



Concept Note/Programme

***Transnational Governmentality
in South East Europe***

***Translating neo-liberalism on the sovereign frontier:
concepts, cases and contestations***

CONFERENCE

The Institute of Economics, Zagreb
The South East European Research Centre of City College,
Thessaloniki and the University of Sheffield, UK
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Zagreb

Rabac, Istria, Croatia (Bellevue Hotel)
Friday 1 – Sunday 3 June 2007

This conference aims to:

1. continue exploration of Multi-Level Governance in SEE utilising multi-disciplinary perspectives
2. focus specifically on translating neo-liberalisms in sovereign frontiers through comparative regional and national case studies
3. explore the role of ethnographic methods in capturing aspects of transnational governmentality in SEE
4. develop ongoing proposals for bids for research funding and funding to develop a research network
5. plan the next steps of the research network including possible publications.

Background

A first inter-disciplinary research workshop on multi-level governance in South-Eastern Europe, organised by the Institute of Economics, Zagreb and SEERC, was held in Zagreb on 4 – 5 February 2005. A second workshop, funded by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung on ‘South-Eastern Europe, Governmentalities and the Politics of Scale’ was held in Stubičke toplice, near Zagreb on 11-12 November 2005. A third workshop, again funded by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung on ‘Intermediaries and Translation in Inter-Stitial Spaces’ was held in Stubičke toplice on 29-30 April 2006. The focus of all three workshops was on understanding new forms of governmentalities emerging in South East Europe.

This Conference

This conference, the last of the sequence to be funded by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung office in Croatia, continues to explore multi-disciplinary approaches to trans-national governmentality, seeking to apply and refine conceptual frameworks more usually applied in developed (Northern and Western) and/or developing (Latin American and African) regions of the world. It provides an opportunity for collaborations between scholars, activists, policy makers, and development workers, interested in the ways in which various kinds of uneven neo-liberalisms are enacted, translated and resisted in contested sites where traditional distinctions between ‘international’ and ‘national’ or ‘local’ actors are eroded. The conference will explore, in particular, the potentials and problems of ethnographic methods in shedding light on these processes. The workshop will refine and elaborate a research agenda and funding possibilities for continue collaborative research and writing on ‘Intermediaries and translation in interstitial spaces’.

Provisional Agenda

THURSDAY 31 MAY

Arrivals

Dinner in hotel

FRIDAY 1 JUNE

09.15 – 09.30

Introductions and Welcome

Paul Stubbs, Institute of Economics and SEERC

Mirko Hempel, Friedrich Ebert stiftung, Zagreb

09.30 – 11.00

SESSION 1: KEY NOTE

Chair: Paul Stubbs

'Situating Neoliberalism: Geographies of a contested concept'

Wendy Larner, University of Bristol

Discussant: Despina Syrri

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee

11.30 – 13.30

SESSION 2: ETHNOGRAPHY

Chair: Janine Wedel

Concepts: Jeremy Gould, University of Helsinki, Finland

'Unbounded Politics and Ethnographies of Development'

Cases: Ana Dević, University of Glasgow, UK

'Culture and/vs. Multiculturalism in the Context of Western Democracy Assistance:

Notes from Bosnia-Herzegovina'

Contestations: Elissa Helms, Central European University, Hungary

'Ethnographies of State-building'

13.30 – 16.00

LUNCH

16.00 – 18.00

SESSION 3: TRANSLATION

Chair: John Clarke

Concepts: Noémi Lendvai, University of Bristol, UK and Paul Stubbs, Institute of Economics, Zagreb (presenting author)

‘Policies as Translation: unsettling transnationalisms’

Cases: Reima Ana Maglajlić and Esref Kenan Rašidagić, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

‘Translation problems in International Assistance in Bosnia-Herzegovina’

Contestations: Janine Wedel, George Mason University, USA

‘Improvising the State’

20.30 Dinner in restaurant Nostromo

DAY 2

09.00 – 11.00

SESSION 3: GOVERNMENTALITIES AND UNEVEN NEO-LIBERALISM_s

Chair: Siniša Zrinščak, University of Zagreb

Concepts: Huub van Baar, University of Amsterdam, Holland

‘European Governmentalities toward the Roma in Central and Eastern Europe’

Cases: Mike Pugh, University of Bradford, UK

‘Shared Sovereignty and Political Economy in Bosnia-Herzegovina’

Contestations: Olivier Kramsch, University of Nijmegen, Holland

‘Unsettling Frontiers’

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee

11.30 – 13.30

SESSION 4: NEO-LIBERALISM AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN TRANSITION

Chair: Despina Syrri, SEERC, Thessaloniki, Greece and University of Sheffield

Concepts: Milford Bateman, University of Pula, Croatia

‘Neo-Liberalism and Local Economic Development: promoting ideology as ‘best practice’ – the case of commercial microfinance’

Cases: Marijana Sumpor, The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia

‘Local Development Approaches in Croatia: opportunities for all, some or the chosen ones?’

Contestations: John Clarke, The Open University, UK

‘Living With/In and Against Neo-Liberalism’

13.30 – 15.00

Lunch

15.00 – 16.30

SESSION 6: Next Steps

20.00 Dinner (at participants’ expense)