

# NEW SOCIETIES, OLD MINORITIES / NEW MINORITIES, OLD SOCIETIES?

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29<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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## Welcome Message from the Conference Chair

*On behalf of the Romanian Sociological Society and our organizing committee, I am honored and delighted to welcome you to the Conference “New Societies, Old Minorities / New Minorities, Old Societies?” taking place at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania. I believe we have chosen a wonderful venue that creates a stimulating environment for participants’ exchanges and gives the opportunity to reflect upon past and present social cleavages in a culturally rich setting.*

*Our program is diverse and includes a wide range of topics from ethnic and education-based minorities, to gender and health-related minorities, as well as their place within the broader society. There are 21 sessions split over three days and four keynote speeches that would make a valuable contribution to the current debate concerning the dynamics of power relations between various kinds of minorities and majorities in different structural contexts.*

*I am indebted to the panel’s directors for their careful selection of abstracts, to participants for their efforts to bring new insights on the above mentioned topics, as well as to the local organizing committee that put a lot of energy into the preparation of technical, practical and social aspects of the conference.*

*Horațiu Rusu*

*President of Romanian Sociological Society*

*Chair of conference*

## Scientific committee

Adrian Duşa, University of Bucharest

Adrian Hatos, University of Oradea

Andrei Gheorghiuţă, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

Aurelian Muntean, National School for Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest

Bogdan Nadolu, West University of Timișoara

Bogdan Voicu, Research Institute for Quality of Life

Carmen Buzea, Transilvania University of Braşov

Cătălin Stoica, National School for Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest

Cosima Rughiniş, University of Bucharest

Dan Chiribucă, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca,

Horațiu Rusu, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

Laura Grunberg, University of Bucharest

György Lengyel, Corvinus University of Budapest

Lucian Marina, 1 Decembrie 1918 University of Alba Iulia

Marian Preda, University of Bucharest

Marian-Gabriel Hâncean, University of Bucharest

Nicu Gavriluță, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

Radosveta Dimitrova, Stockholm University

Raluca Rusu, Land Forces Academy Nicolae Bălcescu Sibiu

Robert Reisz, West University Timișoara

Simona Szakács, Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research

Tuhinul Khalil, The University of Edinburgh

Viorela Ducu, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

Zbigniew Rykiel, Rzeszów University

Zoltan Rostas, University of Bucharest

## Conference organizers

Horațiu Rusu, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

Andrei Gheorghiță, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

Anca Bejenaru, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

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Sorina Corman, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

Mihai Stelian Rusu, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

Eugen Glăvan, Romanian Academy, Research Institute for the Quality of Life

## Partners and sponsorship



## Conference information

### Conference venue

The conference takes place in the building hosting the Centre for Social Research (2A Lucian Blaga Str.). The building is located within walking distance of the old town centre. The closest bus stops are Teatru (Theatre) and Spitalul Judetean (County Hospital). Wireless Internet access through the EduRoam platform is available in all university buildings ([www.eduroam.org](http://www.eduroam.org)). Special arrangements will be made for the rest of the participants.

Internet access is available for all conference participants.

