

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – 61<sup>st</sup> International Academic Week

### Wind of Change? Academic and Artistic Perspectives on Experiences of Change in Southeast Europe



Photo: Participants of the 60<sup>th</sup> International Academic Week

Date: 2 - 6 October 2023

Venue: Akademie für Politische Bildung in Tutzing, Germany

Conference Language: English and German

Conference Committee:

**Prof. Dr. Daniel Göler**, University of Bamberg

**Prof. Dr. Eckehard Pistrick**, Gustav Mahler Private University for Music, Klagenfurt

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 2 - 6 October 2023.

This year's conference is hosted by **Prof. Dr. Daniel Göler** (University of Bamberg) and **Prof. Dr. Eckehard Pistrick** (Gustav Mahler Private University for Music, Klagenfurt), The International Academic Week 2023 will focus on central as well as supposedly marginal aspects of recent change in Southeast Europe – from large-scale infrastructures to the individual - through selected themes from society, space, the arts, and culture.

Change and transformation will be traced along three dimensions:

1. **Paths of transition:** bringing into focus the political, economic, and social implications of change,
2. **Perception and (embodied) experience of transformation:** addressing the micro level of the individual or collective,

3. **Reproduction and reflection of experienced transformation in media, music, and the visual arts:** opening up a perspective on the rhetoric and practice of change.

With an innovative format, we want to stimulate and establish the dialogue between science, the arts, and media on specific topics. Conceptually, we consider the scientific discourse on experiences of change, on the one hand, and its artistic rendition, on the other, as strongly interrelated forms of knowledge production. In this respect, performative elements and academic contributions will not be separated from each other in the thematic panels but will be represented in a complementary manner. Therefore, in addition to young researchers we invite selected artists from the region who reflect dimensions of change in their sonic and visual artwork.

We follow change and transformation in Southeast Europe from a diachronic perspective through the three dimensions of **time**, **space**, and **culture** beyond national or ethnic history.

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

In reference to the conceptual considerations outlined above, we invite early career researchers and students to apply for participation at the international academic week with a German or English contribution.

We are welcoming contributions referring to (one of) the three dimensions of time, space, and culture. We are also welcoming spatial-temporal comparative contributions with reference to the 20th and early 21st centuries.

In order to avoid an exclusion of topics from the outset, the call for young scientists is deliberately broad and interdisciplinary in fields such as political, social, economic and communication sciences, geography, history, anthropology and media or sound studies. Small scale artistic interventions such as performances or performance-lectures are also welcome and will be examined by the organizers according to their feasibility.

### Time

We consider time/experience of time as a central category which indicates dynamics of change, inspired by Svetlana Boym's work on the "Future of Nostalgia", Paul Virilio's research on the relation of modernity to speed and Zszusza Gille's/Maria Todorova's edited volume on post-communist nostalgia. Time is discussed as an instrument of social control, as a component of projects of political progress, as an instrument of structuring and disciplining everyday life as well as a collectively effective instrument of emotionalized contemplation of the past and the future.

### Space

From a spatial perspective, potential topics are the diversity of transformative processes in rural and urban areas, the tensions between centre and periphery, aspects of economic transition and its social consequences. We also welcome contributions which analyse (potentially with a post-colonial approach) the intended and unintended effects of transformation, the emergence of power asymmetries as well as the role of informality in socialism and post-socialism.

### Culture

This topic analyses the impact of culture and media on socio-political change. On a first level, the role of "culture" as a legitimizing instrument of power in the hands of authoritarian regimes is discussed. On a second level, we examine the role of artists, musicians, and intellectuals from the region as agents of change. In this context, social and economic crises are not presented as artistic crisis situations, but as situations of self-empowerment that induce alternative societal ideas as well as visionary creative action guided by utopia. On a third level, we discuss media (radio, television) and their networks as agents of change. From the perspective of Science and Technology Studies, but also from a European media history, we ask how media rhetorically propagated change and how they implemented it at the local level right into the living room.



