Abstract Tom Gallagher

Burying Hope and Licensing Discord: Necessary Goals for the FSN’s Path to Power

A relentless search took place in 1990 and 1991 for ways of carrying over into semi-pluralist times the political conformism and social submission that had marked the communist era in Romania. The rapidity of Marxism-Leninism’s collapse in the region, and the emergence of a segment of Romanian society determined to break completely with the communist past, obliged the successors of the Ceausescus to engage with democratic processes rather than postpone their arrival to a later date. Instead of relaunching the one-party system on a more consensual and attractive basis, plans were laid for the creation of democratic institutions means to ensure the legitimacy of the new ruling group based around Ion Iliescu and second echelon communists. The aim was to acquire decisive authority to rebuild the political economy of the country and enable control to remain in a narrow set of hands. For this goal to be accomplished, pluralist institutions needed to be decorative ones drained of all meaningful content.

Biografie Tom Gallagher

Tom Gallagher is Professor of Ethnic Conflict and Peace at University of Bradford. Since 2005, he has been the Chair of the Research Unit for South-East-European Studies. He was actively involved in various NGO coordinated projects focused on the protection of minority rights and the development of local democracy in Romania. He is author of numerous academic articles and of several volumes on post-communist conflict, democratization, religious diversity in the Balkans and on the relationship between this region and the European Union. Among them are: Theft of a Nation: Romania Since Communism (Hurst & Co, 2005); The Balkans in the New Millennium (Routledge 2005); Outcast Europe: The Balkans, 1789 – 1989 (Routledge, 2001).

Abstract Prof. dr. Lazăr Vlăsceanu

RO universities of the 1990s: withering away some legacies and instituting new ones

The period immediately after 1990 was considered as one which brought about “reparatory changes”, aiming to wither away some communist legacies. Then, all the way through the 1990s, new changes were instituted and they generated new legacies. However, a “path dependence” was and is still at work in this process. Institutional ambiguities and lots of unintended consequences keep our higher education institutions trapped on trajectories dependent on old legacies. The question is how to break this path. A re-evaluation of the period of the 1990s, considering also experiences of the transition countries and of some other European countries, may bring in certain ways of better understanding the present state of our higher education.
Biografie Prof. dr. Lazăr Vlăsceanu

Prof. Lazăr Vlăsceanu is teaching the methodology of sociological research at the University of Bucharest. He is also the director of the Sociology Department within the foregoing institution. Prof. Vlăsceanu’s fields of interest are related to the subject of transitions in modernity, configurations of recent modernity, the methodology of social research, the sociology of knowledge and the sociology of education. He published studies, articles and volumes addressing themes which are associated to these sociology fields. His last volume is entitled Universities and Reflexive Modernity. Institutional Ambiguities and Unintended Consequences (Budapest & New York, CEU Press, 2010).

Abstract Pál Germuska

Building a Market Society in Hungary: Decline and Crises-Handling in Two Former Socialist Cities, Ózd and Tatabánya

In the early and middle 1990s the great socialist manufacturing plants in Hungary produced in a non-economic way at a lower capacity, and they employed much fewer people. Coal-mining was rapidly cut down and thousands upon thousands miners lost their work. The settlements of the Hungarian industrial regions had to face quite serious problems in their economic and social development. Due to their dependence on one single production plant or one branch of heavy industry, the socialist cities fell in a sharp crisis. The presentation would focus on the transformation of two former socialist cities, Tatabánya and Ózd, and it shows us two different ways of adaptation to the market economy. The paper would cover not only the methods of crisis-handling, but also the revitalizing efforts and the systematic development of these towns.

Biografie Pál Germuska

Abstract Dragoş Paul Aligică şi Vlad Tarko

Economic Performance, Social Safety and Individual Happiness. A Comparative Approach to Communist and Post-Communist Romania

The presentation starts by briefly discussing the lessons that one could derive from comparative institutional analysis literature regarding the methods and criteria we use in order to make inter-economic systems comparisons of economic performance, quality of life and objective and subjective measures of happiness. Then the presentation will focus on the problem of comparisons between the Romanian Communist and Post Communist systems. Based on what can we say that Romanians are better off in Post-Communism as compared to Communism? What do the existing data tell us? The presentation concludes by exploring some of the implications of the discussion.

Biografie Paul Dragoş Aligică şi Vlad Tarko


Vlad Tarko is a researcher at The Analysis and Institutional Development Centre Eleutheria (CADI) Bucharest. Tarko is studying institutional theory and comparative economic systems and is among others, the co-author, with Dragoş Paul Aligică, of “Polycentricity. From Polany to Ostrom and Beyond”, Governance (forthcoming).

Abstract Martin Ivanov


The aim of this paper will be to present Bulgaria's winding transition. Despite the fact that political changes in Sofia pre-dated those in Prague or Bucharest, Bulgarians were all but ready for the deep changes that were to come. What the majority of Bulgarians strove for in 1989-90 was a reformed socialism, relieved from its defects. This hesitation about reforms gave ground to meandering transition with several dramatic shifts in the direction (1990, 1991, 1994, 1997). It was not before the total collapse of the economy and the near-hyperinflation of the cold 1996-7 winter when a consensus on the future 'capitalist society' emerged.

Biografie Martin Ivanov

Abstract Oana-Valentina Suciu

Brief History of the Ethnic Minorities in Post-1989 Romania

The presentation will focus on the developments related to the formation of ethnic based parties in post-1989 Romania. After going into the aspects related to the legislation issued on this subject, the analysis will use a few cases-studies in order to find explanations of the very existence of this type of political organizations. The concept of political representation will be approached in order to have a better image of the relationship between voters and the ethnic minorities’ MPs, the quality and scope of representation, the policy making at the domestic and foreign policy levels, the intra-party relations, types of objectives and the anticipatory representation in order to check the hypothesis of the ‘cartelisation’ of the ethnic-based parties.

Biografie Oana-Valentina Suciu

Oana-Valentina Suciu holds a university degree in political sociology from the University of Bucharest, as well as doctoral degree in political science from the Faculty of Political Science, the University of Bucharest. Former OSI/Chevening scholar at the University of Oxford and Fulbright Institute Scholar at NYU, she is currently a lecturer for the Faculty of Political Science, the University, where she teaches political sociology, research methods in political sciences and the political history of ethnic minorities Central and Eastern Europe. She is interested and works on issues such as ethnic minorities, political parties and comparative Eastern European politics. She is also the director of the Domestic Programmes Department of the Romanian Cultural Institute in Bucharest.

Biografie Bogdan Murgescu
Bogdan Murgescu (b. 1963) is professor of history and director of the Center for Administrative, Cultural and Economic Studies, University of Bucharest. He has been Roman Herzog Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Berlin (1998-2000) and Visiting Professor at the University of Pittsburgh (2002) and Central European University, Budapest (2004). Currently vicepresident of the Romanian Society for Historical Sciences, national coordinator of the Romanian EUSTORY competition, member of the Executive Committee of the EUSTORY AISBL and of the Scientific Board of the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile (IICCMER). His main fields of interest are economic and social history, transformation studies, and the methodological and sociological aspects of historical studies.