



SÜDOSTEUROPA-
GESELLSCHAFT



AKADEMIE FÜR
POLITISCHE BILDUNG
TUTZING

57. Internationale Hochschulwoche / 57 International University Week

1 – 5 October 2018

Akademie für Politische Bildung / Academy for Civic Education, Tutzing

Draft Program as of 9 May 2018

**The Protection of Nature and the Environment
in Southeast Europe:
Players, Discourses, Strategies of Action**

Scientific direction:

Dr. Sonja Schüler
Département Social Sciences
University Fribourg / Switzerland

Background

In the wider region of Southeast Europe the notion of nature is connected with various attributions of meaning which are at least partly rooted in history: Nature is perceived, framed and treated as an esthetical symbol, an economically important resource, a cultural heritage and as a value which is also of importance for the sense of national identities. In the former socialist countries of the region environmental activism and the positive commitment to nature draw considerable symbolic power from the pro-democracy mobilizations of the socialist past. Today, demands for the protection of nature and the environment are brought forward in manifold public discussion forums and spheres of negotiation. Political and economic actors, “green” parties, social movements and different forms of social self-organizations take an active part in public discourses concerning environmentally relevant attributions of meanings and concerning the use and the management of natural resources. These discourses take place in a complex field of tension among European and national legal environmental obligations, (power) political calculation and maneuvering, demands for economic growth, efficiency and competitiveness and social relationships to nature. Frequently they reveal important political and social cleavages and far-reaching conflicts and competitions of interests and demands.

Concept

In the course of the International University Week we will consider environmentally-relevant fields of action and spheres of negotiation with their inherent conflicting goals and competitions of interests. We will pay particular attention to the political and nonstate key players which struggle for the power of interpretation in environmentally-relevant information and decision-making processes. In this context it is essential to grasp and to analyze their problem constructions and patterns of action and interpretation.

It will be important to discuss the following questions (amongst others):

- How are relevant key terms (nature, environment, ecology, sustainability...) framed in local and national discourses? Which everyday cultural meanings of these terms can be grasped? Which role do these interpretative patterns play for environmental policies and for everyday life?
- In how far do local volunteer work and social commitment on the local level represent social resources of relevance for the protection of nature and the environment and which ideas, values and motivations shape the concepts of nature in this sphere of action?
- Which problem definitions and attributions of responsibility do the framings of environmentally - relevant actors reflect? Which social and political cleavages and formal and informal power constellations become obvious?
- What impact do professionalized national and supra-national environmental associations and networks really have?
- Which ambiguities concerning the capacity to act and the legitimacy of various political and nonstate actors can be detected?
- Last but not least it is important to identify in how far European funds and other EU initiatives really complement regional and national strategies.

In conclusion we should be able to discuss

- Whether and in how far specific “western” and “southeastern” discourses regarding environmentally-relevant developments, challenges and priorities of action need to be distinguished
- Whether and in how far local informal interest groups and social movements maybe even represent a “southeastern” counterpart to western-shaped, institutionalized and formalized concepts of political ecology.

The event is aimed at promoting scientific discussions and international networking of scientists carrying out analytical work on the subject. The International University Week addresses students, researchers and scientists from various disciplines (especially from Sociology, Political Science, Cultural Studies, Media and Communication Studies, History, Economic Sciences, International Relations, Environmental Sciences, Peace and Conflict Studies etc.) from east and west.

Conference language is English

Program

Monday October 1, 2018

- until 16:30 hrs *Arrival of the participants*
- 17:00 hrs WELCOMING ADDRESSES
- Prof. Dr. Ursula **Münch**, Director, Academy for Civic Education, Tutzing
- Dr. h.c. Gernot **Erlner**, President, Southeast Europe Association, Berlin
- Gudrun **Steinacker**, former ambassador, member of the board Southeast Europe Association, Vienna
- 17:30 hrs INTRODUCTION
- Dr. Sonja **Schüler**, Fribourg
- 17:45 hrs OPENING LECTURE
- Adam **Fagan**, Queen Mary University of London
- Environmental governance and politics in the decades after communism*
- 18:30 hrs reception

