

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – International Academic Week 2022

Return Migration and its Consequences in Southeastern Europe



Date: 3 – 7 October 2022

Venue: Akademie für Politische Bildung in Tutzing

The International Academic Week is the Southeast Europe Association's (Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft – SOG) annual key event to bring together early-career researchers (MA/ PhD/ Post-Doc levels) and experienced scholars from all over Europe and beyond to present and discuss their research on the region. As always, it will take place in cooperation with the *Akademie für Politische Bildung* at the beautiful Lake Starnberg in Tutzing from 3-7 October 2022. Parts of the event will also be available online. The conference languages are English and German.

This year's conference is hosted by **Dr. Lumnije Jusufi** (Berlin), **Prof. Dr. Jasna Čapo** (Zagreb), and **Prof. Dr. Rozita Dimova** (Skopje) and will focus on the topic of return migration and its consequences for Southeast Europe. Early career researchers with an academic background in different scientific disciplines, such as Social and Political Sciences, (Visual) Anthropology, Cultural Studies, Linguistics, Literary Studies, Musicology, as well as History or Geography, who are focusing in their present research on return migration and related topics are cordially invited to apply for active participation with either an own paper or poster presentation. A limited number of places will also be available for participants without a paper or poster. Please find below a draft list of thematic clusters you may apply to, each naming the confirmed senior speakers.



Deadline for applications: 3 July 2022

You may apply for three different options of participation:

- **Participation with a paper (abstract and short CV required)**
- **Participation with a poster (abstract/description and short CV required)**
- **Participation without own contribution (short CV required)**

Applications with an active contribution will be prioritized. The abstract should include your presentation's/ poster's title and summarize the main issues and research questions you are going to address. Your CV should outline your academic status and offer information on the project your paper or poster is derived from (e.g. Master thesis, PhD, etc.). All submitted documents must be in English. The presentations can be held in English or German, but those held in German must have a Power Point presentation in English. **Please register on our website for your preferred option and upload the necessary documents:** <https://www.sogde.org/de/formulare/call-for-applications-hsw-22/>

For all applicants accepted for participation with a contribution the Southeast Europe Association will cover travel expenses, boarding and lodging. We expect you to participate in the entire conference (3 – 7 October 2022) in Tutzing (close to Munich, see <https://www.apb-tutzing.de/english/>).

Travel expenses can usually be covered up to the amount of a 2nd class train ticket to/from Tutzing. In cases of lacking accessibility with train or bus we will check options for travel with alternative means, including flight connections.

The aim of the conference is to discuss transformations at all levels that migration and return initiate in the countries of origin. We conceptualize (return) migration as a „new social project“ (Appadurai 1996), as a „project for the future“ that carries a creative and innovative potential for new societal paths and initiatives among migrants themselves as well as in the countries of origin. We investigate what (return) migrants remit or bring along with themselves (i.e. material, social, and cultural remittances) and how the affected societies adapt to or deal with these novelties and visions for the future (Duscha et al 2018). The focus is on both the established (the locals, non-migrants) and on (return) migrants and their interactions. We also pay attention to the ways in which the governance of return migration and the discourses thereof impact individuals' reintegration and societal transformations.

OPENING PANEL AND KEYNOTE

Greeting: Organizers

Keynote: Prof. Dr. Daniel Göler, Chair of [Geographical Research on Migration and Transition](#), Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg

THEMATIC CLUSTER 1: “CONCEPTS AND EMPIRICAL RESEARCH”

Return migration is a multifaceted concept. The earlier understanding of return migration as a unique and lasting event has been questioned by the new concepts such as transmigration or transnational return that point to constant movement between the country of origin and settlement. Stability, finality and unambiguity are not part and parcel of return plans and activities. Rather, we observe that return plans and practices are dynamic activities that constantly adapt to the changing migration politics and policies, social and economic circumstances in the countries of origin or settlement as well as to the immediate crises and events in the life of the migrant himself/herself and his/her family. Return after retirement is also frequently realized as transmigration and the person lives alternating back and forth between his/her society of origin and settlement. Transmigration is not only a phenomenon of contemporary global processes. In Southeastern Europe, it is firmly entrenched in the traditional local cultures of temporary migration (known as *kurbet* or *pečalba*). How have these return practices been changing with the passage of time? What does return mean for different age groups, gender and generations of migrants, for people with different educational backgrounds (academics, unskilled workers); what does it mean for different groups involved, i.e. in repatriation, deportation?

