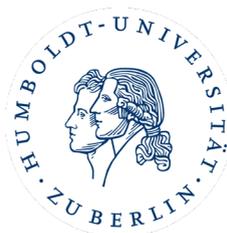
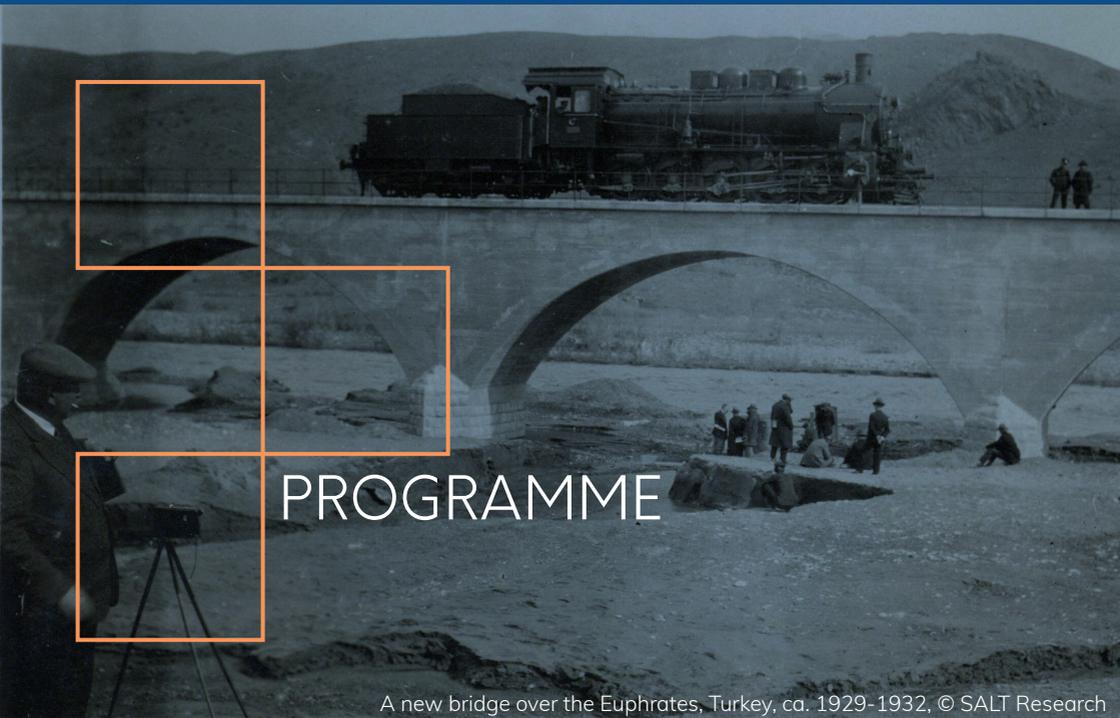


## Concept Outline

Traffic infrastructure has played a central role in Southeast Europe's political discourse for almost two hundred years. Roads, canals, and later railways were intimately linked with the enlightened absolutist promise of enabling "the pursuit of happiness" (in English liberalism), "Glückseligkeit" (in Austrian cameralism), or "refah" (in Ottoman reformism). This nexus between good infrastructure, the subjects' happiness, and a state obligation to provide for both, began to inform Habsburg policy as of the eighteenth century and became popular in the Ottoman Empire, its breakaway provinces and successor states, by the 1830s. And also, for almost two hundred years, the promise of infrastructure development and its failures have provoked resistance and Eigen-Sinn (self-interested adaptations), both on the epistemic level and in direct action. The conference will address the relationship of traffic infrastructure to power and its impact, among others, on discourse, culture, and everyday life in Southeast Europe from 1800 until the recent past.