### Registration hours

Registration desk is open as follows

29<sup>th</sup> September between 12.30–19.30

30 September between 08:45–16.00

1<sup>st</sup> October between 9.00–12.00

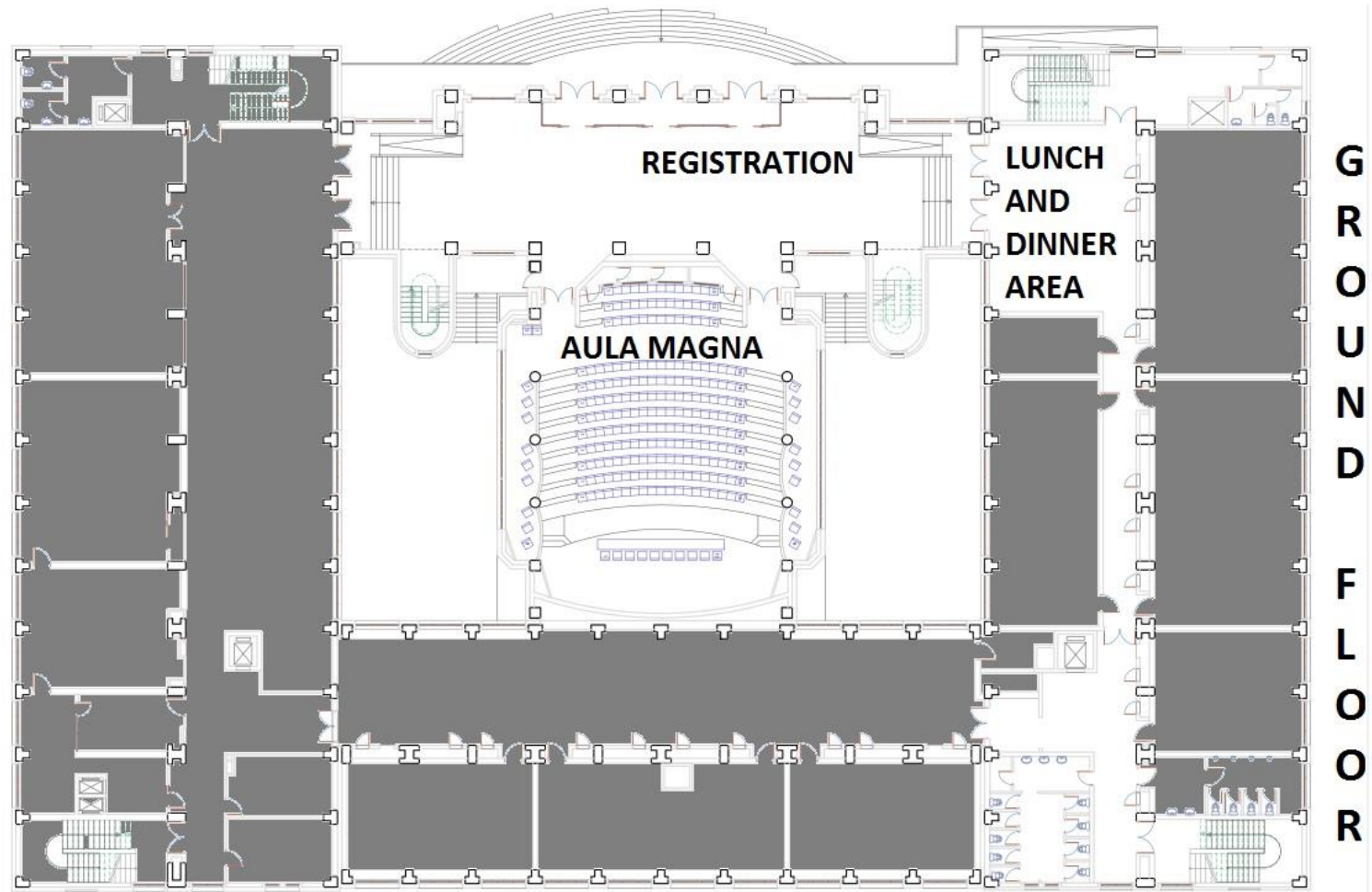
### Food and beverage

Coffee breaks and lunch take place in the building, according to the schedule indicated in the conference program.

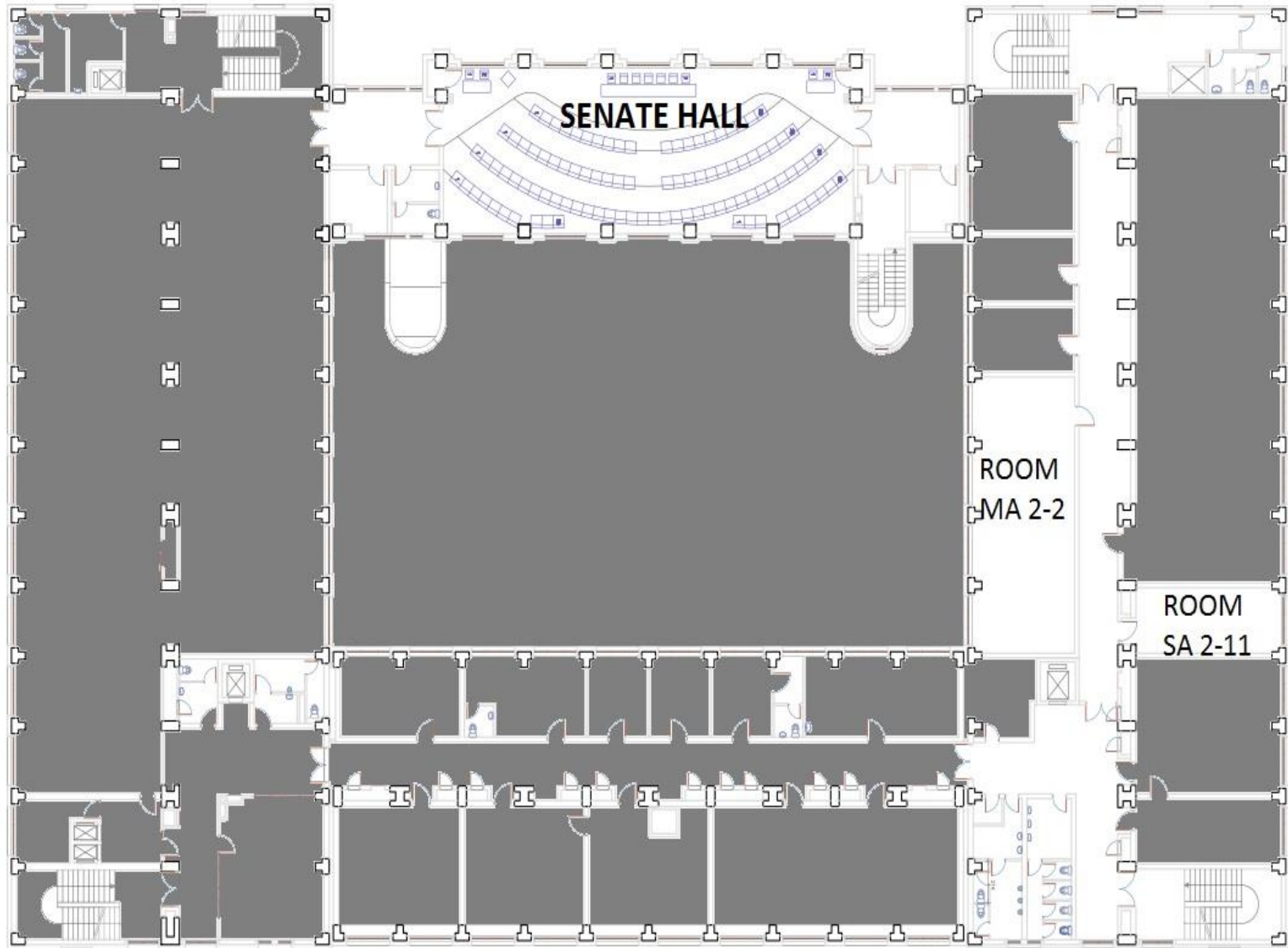
### Maps of the building

In order to help participants to easily find the conference rooms, we have attached the maps of the building (i.e. ground floor, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor – see the next three pages of this book of abstract). Likewise, there are arrows in the building indicating the way to take so as to get to the rooms where conference sessions take place.