- PD Dr. Robert Pichler, Institute for Habsburg and Balkan Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences
- PD Dr. Karolina Bielenin-Lenczowska, Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Warsaw
- Prof. Dr. Nicole Immig, Historical Institute, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen
- PD Dr. Carolin Leutloff-Grandits, Centre B/Orders in Motion, European University of Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder)
- Dr. Zana Vathi, Department of Social Sciences at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Edge Hill University
- Prof. Dr. Dragana Antonijević, Department of Ethnology and Anthropology, University of Belgrade

THEMATIC CLUSTER 2: “COMPLEX EFFECTS AND CHALLENGES OF RETURN”

Because return migrations implicate different groups and occur under different circumstances, they have various effects on returnees themselves as well as on the relationship between migrants/returnees and non-migrants in the societies of return. How does return transform migrants' own identities, social relationships and a sense of place? The relationship between the locals (the established) and the emigrants/return migrants (the outsiders, cf. Scotson and Elias 1965) is no more conceived as a conflict-free interaction. What shapes does it take? What dependencies are the outcome? How do the countries of origin relate to their migrants/return migrants and their plans or return? What measures were put in place by the states to assist return planning in the period of the global pandemic that brought about business and border closures. What challenges does COVID 19 bring for (return) migrants and for the states?

- Prof. Dr. Dhimtër Doka, Department of Geography, Universität Tirana

- Prof. Dr. Remus Gabriel Anghel, Faculty of Political Science of the National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest
- Dr. Ovidiu Oltean, Political Science Department, Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca
- Dr. Nilay Kiliç, Institute of Urban and Regional Studies, University of Helsinki
- Dr. Ivaylo Markov, Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia

THEMATIC CLUSTER 3: “MATERIAL AND SOCIAL REMITTANCES”

The impact of return migrants and transmigrants is not visible only in material aspects (renewal of houses and rural landscapes, changes in agriculture, financial remittances), but even more in the social and cultural changes (ruptures with social and cultural traditions, social remittances, cf. Peggy Levitt) induced by their presence in the countries of origin. What dis/continuities can we trace in remigrants’ contributions to their societies of origin? What may happen for example in voting behavior, configurations of societal life, forms of habitus? How do transmigrants impact politics, social life, rural and urban landscapes—whether actively or passively? Do they exercise intentional agency in their efforts in bringing change to their societies or is change an unintended consequence of their presence and practices?

- Prof. Ass. Mila Maeva, Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia
- Dr. Lidija Stojanović-Lafazanovska, Institute of Folklore “Marko Cepenkov”, Cyril and Methodius University Skopje
- Prof. Dr. Jasna Čapo, Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb

THEMATIC CLUSTER 4: “CULTURAL, LINGUISTIC AND LITERARY TRANSFER”

Through their presence and interactions, their active and manifold transfers, but sometimes also through their withdrawal from all forms of presence or interaction (negative transfer) return migrants significantly transform the countries of origin at various cultural and linguistic levels. Regarding this, what can we observe in the culture (the everyday life, music, etc.), language and literature?

- Prof. Ass. Blerta Ismajli, Faculty of Philology, University of Prishtina
- Prof. Ass. Ivana Pajić, Institute for German Studies, University of Novi Sad
- Prof. Ass. Aleksandra Šćukanec, Department of German Studies, University of Zagreb
- Dr. Lumnije Jusufi, Institute for Slavic and Hungarian Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin / Humboldt Fellow at the University of Tirana

THEMATIC CLUSTER 5: “OBJECTS, GOODS AND COMMODITIES: CIRCULATION AND MIGRATORY PATHS”

This panel explores the multiple trajectories in which material objects embark as they accompany people on the move. As part of consumption practices, commodities become markers of people’s social status. As part of migratory experiences however objects embody symbolic vigor bypassing the commodified value of an item. These objects are therefore saturated with affects related to notions of home and homeland. This agency of objects to create sense of home, familiarity and belonging profoundly marks the migratory experience of those who migrate short or long distances in different timeframes. Based on ethnographic research, the papers in this panel highlight different relations between people and material objects as they are caught in indefinite web of mobility and transgression of borders and boundaries.

- Prof. Dr. Rozita Dimova, Center for Advanced and Interdisciplinary Research, Sts. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje
- Prof. Dr. Jelena Tošić, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of St. Gallen
- Prof. Dr. Zaira Lofranko, Department of Language Mediation and Intercultural Communication, University of Milan

THEMATIC CLUSTER 6: OTHER

Different topics, that do not fit into any of the above clusters.

POSTER SESSION

Different topics, junior academics are invited to present in the poster session

Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft e.V.

Widenmayerstr. 49
80538 München
Tel. +49 89 2121 540

Fax +49 89 2121 5499
E-Mail: info@sogde.org
www.sodge.org



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