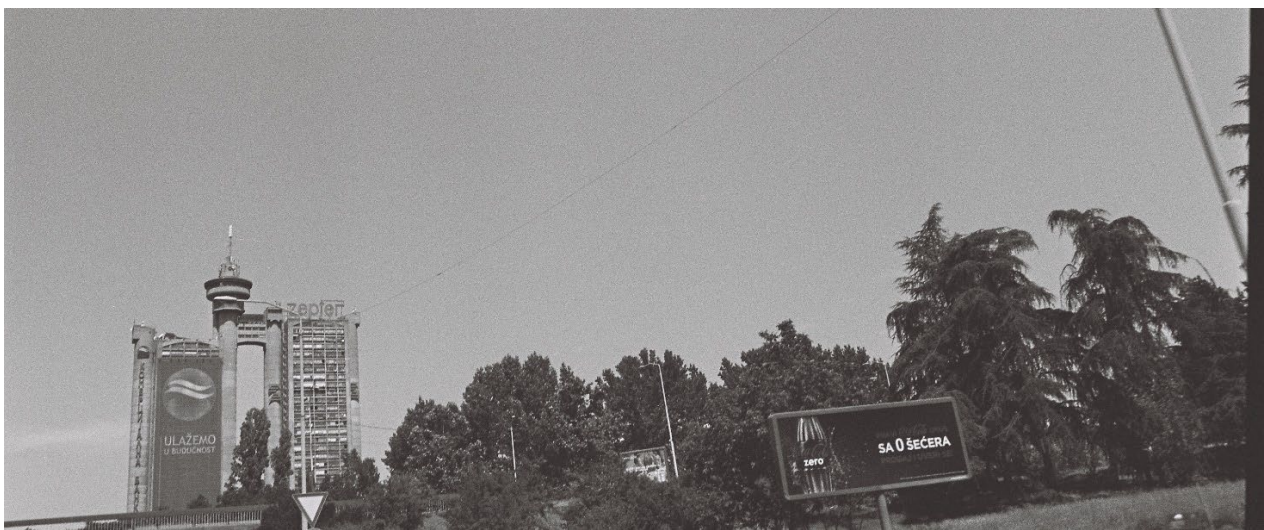


X. Dr. Fritz Exner Colloquium on Southeast European Studies

Southeastern Europe is dead? Long live Southeastern Europe! Positionalities in an Interdisciplinary Research Area



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Date: October 13-15, 2021

Venue: European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany

It has been more than 20 years since the publication of Maria Todorova's book *Imagining the Balkans* (1997, 2009) has stirred up Southeast European Studies. The ensuing debate about 'the Balkans' as a category of analysis and/or mental map (Sundhaussen, 1999, 2003; Todorova, 2002, Troebst, 2003, 2010) had far-reaching impact on the German-speaking academic community. As a consequence, the traditional perception of space and self-conception within the discipline have been questioned (see, for example, Kaser 2002, Rutar 2014, Calic 2016, Buchenau & Brunnbauer 2018, Troebst 2018, Clewing/Schmitt/Brunnbauer 2019, Brunnbauer/Lampe 2021, and others). While comparative and global research approaches are nowadays largely established (with reference to Eastern Europe as well as South-Eastern Europe among others most recently Mishkova/Trencsényi 2017, Middell 2019, Calic 2019, Todorova 2019), many questions regarding the existence and positioning of a genuine Southeastern European studies in the German-speaking academia have remained unanswered. This includes, in particular, the discussion of post-colonial debates (for Eastern and Southeastern Europe, see e.g. Chary/Verdery 2009, Ruthner/Scheer 2018, Baker 2018, Bjelić 2018, Manolova/Kušić/Lottholz 2019, Tlostanova 2020,

Parvulescu/Boatcă 2021) and a difficult history of political instrumentalization that has still only been rudimentarily dealt with (most recently Höpken 2020).

This year's Dr.-Fritz-Exner-Colloquium on Southeast European Studies aims to start a discussion on self-positioning, knowledge production and knowledge transfer within our 'small discipline'. We are by no means declaring Southeast European Studies as dead, but we do think it is time to reflect again and together on authorship, methods, points of reference and contents of German Area Studies on Southeastern Europe within a scholarly landscape in transition.

For many years, the colloquium has provided a platform for interdisciplinary exchange among early career academics. We would like to take the 10th edition of the Dr.-Fritz-Exner-Colloquium as an opportunity to continue this tradition and, based on our own research projects, to initiate a theoretical and methodological discussion about the future of Southeast European Studies in the German-speaking academic field.

The following questions guide our interest:

- How and why do scholars study Southeastern Europe today?
- What practical research challenges arise in the study of Southeastern Europe? What are the commonalities and differences between various disciplines (e.g. sociology, history, linguistics, literature and cultural studies, anthropology, political science and others)? How do Southeast European Studies position themselves within Eastern European Studies in particular and within Area Studies in general?
- What requirements must a contemporary curriculum of Southeast European Studies meet?
- What research ethics arise for German / German-speaking / scholars based in German-speaking institutions for research on Southeastern Europe?
- How and in which languages do we write about Southeastern Europe?
- How do we ensure that the production of knowledge about Southeastern Europe is also exchanged with scholars from Southeastern Europe and that research results produced in German-speaking institutions are available and accessible in the region?
- How can we meet the challenge of making the field more inclusive and diverse?
- How do we communicate knowledge about Southeastern Europe to the (non-academic) public?

The colloquium is primarily aimed at **advanced students, doctoral candidates, and post-doctoral fellows from various disciplines** who are engaged in research and lecturing on Southeastern Europe. The contributions of the colloquium will subsequently be published as a special issue of a journal. Since our workshop will focus on research on Southeastern Europe in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, the language of the event will be predominantly German. At least a passive knowledge of German is therefore desirable, but papers may also be submitted in English. If language barriers prevent participation, please do not hesitate to contact us and we try to make translation available.

Due to the Corona situation, the number of participants is limited to a maximum of 12 people in Frankfurt/Oder. Additional digital presentations for a broader audience are planned.

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