



SÜDOSTEUROPA-
GESELLSCHAFT



AKADEMIE FÜR
POLITISCHE BILDUNG
TUTZING

57. Internationale Hochschulwoche / 57th International University Week

1 – 5 October 2018

Akademie für Politische Bildung / Academy for Civic Education, Tutzing

Program

**The Protection of Nature and the Environment
in Southeast Europe:
Players, Discourses, Strategies of Action**

Scientific direction:

Dr. Sonja Schüler
Department of Social Sciences
University of Fribourg / Switzerland

Background

In the wider region of Southeast Europe the notion of nature is connected with various attributions of meaning which are at least partly rooted in history: Nature is perceived, framed and treated as an esthetical symbol, an economically important resource, a cultural heritage and as a value which is also of importance for the sense of national identities. In the former socialist countries of the region environmental activism and the positive commitment to nature draw considerable symbolic power from the pro-democracy mobilizations of the socialist past. Today, demands for the protection of nature and the environment are brought forward in manifold public discussion forums and spheres of negotiation. Political and economic actors, “green” parties, social movements and different forms of social self-organizations take an active part in public discourses concerning environmentally relevant attributions of meanings and concerning the use and the management of natural resources. These discourses take place in a complex field of tension among European and national legal environmental obligations, (power) political calculation and maneuvering, demands for economic growth, efficiency and competitiveness and social relationships to nature. Frequently they reveal important political and social cleavages and far-reaching conflicts and competitions of interests and demands.

Concept

In the course of the International University Week we will consider environmentally-relevant fields of action and spheres of negotiation with their inherent conflicting goals and competitions of interests. We will pay particular attention to the political and nonstate key players which struggle for the power of interpretation in environmentally-relevant information and decision-making processes. In this context it is essential to grasp and to analyze their problem constructions and patterns of action and interpretation.

It will be important to discuss the following questions (amongst others):

- How are relevant key terms (nature, environment, ecology, sustainability...) framed in local and national discourses? Which everyday cultural meanings of these terms can be grasped? Which role do these interpretative patterns play for environmental policies and for everyday life?
- How far do local volunteer work and social commitment on the local level represent social resources of relevance for the protection of nature and the environment and which ideas, values and motivations shape the concepts of nature in this sphere of action?
- Which problem definitions and attributions of responsibility do the framings of environmentally-relevant actors reflect? Which social and political cleavages and formal and informal power constellations become obvious?
- What impact do professionalized national and supra-national environmental associations and networks really have?
- Which ambiguities concerning the capacity to act and the legitimacy of various political and nonstate actors can be detected?
- Last but not least it is important to identify how far European funds and other EU initiatives really complement regional and national strategies.

In conclusion we should be able to discuss

- Whether and how far specific “western” and “southeastern” discourses regarding environmentally-relevant developments, challenges and priorities of action need to be distinguished
- Whether and how far local informal interest groups and social movements maybe even represent a “southeastern” counterpart to western-shaped, institutionalized and formalized concepts of political ecology.

The event is aimed at promoting scientific discussions and international networking of scientists carrying out analytical work on the subject. The International University Week addresses students, researchers and scientists from various disciplines (especially from Sociology, Political Science, Cultural Studies, Media and Communication Studies, History, Economic Sciences, International Relations, Environmental Sciences, Peace and Conflict Studies etc.) from east and west.

Conference language is English

Monday, October 1, 2018

- until 16:30 hrs *Arrival of the participants*
- 17:00 hrs WELCOMING ADDRESSES
Wolfgang **Quaisser**, Academy for Civic Education, Tutzing
Gernot **Erlner**, President, Southeast Europe Association, Berlin
Gudrun **Steinacker**, Former Ambassador, member of the Board
Southeast Europe Association, Vienna
- 17:30 hrs INTRODUCTION
Sonja **Schüler**, Fribourg
- 18:30 hrs reception

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

- 8:15 hrs breakfast

NATURE, ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY: DISCOURSES, SOCIAL ATTITUDES, EVERYDAY CULTURES

- 9:00 hrs Petr **Jehlička**, The Open University, Milton Keynes (UK)
[*Wasted Eastern promises: Sustainability lessons the West ignores*](#) >
- 9:45 hrs Mladen **Domazet**, Institute for Political Ecology Zagreb
[*Degrowth-compatible social attitudes in Southeast Europe*](#) >
- 10:30 hrs coffee break
- 11:00 hrs Stefan **Dorondel**, Francisc I. Rainer Institute of Anthropology
Bucharest
[*Restoring nature in Southeast Europe: policies, problems and a possible solution*](#) >