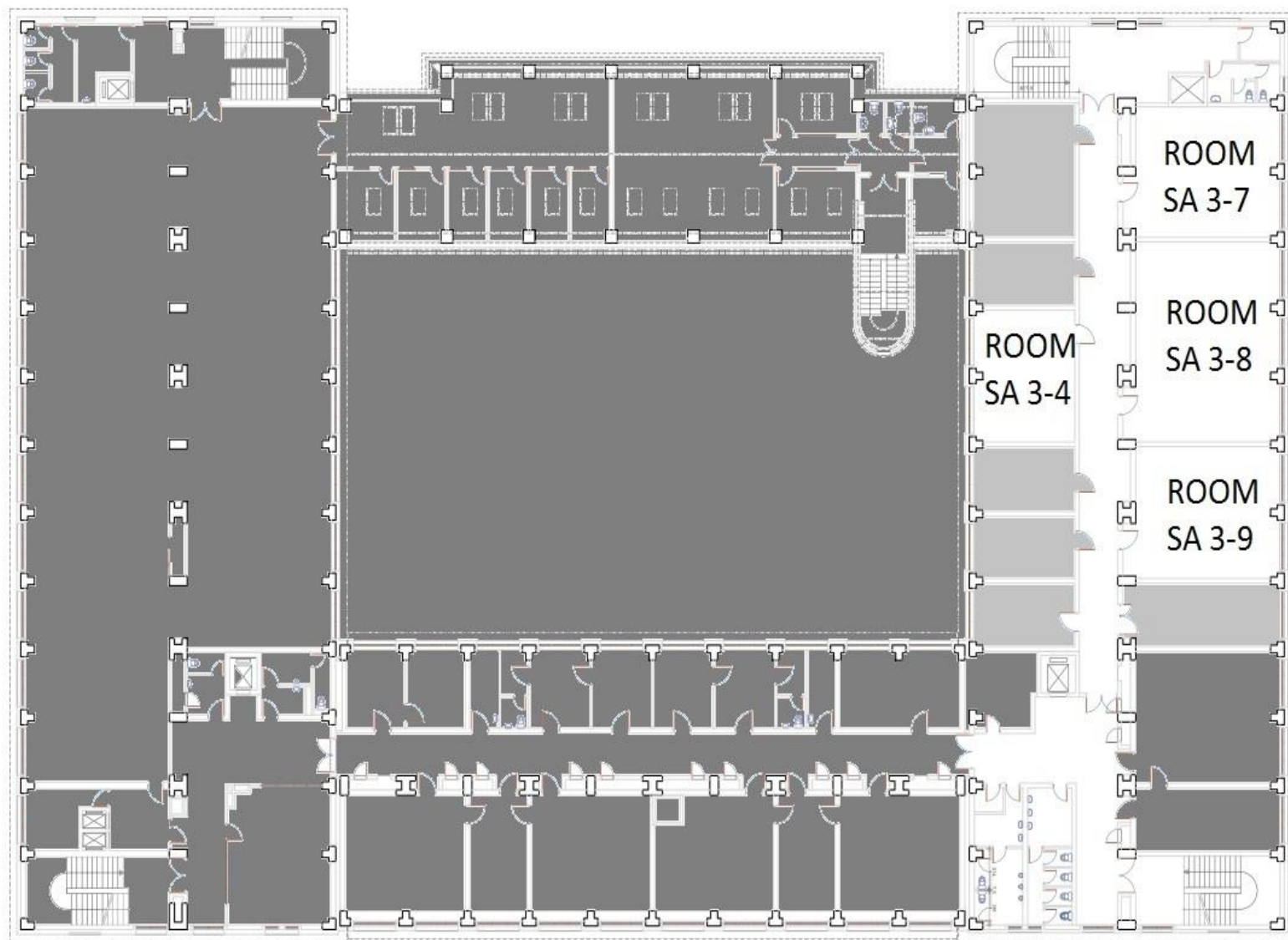
## Maps of the building







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## Plenary Session Programme



CHRISTIAN WELZEL – Professor of Political Culture Research, Institute of Political Science and Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD), Leuphana Universität Lüneburg, Germany

### *MORAL PROGRESS? VALUE CHANGE IN THE WESTERN WORLD AND BEYOND*

The keynote demonstrates dominant trends of cultural change around the world under two questions: (1) how Western-specific or universal are these trends; (2) is there any good reason to consider these trends as moral progress.



ERIC M. USLANER

Eric M. Uslaner is Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland–College Park, where he has taught since 1975. In 1997–1998 he was Distinguished University Research Fellow at the University of Maryland.