A new bridge over the Euphrates, Turkey, ca. 1929-1932, © SALT Research

## Roads to Happiness

### Traffic Infrastructure in Southeast Europe, Hegemonic Discourse, and its Challenges

Conference, 16 - 18 March 2023

Humboldt University Berlin

Unter den Linden 6

Room 2249

#### Convenors:

Malte Fuhrmann

Hannes Grandits

## Thursday, 16 March 2023

17.00

### Words of Welcome

Hannes Grandits (Berlin) and Malte Fuhrmann (Berlin)

17.15

### Key Note Speech

**Dimitris Dalakoglou** (Amsterdam): The Grand (De)Constructions: Roads, Mobility, and Infrastructures in South East Europe after World War II

19.00

### Reception

## Friday, 17 March 2023

9.00

### Trafficways from Empire to Nation State

(Chair: Christian Voss)

**Malte Fuhrmann** (Berlin): Developmentality in Southeast Europe: Paths, Entanglements, and Ideospheres

**Fulya Özkan** (Antalya): The Trabzon-Erzurum-Bayezid Road and Its Discontents: A Success Story of the Late Ottoman State or a Challenge to its Authority?

**Boriana Antonova-Goleva** (Sofia): Transforming the Ottoman Periphery: The Social Impact of the Rusçuk and Varna Railway

11.00

### Coffee Break

Friday, 17 March 2023

11.30

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**Colonial Anxieties, Corruption, and Antisemitism in Nineteenth-Century Romania**

(Chair : Florian Riedler)

**Silvia Marton** (Bucharest): “The German Gang” and the “Crooks”: Morality of Politicians, Business Interests, and Political Connections

**Constantin Ardeleanu** (Bucharest): Collateral Damage. The Strousberg Scandal, Romania’s Anxieties, and a National Port in Southern Bessarabia (1860s–1870s)

**Andrei-Dan Sorescu** (Bucharest): Teutophobia, Colonialism, Anti-Semitism. The Strousberg Scandal, its Prehistory and Echoes

**Raul Cârstocea** (Bucharest/Maynooth): The Strousberg Affair and the Fragility of Romanian Sovereignty: The ‘Jewish Question’ as National and Colonial Question

13.00

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**Lunch Break**

14.30

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**Railway Construction = Nation Building?**

(Chair : Hannes Grandits)

**Danijel Kežić** (Regensburg): The Belgrade-Sarajevo-Split Railway Project and the Failed Spatial Integration of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

**Özge Sezer** (Cottbus): Bridging the State to the People: Railways in Eastern Turkey during the Early Republic

15.30

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**Coffee Break**

## Friday, 17 March 2023

16.00

**Whose Transport System is it Anyways?  
Decolonizing Infrastructures**  
(Chair: Dimitris Dalakoglou)

**Lyubomir Pozharliev** (Leipzig): Eastern Trolleybuses vs. Western E-Buses – Decolonial Insights from Sofia

**Andrea Gritti** (Paris): Who Built the First Railways in Macedonia? Histories of Italian and Ottoman Migrant Workers

17.00

**Excursion**

**Malte Fuhrmann** (Berlin): *Refugees, Prisons, and Traffic Infrastructure: Moabiter Werder from Berlin's Area for Undesirables to Germania and Beyond, 18th to 21st c.*

19.30

**Dinner**

## Saturday, 18 March 2023

9.00

**A Traffic Hub through the Ages**  
(Chair: Silvia Marton)

**Florian Riedler** (Leipzig), **Nenad Stefanov** (Berlin): Belgrade and Zemun as a Historical Mobility Space between Two Empires, 1739–1878

**Ranka Gašić** (Belgrade): The Belgrade Railway Junction in the Context of Relocating Empire and State Borders, from 1880s until Today

**Saturday, 18 March 2023**

**11.00**

**Final Discussion**

**12.00**

**Departure**

## **Participants**

**Boriana Antonova-Goleva**, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Sofia

**Constantin Ardeleanu**, New Europe College Bucharest

**Raul Cârstocea**, New Europe College Bucharest/Maynooth University

**Dimitris Dalakoglou**, Vrije University Amsterdam

**Malte Fuhrmann**, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient Berlin (convenor)

**Ranka Gašić**, Institute of Contemporary History Belgrade

**Hannes Grandits**, Humboldt University Berlin (convenor)

**Andrea Gritti**, École des hautes études en sciences sociales Paris

**Danijel Kežić**, Regensburg University

**Silvia Marton**, New Europe College Bucharest

**Fulya Özkan**, Akdeniz University Antalya

**Lyubomir Pozharliev**, Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde Leipzig

**Florian Riedler**, Leipzig University

**Özge Sezer**, Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus

**Andrei-Dan Sorescu**, New Europe College Bucharest

**Nenad Stefanov**, Humboldt University Berlin

**Christian Voß**, Humboldt University Berlin