### **Deadline for applications: 21 May 2023**

You may apply for four different options of participation:

- **Paper (abstract and short CV required)**
- **Artistic contribution (description, technical requirements, and short CV required)**
- **Contribution with a project (e.g., podcast, photography, activism) to one of the workshops (description and short CV required)**
- **Participation without own contribution (short CV required)**

Applications with an active contribution will be prioritized.

Conference language: English and German; German contributions require an English presentation/power point.

The abstract should include your contribution's title and summarize the main topics and (research) questions you are going to address. Your CV should outline your academic status and offer information on the project your contribution is derived from (e.g. Master thesis, PhD, etc.).

**Please register on our website for your preferred option and upload the necessary documents:** <https://www.sogde.org/de/formulare/hsw-2023-cfa/>

**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 (2 – 6 October 2023) in Tutzing (close to Munich, see <https://www.apb-tutzing.de/english/>). The conference is designed as an entirely in-person event.

**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.**

## **THEMATIC PANELS**

The conference program includes the following thematic panels:

**Panel 1: Paths of transition**

**Panel 2: Space and infrastructures**

**Panel 3: Media, politics and populism**

**Panel 4: Sounds of transition**

**Panel 5: Transformations of everyday life in (post)communism**

**Panel 6: Nationality and citizenship**

## **WORKSHOPS**

In addition to the panels and artistic performances/performance lectures, the academic week offers workshops where innovative techniques of applied scientific work will be showcased. Any prior experience or previous work can be brought into the discussion by participants. Please indicate your preference for one of the offered workshops already in your application.

### **Workshop 1: Photography as Medium, Method and Object in Historical-Anthropological Research of the Balkans (Dr. Robert Pichler)**

The workshop deals with the medium of photography and its use in (field) research and photographs as a historical source. We ask about the visual reality of photographs, present and discuss methods of using photography in ethnographic research and provide insights into the manifold meanings inherent in photographs as a source. We also discuss ethical issues in the use of visuals in research, documentation, and the arts, as well as issues of the visual representation of the Balkans. Exercises in photographic practice are part of the workshop.

### **Workshop 2: From Sound to Podcast – Journalistic and Academic Work in Radio Format (Ass. Prof. Olivier Givre / Prof. Eckehard Pistrick)**

The workshop offers insights into the potential of an artistic, scientific, and journalistic engagement with sound. Historical (archive) sounds as a source for dealing with the communist heritage (e.g. Radio Tochka in Bulgaria, Radio Tirana Archive) as well as current ethnographic soundscapes will be addressed. A practical part with exercises offers insights into the creation of radio scripts, assembly techniques and knowledge transfer in public media.

### **Workshop 3: Potentialities of Activism (Jelena Savić)**

This workshop focuses on the concept of activism understood as a form of empowerment and “activist citizenship” and its limitations in Southeast Europe. It addresses the transformation and reinterpretation of this concept in the context of globalization, nationalism and replicated exclusion processes in Southeast Europe. The potential of activist action and empowerment (with political orientation or artistic grounding) will be discussed through examples from Serbia and the Western Balkans.

#### **CONFIRMED SPEAKERS**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Deema Kaneff, University of Birmingham  
Prof. Sabina Mihelj, Loughborough University  
Ass. Prof. Franz-Lothar Altmann, Bucharest University  
Prof. Dimitris Dalakoglou, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam  
Prof. Ana Hofman, Slovenian Academy of the Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana  
Ass. Prof. Olivier Givre, Université Lumière Lyon II  
Ass. Prof. Joško Čaleta, Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb  
Dr. Visar Nonaj, IOS Regensburg  
Ass. Prof. Jelena Vasiljević, University of Belgrade

#### **INVITED ARTISTS**

Igor Štiks, writer, Belgrade  
Irina Karamarković, musician/sound artist, Graz  
Denovaire, musician/composer, Graz  
Jelena Savić, blogger/activist, Belgrade  
DJ Tomo Matković, Grude  
Ilinca Calugareanu, filmmaker, Cluj/Edinburgh

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