### *DIVERSITY, SEGREGATION, AND TRUST*

Generalized trust is a value that leads to many positive outcomes for a society—greater tolerance of minorities, greater levels of volunteering and giving to charity, better functioning government, less corruption, more open markets, and greater economic growth. Generalized trust is faith in people you don't know who are likely to be different from yourself. Yet, several people, most notably Robert Putnam, now argue that trust is lower when we are surrounded by people who are different from ourselves. This view is mistaken. Diversity is not the culprit in lower levels of trust. Instead, it is residential segregation—which isolates people from those who may be of a different background. Segregation is one of the key reasons why contact with people who are different from ourselves does not lead to greater trust: Such contact may not be so frequent and it is not likely to take place frequently and in an atmosphere of equality.

I follow Allport, Forbes, and Pettigrew and argue that “optimal contact” matters. Optimal contact is having friends of different backgrounds and living in an integrated (and diverse) community. Using data from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and Sweden, I show that having friends of different backgrounds and living in integrated communities leads to higher levels of trust. For the United States and the United Kingdom, the “optimal conditions” boost trust among all ethnic and

racial groups. For Canada and Australia, the optimal conditions only increase trust among native whites and for Sweden only among “non-Swedes.” Canada and Australia have very restrictive immigration policies so that new citizens are likely to be higher trusting when they come to their host countries. Sweden’s immigrants come from poor, war-torn countries and they are less likely to be trusting. However, the Swedish welfare state and commitment to reducing inequality leads to greater trust among immigrants. The strong effects of optimal conditions are limited, however, by the fact that residential choice itself depends upon both positive racial attitudes and higher levels of trust (from American and British data). So you cannot simply engineer higher levels of trust by changing housing policies.



MERLIN SCHAEFFER

Professor of Demography and Social Inequality, Institute of Sociology and Social Psychology, Faculty of Management, Economics, and Social Sciences, University of Cologne

*CONTESTED BOUNDARIES: EXPLAINING WHERE ETHNO-RACIAL DIVERSITY PROVOKES NEIGHBORHOOD CONFLICT*

Concerns about neighborhood erosion and conflict in ethnically diverse settings occupy scholars, policy makers and pundits alike; but the empirical evidence is inconclusive. This article proposes the contested boundaries hypothesis as a refined contextual explanation focused on poorly-defined boundaries between ethnic and racial groups. We argue that neighborhood conflict is more likely to occur at fuzzy boundaries defined as interstitial or transitional areas sandwiched between two homogeneous communities. Edge detection algorithms from computer vision and image processing allow us to identify these boundaries. Data from 4.7 million time and geo-coded 311 service requests from New York City support our argument: complaints about neighbors making noise, drinking in public, or blocking the driveway are more frequent at fuzzy boundaries rather than crisp, polarized borders. By focusing on the broader socio-spatial structure, the contested boundaries hypothesis overcomes the “aspatial” treatment of neighborhoods as isolated areas in research on ethnic diversity.





### FERRUCCIO BIOLCATI RINALDI

Associate professor of Sociology, Department of Social and Political Sciences, Università degli Studi di Milano. Specialization area: methodology and techniques of social research; programs evaluation (social policy, education and research); poverty and income support policies; religious change and cultural consumption.

#### *CHURCH ATTENDANCE AND RELIGIOUS CHANGE IN CONTEMPORARY EUROPE*

When talking about religious change, a number of different processes can be taken into account: differentiation between Church and State, privatization of religion and decline of religiosity. Once this complexity is acknowledged, it becomes clear why ambitious comparative projects on religious change are extremely difficult to be carried out. In this presentation, I approach this comparative problem by reducing complexity and concentrating only one aspect of religiosity that is religious practice. I analyse its trend by looking at one specific indicators (church attendance) by means of survey data in Europe from the beginning of the Seventies to the present. The analyses are based on a pooled dataset of five repeated cross-sectional studies: Eurobarometer, European Social Survey (ESS), European Values Study (EVS), International Social Survey Programme (ISSP), World Values Survey (WVS). These trend are analysed from two different perspectives. On the one hand, I adopt a clustering approach looking for countries sharing the same trend. As to Western Europe, over the past 30 years, patterns of church attendance clearly differ across three clusters of countries. In Ireland, Northern Ireland, and most of Southern European countries, church attendance exhibits a slow decline. In Central European countries together with Great Britain and Spain, the decline is much steeper. And finally the Scandinavian countries and Eastern Germany have been characterized by very low levels of church attendance since the 1970s.

On the other hand, I address a challenging question: beside the many differences that can be detected among countries, does a common pattern of religious change emerge? That is, is it possible to reduce the specific national trends to a unique pattern of decline of religious practice, where each country represents a tile of a larger picture? In this case, different speeds of religious change should not be seen as incommensurable differences between countries but could be explained by the position each country has reached in the secularization process. Finally, I will try to go beyond church attendance trying to enrich the scope of my conclusions. I will adopt a multidimensional approach to religiosity to tackle the dispute between secularization and individualization theory where the latter argues about diverging trends for different dimensions. Results from a multilevel multiple responses model on EVS data show that practice is declining across cohorts in all the countries whereas trends for belief diverge only for Eastern countries.

