

Conference

Eastern Europe 30 Years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall

8 - 9 November 2019

Theatre - Badia Fiesolana, Via dei Roccettini 9 - San Domenico di Fiesole (Fiesole, Florence)

Scientific Organisers:

Dorothee Bohle | European University Institute

Béla Greskovits | Central European University and European University Institute

Gábor Halmai | European University Institute

Introduction

30 years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall, there is widespread disillusionment with the outcomes of the transformation in the East. Public distrust in democratic institutions and political leaders, perception of widespread corruption, limited economic and social convergence with the West, and recurrent East-West conflicts attest to this. Consequently, political liberalism and European integration are being contested; economic nationalism has re-emerged, and historical memories are being re-written to idealize Europe's dark 1920s and 1930s. However, disillusionment has varied across countries and over time. The conference seeks to confront the hopes raised in the early years of transformation with the outcomes 30 years later. What have been successes of the transformation, and which are the failures? How have early policy decisions contributed to success and failure? Was the introduction of the liberal democratic institutional system without prior political democratic and constitutional culture premature? Why is the liberal order increasingly being challenged in the region? How to best describe the current state of affairs in the region: is it still transformation, and if so, to what? Why are the almost forgotten early debates on populism, third way, economic nationalism, dependency, peripheral development, which seem to have been closed by the time of EU accession, being re-opened within the region and without? Is there a way back to the original ideals of the democratic transformation, and what could be the role of the internal and external supporters of a liberal democratic order?

Programme

8 November

09.00 - 09.30 Welcome and Introduction

Brigid Laffan | Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute
Béla Greskovits | Central European University and European University Institute

09.30 - 11.30 **Panel I: Memory Politics**

Chair:

Dorothee Bohle | European University Institute

Ferenc Laczó | Maastricht University
An Age of European Revisionisms

Balázs Trencsényi | Central European University
Identity Politics and Anti-Liberal Backlash in Post-1989 East Central Europe: Genealogies and Discursive Patterns

Jelena Subotic | Georgia State University
The Appropriation of Holocaust Memory in Post-Communist Eastern Europe

Joanna Wawrzyniak | University of Warsaw
Beyond a Neoliberal-Populist Divide: on Vernacular Memory of Industrial Transformation (Poland)

Tom Junes | European University Institute
Echoes of 1989: Revolution, Anti-Communism, and the Performative Memory Politics of Protest

11.30 - 11.45 *Coffee break*

11.45 - 12.45 **Keynote I**

Introduction:

Béla Greskovits | Central European University and European University Institute

Jan Zielonka | University of Oxford
The New Political Geography of Europe

12.45 - 14.00 *Lunch break*

14.00 - 16.00 **Panel II: Eastern Europe Meets European integration**

Chair:

Béla Greskovits | Central European University and European University Institute

Dimitry Kochenov | University of Groningen
Entering Europe — Readjusting of the Idea of the People

Milada Vachudova | University of Chapel Hill
Populism, Polarization and Democratic Backsliding in the EU East

László Bruszt | Central European University

The Disaster that didn't Happen

Dace Dzenovska | University of Oxford

Liberalism and the Russian Threat: Perspectives from Latvia

Levente Littvay | Central European University and European University Institute

Populism and Nationalism in the Post-Communist Region and the Rest of the World

16.00 - 16.30 *Coffee break*

16.30 - 17.30 **Book Launch**

Chair:

Dorothee Bohle | European University Institute

Jelena Subotic | Georgia State University

Yellow Star, Red Star: Holocaust Remembrance after Communism, Cornell University Press
2019

Discussants:

Aida Hozic | University of Florida

Tom Junes | European University Institute

Ferenc Laczó | Maastricht University

17.30 - 18.30 **Book Launch**

Chair:

Gábor Halmai | European University Institute

Wojciech Sadurski | University of Sydney

Poland's Constitutional Breakdown, Oxford University Press, 2019

Discussants:

Kim Lane Scheppele | Princeton University

Gábor Halmai | European University Institute

Jan Kubik | Rutgers University and University College London

20.00 *Conference dinner*

9 November

09.30 - 11.45 **Panel III: Democratic Backsliding**

Chair:

Dorothee Bohle | European University Institute

Zsolt Enyedi | Central European University

Positive and Negative Surprises: A Comparison of the Feared and Materialized Challenges to Democracy in Eastern Europe

Béla Greskovits | Central European University and European University Institute

The Anti-liberalism of Hungary's Conservative Bildungsbürgertum

Jan Kubik | Rutgers University and University College London

Is the Rise of Populism a Symptom or a Driver of Democratic Backsliding? A Socio-Cultural Perspective

Gábor Halmai | European University Institute

Possible Explanations for the Backsliding in Hungary and Poland

Aida Hozic | University of Florida

Authoritarianism in Color

11.45 - 12.00 *Coffee break*

12.00 - 13.00 **Keynote II**

Chair:

Gábor Halmai | European University Institute

Kim Lane Scheppele | Princeton University

Normal Countries

13.00 - 14.00 *Lunch break*

14.00 - 16.00 **Panel IV: Political Economy**

Chair:

Béla Greskovits | Central European University and European University Institute

Dorottya Szikra | Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Democratic Backsliding and Welfare State Efforts in Eastern Europe

Cornel Ban | Copenhagen Business School

East-Central European Economic Development in a Cross-Regional Perspective

Vera Šćepanović | Leiden University

It depends. How European Integration Shapes Developmental Pathways in East Central Europe

Bojan Bugaric | University of Sheffield

Law and Political Economy of Populism in Central and East European Countries

Dorothee Bohle | European University Institute

The Surprising Resilience of Neoliberalism: Three Decades of Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe

16.00 - 16.15 *Coffee break*

16.15 - 17.45 **Roundtable: 30 Years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall**

Chair:

Dorothee Bohle | European University Institute

Milada Vachudova | University of Chapel Hill

Béla Greskovits | European University Institute and Central European University

Joanna Tyrowicz | University of Warsaw, FAME/GRAPE

Wojciech Sadurski | University of Sydney