Biruta Sloka
E-mail: sloka@acad.latnet.lv
Internet: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/arkleton/events.htm

Europe in the 20th Century. Main directions of development (Ecology, Economy, Culture and Politics)

Date: 10.10.2000
Conference site: Lodz, Poland
Organiser: Univ. of Lodz, Faculty of Philosophy and History, Institute of History
Contact: Prof. Dr. J. Grobis or Prof. Dr. E. Wisniewski
Ul Kaminskiego 27a
PL-90-219 Lodz
Tel./Fax: ++48-42-678 54 88
Internet: http://www.uni.lodz.pl/ulan/sesa12.htm

Women’s Memory: Oral Histories from Transition. Theory and Practice

Date: 03.11.-05.11.00
Conference site: Budapest, Hungary
Organiser: Central European University
Contact: Central European University Nargiza Turgunova
Nador u.9
1051 Budapest, Hungary
Announcement

The European Union, The Baltic States and the Northern Dimension

Date: 10.11.-11.10.00
Conference site: London, Great Britain
Organiser: University Association Contemporary European Studies (UACES)
Contact: UACES
King’s College, Strand
Tel.: +44 (0)20 7240 0206
Fax: +44 (0)20 7836 2350
E-mail: admin@uaces.org
Internet: http://www.uaces.org/u-info/14.htm

Announcement

Eastern and Central Europe: Lessons from the Past, Prospects for the Future

Date: 17.11.-19.11.00
Conference site: Warsaw, Poland
Organiser: The Graduate School for Social Research (GSRR) at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the School for Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London, Department of Sociology of the Central European University
Contact: GSRR
E-mail: GSRR_conference@yahoo.com
Internet: http://www.sns.edu.pl

Conference report

Summer School 2000

Summer School 2000 took place in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 20. till 25. June. It was organized by UNESCO-Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The topic of the School was International Comparative Research Programmes in the Social Sciences. The School was attended by 36 doctoral students, young researchers and university teachers below 35 years of age coming from 24 countries. The students came mostly from Europe but also from Argentina, Uruguay, Mexico, the USA, Canada, Turkey, Lebanon, Pakistan and the Philippines. The truly international group was selected from 146 applications. Distinguished researchers from 11 countries delivered lectures and participated in the debates.

The major results of Summer School 2000 can be summarized as follows:

1. Knowledge dissemination. The keynote lecture on strategies of comparative research in the social sciences was delivered by Mattei Dogan, France. The participants received first hand information about projects of the Management of Social Transformation Programme - ETHNO-NET Africa (Paul Nkwi, Cameroon), RISK (Nikolai Genov, Bulgaria), MOST’s Clearing House (Petra Van Vucht Tijssen, the Netherlands). The Comparative Research on Poverty Programme of the ISSC was presented by Blandine Destremau (France-Yemen). Jill Jaeger (Austria-Germany) analysed achievements and problems of the IHDP Programme of ICSU-ISSC. Wolfgang Glatzer (Germany) introduced to the students the long-term international project on Comparative Charting of Social Change. Kjell Nilsson (Sweden) explained the background, the content and the logistical concept of the project for developing a MA course on Internet on European transformations in a comparative perspective.

2. Networking. In the course of the intensive debates during the sessions of the School and in various less formal meetings, intensive interactions facilitated the exchange of experience and the mutual understanding. The inter-generational exchange of scientific and everyday life experience came about in the most natural way. The discussions among young colleagues paved the way to future scientific cooperation. Joint research projects were discussed already during the Summer School. There is no doubt that the communication between the participants will continue. There will be various follow-ups of the School.

3. Capacity building. The knowledge acquired during the Summer School opened new vistas for professional development and realization of the participants. More specifically, they learned about new approaches to their research subject field, which are truly comparative, interdisciplinary as a rule and practically oriented in most cases. An important part of capacity building was the development of skills for participation in international debates and in international scientific networking. Young colleagues were especially encouraged to chair sessions of the
School thus taking the role of leaders in debates and in networking. The positive reactions to Summer School 2000 by the participants are overwhelming. This is a clear signal that there is a genuine need of this type of professional frameworks fostering knowledge dissemination, networking and capacity building. It is the major responsibility of international organizations to actively initiate and support them. Thus, the accumulated experience urges to institutionalise an International Summer School on *Comparative Research in the Social Sciences*.

Prof. Nikolai Genov  
Local organiser, Institute of Sociology  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

**Contact**  
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