## Programme sessions

### **Working after Cancer or Other Chronic Diseases? Benefits and Barriers of Working after a Major Disease**

Chairs: FELICIA MORÂNDĂU, ADELA ELENA POPA and RADU IOAN POPA – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

ADELA ELENA POPA – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

*“Lady, don’t you want to retire?”, “No, I don’t!”, “Are you sure? Do you know what illness you have?” – Who hinders the return to work of employees after cancer*

The presentation discusses the implications cancer has on work in Romania. With constantly growing cancer incidence and survival rate at younger ages in Europe and Romania, returning to work after treatment is a problem more and more cancer patients have to consider. Cancer employees face considerable barriers (physical, psychological, social) regarding return to work (RTW) and work retention. The research question concerns the individual perspective of cancer employees on returning to work in Romania. The research aims to offer an exploration of the survivors’ motivations and needs regarding RTW after cancer, as well as the barriers encountered that hinder the RTW. The research uses semi-structured interviews with two categories of cancer patients: those who resumed their work after cancer and those which have chosen to terminate their career. Participants (n=20) have been recruited through oncologists and specialized physicians. Findings suggest important differences in the two sub-samples, with regard to three issues: the motivations for the returning to work, how work is understood and experienced and the barriers encountered. The patients which returned to work experienced cancer less as a biographical disruption (Reeve et al. 2010), but rather as “a life episode”. The topic of returning to work is raised only accidentally by oncologists and specialized physicians, during treatment and rehabilitation phase. Returning to work is done with almost no accommodation of the work conditions and no preparation regarding workload and responsibilities. The research brings important insights on returning to work after cancer in Romania, where the support offered to cancer survivors is scarce. No studies on this theme were previously done in Romania.

RADU IOAN POPA – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

*Psychological barriers and facilitators inside the return to work process of cancer patients in Romania*

As one of the main health concerns of the 21st century and a major challenge in patient survivorship, cancer stands alongside heart diseases as one of the many causes which affect radically a patient's life, support network, occupational field, work abilities,

quality of life and social perspectives. From this point of view the process of return to work (RTW) of cancer patients has been in the last years a subject for preferred research in the co-joint academic and practitioners' frameworks with expertise in the medical, psychological, social, economical and law fields. In this light of approaches, Romania still lacks the vital and needed procedures and policies to manage the RTW of cancer patients. The national scholarly literature is fairly poor in evaluating this concept, so the study and management of RTW concerning cancer patients in Romania has a long way to go. The present paper aims at throwing a certain light upon the psychological factors that can block or facilitate the RTW of cancer patients in Romania. Negative self-scenarios, low esteem, different fear types, degree of stress, lack of confidence and miscommunication are just few examples that Romanian employees may encounter when living with and beyond cancer, affecting their access to work. On the positive side, factors like degree of involvement, optimism, the need for acceptance and social value, the feeling of being useful and need for participation may facilitate the RTW of cancer patients, keeping the role and job, coping with the disease and living with or beyond cancer in a proper and beneficial manner. The present study pioneers in this field in Romania, exploratory and confirmatory studies still needing to be done, for a better understanding of the process, changes and real expectancies of cancer management and implementation of policies and strategies for this category of persons.

ALEXANDRA SIDOR – Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*Barriers in returning to work of Romanian cancer survivors: employers' perspectives*

Background: Although returning to work is possible for an increasing number of cancer survivors, work retention is successful only to a small percent of this population. Cancer severity and owns' personal decision to withdraw from an active working life should be the only determinants of the success in returning to work. However, cancer survivors withdraw from the labor market prematurely, due to problems facing at their workplace when returning to work. Aims: This study aimed to identify current strategies employed in managing returning to work of cancer survivors and employers' perspectives towards barriers impeding a successful returning to work of cancer survivors. Methodology: We used purpose sampling to recruit participants. We targeted 20 team leaders, shift leaders, human resources managers and other representatives working in state-owned, private or non-profit organizations, with employees ranging from below 50 to over 500 and having at least one employee with a cancer diagnosis in the last five years. Four native speaker research assistants conducted the audio recorded in-person interviews at the participant's work place using a semi-structured interview guide. To ensure reliability, five interview transcripts were used to develop a codebook using a mix of inductive and deductive approaches. Transcripts were analyzed using NVivo and data were coded into major themes and subthemes. Results: No employer had a specific department, person or procedure addressing returning to work of cancer patients. Lack of legislation, official procedures and human resources specialized in work



rehabilitation of cancer survivors were perceived as main barriers in addressing work rehabilitation for cancer survivors. Conclusions: Study results helped us identify strategies used by different employers in the process of helping cancer survivors return to work, the barriers they met during this process and the main barriers that once overcome could facilitate returning to work of cancer patients.

FELICIA MORÂNDĂU – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

*Employers' attitudes and behaviours towards employees returning to work after cancer*

Returning to work after cancer treatment becomes more and more a common situation in Romania. For this reason, studying the problem becomes a necessity, in order to develop strategies to manage this situation for the benefit of both employer and employee. Research shows that social support in the work place is very important for a successful return to work. This resource can be produced by organization and its members. The interest of employers for returning to work of the employees after cancer is likely to increase in two contexts: the changes in labour market in terms of active population decrease, and the increased incidence of cancer among young people. These structural conditions have the potential of transforming the RTW problem in an organizational one. Even if the decision to return to the labour market is made by the employee, the attitude of the employers could influence it in a great extent. A qualitative design was used to understand the attitudes and behaviours of employers towards employees with cancer. Twenty face-to-face interviews with representatives of public and private organizations and institutions with experience in employees with cancer were conducted, in order to find out some answers related to the employers' concerns regarding the return to work of employees with cancer, the employers' attitude towards the returning to work process, the communication relationship with the employee after the diagnosis as well as the impact of the situation on the organization and its members.