Tuesday October 2, 2018

- 8:15 hrs breakfast

NATURE, ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY: DISCOURSE-RELATED AND EVERYDAY CULTURAL CONCEPTS

- 9:00 hrs Petr **Jehlička**, The Open University, Milton Keynes (UK)
- Wasted Eastern promises: Sustainability lessons the West ignores*
- 9:45 hrs Mladen **Domazet**, Institute for Political Ecology Zagreb
- Degrowth-compatible social attitudes in Southeast Europe*
- 10:30 hrs coffee break
- 11:00 hrs Stefan **Dorondel**, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle
- From Postsocialism to Neoliberalism? Property Negotiation, Land Reform and concepts of nature in Romania*
- 11:00 hrs Hrvoje **Petrić**, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Environmental History, University of Zagreb
- Nature in between: Environments in areas of contact among states, economic systems, cultures and religions*
- 12:30 hrs lunch
- 14:00 hrs Valentina **Georgieva**, Department of Cultural Studies, University of Sofia
- Concepts of nature and the environment in Bulgaria: historical overview*
- 14:45 hrs Edvin **Pacara**, Institute for Environmental Policy, Tirana
- Nature as a social and political issue in Albania*
- 15:30 hrs coffee break

16:00 hrs **SCIENTIFIC FORUM I**

18:30 hrs dinner

Wednesday October 3, 2018

8:15 hrs breakfast

AREAS OF CONFLICT, INTERPRETATIVE PATTERNS, CONSTELLATIONS OF INTEREST: SELECTED EXAMPLES

9:00 hrs Sorina **Soare**, Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Florence

Mining projects as challenges of environmental policy in Romania

9:45 hrs Emirjeta **Adhami**, Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania, Tirana

Micro-hydro power plants: an issue of political ecology in Albania

10.30 hrs coffee break

„GREEN“ ACTORS AND DISCOURSES I: POLITICAL PARTIES AND DECISION-MAKERS

11:00 hrs Claudiu **Crăciun**, Faculty of Political Science, National University Bucharest

Green narratives and strategies in Southeast Europe

11:45 hrs Oliver **Fritsch**, Faculty of Environment, School of Geography, University of Leeds

Mapping green parties in six Southeast European countries

12:30 hrs lunch

13.30 hrs Departure to a study trip: Visit to the Alpine Museum of the German Alpine Association in Munich

18:30 hrs dinner

Thursday October 4, 2018

8:15 hrs breakfast

9:00 hrs Danica **Fink-Hafner**, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana

The Slovenian Greens: From early success to long-term failure

„GREEN“ ACTORS AND DISCOURSES II : SUPRA-NATIONAL AND NONSTATE ACTORS AND NETWORKS

9:45 hrs Oana **Ivan**, Babeş Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

From UNESCO headquarters down to Eastern European wetlands: On ecology, policy making and resource depletion in the Danube Delta

10:30 hrs coffee break

- 11:00 hrs Radosveta **Krestanova**, Head, Centre Francophone de Réussite Universitaire, New Bulgarian University, Sofia
The Green Movement in Bulgaria: actors, (protest) strategies, challenges
- 11:45 hrs Lidija **Živčič**, FOCUS – Association for Sustainable Development, Ljubljana
NGOs and framing of the environmental challenges in Southeast Europe
- 12:30 hrs lunch
- 14:00 hrs Gabriel **Schwaderer**, European Nature Heritage Fund, Radolfzell
Cooperation for the conservation of nature: networks, achievements, obstacles
- 14:45 hrs Orhan **Gökhan**, Bandırma Onyedi Eylül University, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Bandırma Balıkesir
Barriers for environmental movements in Turkey
- 15:30 hrs coffee break
- 16:00 hrs** **SCIENTIFIC FORUM II**
(4 – 5 pers., short presentations, discussion; problems / challenges in research processes)
- 18:30 hrs dinner

Friday October 5, 2018

- 8:15 hrs breakfast

THE PROTECTION OF NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE POLITICAL PUBLIC

- 9:00 hrs T.B.A.
The media as opinion-formers in environmental discourses
- 9:45 hrs Tomáš **Jungwirth**, Association for International Affairs (AMO) Research Center, Prague
Environmental grassroots movements in Southeast Europe: Counterparts of institutionalized Western European political ecology?
- 11:45 hrs final discussion / conclusions
- 12.30 hrs lunch

End of the conference

Departure of the participants

At approx. 13:00 hrs bus transfer from Tutzing to Munich (Hauptbahnhof/Central Station)

Conference team:

Dr. Wolfgang Quaisser, Academy for Civic Education, Tutzing
Dr. Johanna Deimel, Southeast Europe Association, Munich
Sophie Schabert, Southeast Europe Association, Munich

Conference venue:

Akademie für Politische Bildung / Academy for Civic Education
Buchensee 1 (Hauptstraße), 82327 Tutzing
Phone +49 (0)8158/256-0; Fax: +49 (0)8158/256-51; www.apb-tutzing.de