ACTORS, STRATEGIC INTERESTS AND FRAMING IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY I

- 11:45 hrs Hrvoje **Petrić**, Associate Professor of History at University of Zagreb;
ESEH Board Member, RR for Croatia
[*Nature in between: Environments in areas of contact among states, economic systems, cultures and religions*](#) >
- 12:30 hrs lunch
- 14:00 hrs Arpad **Todor**, Lecturer, National University of Political Studies and
Public Administration; Faculty of Political Science Bucharest
[*Are East European young people's preferences for environmentally friendly policies different from young people from other countries?*](#) >
- 14:45 hrs Sorina **Soare**, Department of Political and Social Sciences, University
of Florence
[*Mining projects as challenges of environmental policy in Romania*](#) >

- 15:30 hrs coffee break
- 16:00 hrs** **SCIENTIFIC FORUM I**
Vardan **Barseghyan**
Maria **Constantinescu**
[Igret Raluca](#) >
[Andrei Roşca](#) >
[Ioana Coziana Trascu](#) >
- 18:30 hrs dinner

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

- 8:15 hrs breakfast
- 9:00 hrs Olsi **Nika**, Eco-Albania, Tirana
[Nature as a social and political issue in Albania](#) >
- 9:45 hrs Emirjeta **Adhami**, Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania, Tirana
Micro-hydro power plants: an issue of political ecology in Albania
- 10:30 hrs coffee break
- 11:00 hrs John **Karamichas**, Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, Queen`s University, Belfast
Issue framing and agenda setting in the field of environmental policy in Greece
- 11:45 hrs debate:
questions and answers to further subjects from participants with presentations on posters at the pin board
- 12:30 hrs lunch
- 13.30 hrs** **free time /**
snack for Dinner (please register)

Thursday, October 4, 2018

- 8:15 hrs breakfast

ACTORS, STRATEGIC INTERESTS AND FRAMING IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY II

- 9:00 hrs Meta **Novak**, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
[The Slovenian Greens: From early success to long-term failure](#) >
- 9:45 hrs Oana **Ivan**, Babeş Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca
From UNESCO headquarters down to Eastern European wetlands: On ecology, policy making and resource depletion in the Danube Delta

- 10:30 hrs coffee break
- 11:00 hrs Radosveta **Krastanova**, Head, Centre Francophone de Réussite Universitaire, New Bulgarian University, Sofia
[*The Green Movement in Bulgaria: actors, \(protest\) strategies, challenges*](#) >
- 11:45 hrs Polina **Manolova** and Philipp **Lottholz**, Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham
Solidarity undone: The left-green protest that did not happen in Bulgaria
- 12:30 hrs lunch
- 14:00 hrs Gabriel **Schwaderer**, EuroNatur Foundation (European Nature Heritage Fund), Radolfzell
[*Cooperation for the conservation of nature: networks, achievements, obstacles*](#) >
- 14:45 hrs Gökhan **Orhan**, Bandırma Onyedi Eylül University, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Bandırma Balıkesir
[*Barriers for environmental movements in Turkey*](#) >
- 15:30 hrs coffee break
- 16:00 hrs** SCIENTIFIC FORUM II
Tea **Požar**
Vanja **Savić**
- 18:30 hrs dinner
- 20:15hrs Movie: **Vieți între ape / Lives Among Waters. The Danube Delta on the Rhythm of Kazachok and Anthropology (2016)**. A documentary by Oana Ivan (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca). The film seeks to discover the daily life of fishermen and their families in the Danube Delta (Romania).

Friday, October 5, 2018

- 8:15 hrs breakfast

THE ROLE OF THE INTERMEDIATE SPHERE: THE POLITICAL PUBLIC

- 9:00 hrs Maren **Köster-Hetzendorf**, Southeast Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO), Vienna
[*Nature / Environment and Journalism: Thoughts about journalistic role perceptions and political framework conditions*](#) >
- 9:45 hrs final discussion (e.g.: *Environmental grassroots movements in Southeast Europe: Counterparts of institutionalized Western European political ecology?* and further aspects) / conclusions
- 12.30 hrs lunch

End of the conference

Departure of the participants

At 13:30 hrs **bus transfer** from Tutzing to **Munich (Hauptbahnhof/Central Station)**, continuing to **Munich Airport**

Conference team:

Dr. Wolfgang Quaisser, Academy for Civic Education, Tutzing

Dr. Hansjörg Brey, Southeast Europe Association, Munich

Sophie Schabert, Southeast Europe Association, Munich

Conference venue:

Akademie für Politische Bildung / Academy for Civic Education

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