ADELA ELENA POPA, IONELA VLASE and FELICIA MORÂNDĂU – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

*Limits and opportunities in addressing cancer by Romanian NGOs*

Cancer incidence is increasing as a consequence of both individuals' life-style and environmental threat. Most developed countries have adopted national cancer-control programs in which NGOs play a major role in information, promotion of health-protective behaviors, research and support to cancer patients and their families. In Romania, such efforts are not enough concerted and are unevenly distributed across territory, making difficult the task of effectively fighting cancer. Based on a descriptive analysis on two databases (the national registries of associations and foundations in Romania), findings evidence that there is an emergent cancer civil society which is mainly oriented towards financial support provided to patients, while sidelining the aspects of prevention, education, rehabilitation and palliation. The paper calls for a

more combined and integrative efforts by government and NGOs in Romania in order to improve health policies addressing the cancer challenges in all life domains of cancer patients: their participation to work, their social relationships, and their overall well-being.

## **Continuities and Discontinuities in 20th Century Southeast European Sociology**

Chairs: IONUT BUTOI and ZOLTAN ROSTAS – University of Bucharest

### IONUT BUTOI – University of Bucharest

#### *Romanian Sociology: the network and the doctrine of a gustian review*

Romanian Sociology marked an important stage in the development of the Gustian School. In my research I propose an analysis of the network engaged in the manufacturing of this sociological product. Also, I'm questioning if there is a sociological doctrine that underline the main research directions. Did Romanian Sociology have a unitary sociological vision? And, if so, where is this doctrine to be found?

### ZOLTÁN ROSTÁS – University of Bucharest

#### *Organizational restructuring of the Gusti's school*

This paper aims at the changes in the research work of Bucharest sociologists organizations by assessing the influence of economic and political crisis of those years. The author analyze the interwar sociologists ability to manage these crises.

### IRINA NASTASA-MATEI – University of Bucharest

#### *German and Romanian sociology during the interwar period. Networks of collaboration and transfer*

The interwar was a period of great development for the social and human sciences, and sociology made no exception. Both the German and the Romanian sociology developed scientific schools, new and modern methodology of research and a wide infrastructure. But these developments were interconnected -already since the end of the 19th century there was a strong collaboration between the Germans and the Romanians in this respect, and the scientific evolutions in both countries were mutually acknowledge and shared. Our paper aims to analyze, in a comparative manner, the characteristics of the German and Romanian sociology during the interwar period, and the relationship between them. We will take into consideration the institutional framework of collaboration -between institutes and societies, at an official level -, but also the influence they had on one another through personal relationships between scientists, as well as through the education and lifeline of specific sociologists from Germany and

Romania. Especially the young Romanian sociologists had already developed a tradition of going to study at German universities, a great role in this respect being played by the University of Leipzig. The paper will also take into consideration the transformation of the German sociology during the Third Reich, and how this influenced the Romanian sociology and the German-Romanian sociological relationships.

GABRIELA-CĂTĂLINA DOBRESCU – University of Bucharest

*D. Gusti's mandate as president of the Romanian Academy, before and after 23 August 1944*

In this study I will detail the work of Professor Dimitrie Gusti as president of the Romanian Academy – June 2, 1944 – June 8, 1946. In the introduction to the study, for a full understanding of the socio-historian context who has worked in this capacity, I will present some moments of his mandate as vice president of the Romanian Academy (June 2, 1942 – June 2, 1944) but the bulk of the work will focus on the duties of President of the Romanian Academy. In the study I will present its main activities in accordance with this important position, in a historical context marked by tumultuous time August 23, 1944 which marked the transition from the authoritarian regime of Antonescu to the transition to communist dictatorship. I follow how these affected a number of activities and I will highlight the survival, in a hostile environment, for the Gusti's sociology. I would argue that, despite the war and regime change, Gusti managed to promote the work of his team and represent admirably Romanian Academy.

Time slot II

ADELA HÎNCU – Central European University, Budapest

*(Dis)Continuities of Theory and Practice: Monographic Research in Socialist Romania, 1960s–1970s*

In the process of carving a usable past out of the heterogeneous interwar sociological tradition, (interdisciplinary) monographical research emerged in late socialist Romania as a relatively stable core around which to organize the body of knowledge and the expertise of the pre-war period, to the point of becoming shorthand for it as a whole. A systematic account of the methodology of sociological investigation by Henri H. Stahl appeared, however, only in 1975. By then, most big-scale empirical studies had already been completed. Reviewing the major monographical studies carried out in the 1960s and 1970s, at times by competing groups of researchers, this paper asks to what extent monographical research emerged as a shared set of assumptions about the tools, methods, and objectives of sociology, as was suggested retrospectively in accounts of sociologists' "resistance through science" under state socialism. I analyze the monographic studies coordinated by Mihail Cernea and Henri Stahl in the countryside,

the industrial monographs coordinated by Traian Herseni, the urbanization studies of Brasov, Slatina, and Vaslui, and the monographs coordinated by Ion Aluș in Cluj.

LEVENTE SZEKEDI – Partium Christian University; University of Bucharest

*The Uneven Pace of Development of the Ethnic Hungarian Sociology in Romania in the Early Decades of the Communist Regime*

The post-World War II evolutions in the field of sociology were similar in all of the Eastern Bloc countries, albeit no one can develop a precise event calendar, which could be valid for all of the national sociologies involved. Moreover, by relying solely on the event-centric approach organized around the “magic moments” of the communist regime (party congresses, emancipatory statements etc.) we are prone to lose from our sight the development process as such. For instance, despite the almost total annihilation of the science of sociology in Stalinism, several authors accept that the sociology as an underlying thinking and methodological pattern still persisted, though well-hidden in the deep structures of the ideologically formulated studies and articles. In this paper the authors presents the evolutions within the ethnic Hungarian sociology (or sociological thinking) of Romania in the first two decades of the communist era (1945-1964), while regarding this peculiar sociology as a sort of subsystem of the greater Romanian sociology. The main processes within this special autochthonous sociology roughly correspond to their larger Romanian counterpart. Nevertheless, there certain factors, which make a difference: a relatively powerful “period of mercy” before the proclamation of the RPR, the particular heritage of the Hungarian social science of Romanian (e.g. interwar Transylvanian village research), the mediating role of the Hungarian language in the transmission of certain sociological ideas, the ongoing cultural and scientific links with the Budapest-based Hungarian sociology, the strong reliance on the Gusti School in the “critical revalorification” schemes – just to name a few.

BALAZS TELEGDY – Sapientia University, Cluj-Napoca

*The indirect effect of József Venczel's work on Hungarian social thoughts in Romania*

After spending a semester in Bucharest at the beginning of 1936, J. Venczel conducted and published two really fundamental researches which revealed the explanatory power of the monographic research method, elaborated by the Sociological School of Bucharest. By that time, Venczel already became one of the main editors of the journal “Hitel”, so the two other journals (“Erdélyi Fiatalok” and “Korunk”) were forced -as they were also committed to the scientific understanding of the Transylvanian Hungarian society -to bring some new understanding to the general knowledge regarding the Romanian or the Transylvanian society or, at least, one region of Transylvania. As a conclusion, in my paper I will present evidences that Venczel had not only a direct effect (working within the paradigm of the Sociological School of Bucharest) but an indirect

effect as well, by investigating the publishing behavior of the other two main journals regarding the Sociological School of Bucharest.

### **Immigrant and Ethnic Minorities in a Global perspective. Implications for Social Integration and Well-being**

Chair: RADOSVETA DIMITROVA – Stockholm University

RADOSVETA DIMITROVA – Stockholm University; Hiroshima University, and MARIANNA KOSIC – Scientific-Cultural Institute Mandala

#### *Bicultural Identity among Slovene Minority Adolescents in Italy: Salience and Relations to Positive Affect*

We study bicultural identity among Slovene ethnic minority youth in Italy. Ethnic identity refers to feelings and attitudes toward own ethnic group and culture (Phinney & Ong, 2007), whereas national identity concerns the degree of identification with the national culture (Phinney & Devich-Navarro, 1997). We examined ethnic (Slovene) and national (Italian) identity among Slovene minority adolescents in Italy – an autochthonous minority living there since the 6th century, offering a unique context to study bicultural identity for the young generation of this minority group. We view bicultural identity as interaction of ethnic and national cultures (Ashmore et al., 2004). We base our work on prior research documenting that bicultural identity signifies important proximal social groups with which to identify (Kiang et al., 2008) to test a model based on the notion that bicultural identity derives from important ethnic and national sources of identification, in line with prior work on the salience and relations among these sources (Dimitrova et al., 2014; 2015). Participants were 177 adolescents (aged 14 to 18 years old) living in the North-East of Italy on the border with Slovenia who filled in standardized measures on ethnic and national identity (Dimitrova et al., 2014), and the Positive Affective Schedule (Watson, Clark, & Tellegen, 1988). Results showed that Slovene ethnic identity was more salient than the national Italian identity and that with age, there was a decrease of both national Italian and bicultural identification. Regression models showed that among all youth, bicultural identity encompassing both ethnic Slovene and national Italian cultures was predictive of positive affect, confirming previous studies with bicultural minority youth (Dimitrova et al., 2014; 2015).

JOSE-MICHAEL GONZALEZ – University of Arizona

#### *Intersectionality Perspective & Positive Youth Development: Diverse Social Order Experiences of Marginalized Ethnic Minority Youth in Person-Centered Approaches*

There are about 1.8 billion youth globally, the largest youth population ever, and more than half of the global population is urban (United Nations Office of the Secretary

General's Envoy on Youth, 2016). A deficit perspective would focus on the rise of young people's experiences in inequalities based on diverse social order experiences, with intersectional ethnic/racial minority and LGBTQ individuals disproportionately experiencing systematic oppression and vulnerability. For a long period of time, this deficit perspective has dominated research and practice concerning youth and adolescents, and young people's weaknesses or what they lack rather than what they have, has been the main focus (Damon, 2004; Lerner, 2005). In contrast, a strengths-based perspective has concentrated on inherent personal strengths and is respectful toward and empowering for those oppressed and vulnerable (Benson et al., 2006; Damon, 2004; Lerner, 1982). The evolving strengths-based perspective in research and practice is toward a person-centered approach. Central to the person-centered approach is the key assumption that individuals have within themselves vast resources for self-understanding, for altering the self-concept, basic attitudes, or his/her self-directed behavior, and that relationships promote growth promoting climates (Rogers, 1979). Positive Youth Development (PYD), emphasizes a person-centered approach, and is the result of positive experiences + positive relationships + positive environments, that coupled with intersectionality research and practice considers young people themselves and their individual assets (e.g., Connection) as protective factors that promote healthy social integration and well-being in a young person's environment. I will discuss how intersectionality perspective and PYD converge to address strengths and challenges of youth living with stigmatizing identities and family processes, toward research and practice with global implications for positive youth social integration and well-being.

DELIA ȘTEFENEL – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

*They Discriminate Us! Measuring Discrimination and Well-Being among Romanian Ethnic Minority in Greece*

Research in the field of migration emphasized the impact of experienced or perceived discrimination on ethnic minorities' integration and psychosocial outcomes (Asendorpf & Motti-Stefanidi, 2012; Bourguignon et al., 2006; Musso, 2015; Williams et al., 2003). The well-known Rejection-Identification Model (RIM, Branscombe, Schmitt, & Harvey, 1999; Branscombe, Schmitt, & Spears, 2001) underlines the role of discrimination in worsening psychological well-being among members of various ethnic minority groups (Klonoff, Landrine, & Campbell, 2000). Yet, to the best of our knowledge little scientific efforts have been done concerning perceived discrimination of ethnic minority groups with Romanian background. The present study aimed to address this gap by selecting a target sample of Romanians living in the region of Attika, Greece (N = 148). To measure perceived group discrimination (PGD) and perceived personal discrimination (PPD) adopted version of Bourguignon and colleagues (2006) scale was used. Well-being was measured with the Life Satisfaction Scale (Diener, Emmons, Larsen, & Griffin, 1985). The findings showed significant relation between discrimination and satisfaction with life in

that perceived discrimination lead to less life satisfaction. Discussion of implication of the present study in the context of nowadays migration crisis in Greece is provided.

ADRIAN PETRICE – Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*The refugee crisis in discourse. Identifying rhetorical instruments as proxies for cognitive frames in dealing with the refugee crisis.*

Concerning the refugee crisis, different explanatory genres resort to different metaphors, analogies, dichotomies and arguments, but none of the crisis narratives is without a serious rhetorical arsenal. By identifying the set of linguistic-rhetorical instruments employed in the debate on the refugee crisis, we aim to uncover the discursive routines used to persuade various audiences. Such routines carry out operations, of which the audience – most of the times – is not aware. The identification of the rhetorical strategies and instruments sheds light on supplementary information necessary for a better understanding of discursive threads. We place special emphasis on the importance of considering the rhetorical aspects involved in the public discourse, especially the discourse of politicians, media narratives and the discourse of prominent members of faith based communities that, by defining the problems and framing the debates, have a significant role in setting the agenda for public debates over migration and humanitarian aid policies. Our intention is to identify, with the help of quantitative and qualitative methods for discourse analysis, the frames that are instrumental in dealing with the refugee crisis. We intend to analyse and compare various discourses in search for the differences and patterns that make up a frame. Emphasizing frames, rather than a single discourse, underscores the fact that a single policy area can be framed in many different ways, using competing frames present in the general societal discourse. Hence, the way an issue is framed in the minds of the decision-makers can tell us a lot about the shape a policy will take in practice. Frames are mental constructs, and as such we cannot directly measure them, yet we can obtain a fairly reliable proxy by analysing discourses.

ALEXANDRU NATANAEL BITIS – University of Bucharest

*Stories of (searching for) well-being of a roma community from Fântânele*

While there are many projects of Romanian authorities for improving the social and economic situation of roma communities in Romania, these communities are looking for a better life for themselves. In this paper i will describe some of the stories of searching for well-being of a romani pentecostal transnational community. With a strong sense of local identity place (being from Fântânele), the romani from Fântânele can be described from the perspective of finding a better place for living. I will describe here the way in which this roma community understand the meaning of well-being, in the context of migration (internal and transnational). I will present also if they see themselves as integrated people in the place of destination.

## **Classifying People: From Gender and Age to Zodiac Signs and Personality Types**

Chair: COSIMA RUGHINIȘ – University of Bucharest

GHEORGHE ALEXANDRU NICULESCU – Institute of Archaeology “Vasile Parvan”

### *Typological Classifications and the Research on Ethnic Phenomena*

Although many disciplines are increasingly reluctant to rely on typological thinking in their conceptualizations, typological methodologies continue to be present, especially in traditions of research, such as culture-historical archaeology, which are unable to produce their own social theory and have to take it from elsewhere. Using insights from the debates on typological thinking in the social and biological sciences, my paper will explore its properties and varieties in the research on ethnic phenomena, whether it can be appropriate in some forms but not in others (see, e.g., the typology of ethnicity making recently proposed by Andreas Wimmer, opposed to one of ethnic entities), and relations between the survival of time-honored typological methodologies, which might contain implicit knowledge about social reality, with sources to be determined, and imported views on social phenomena, which were constructed without type-building means. Of particular interest will be the apparent isomorphism between typological representations in ethnic discourses and typological methodologies used by researchers, which might, according to some interpretations of the Thomas theorem (e.g. Richard Jenkins, with his understanding of the intersubjective reality of ethnic groups), reveal structures of social reality in the structure of their representation.

LAZĂR VLĂSCEANU – University of Bucharest

### *Social class as a changing classifier*

Classifications classify not only the classified but also the classifiers. How such processes emerged is illustrated by considering sociological classifications of people in social classes. Special emphasis is going to be put on the deconstruction and reconstruction of social class in sociology.

ALEXANDRA CIOCANEL – University of Bucharest

### *A remedy that suits me: classification of people and individualization in homeopathic prescribing*

In contrast with a conventional medical consultation, a “classical” homeopathic case taking usually ends up with the prescription of a remedy and not with a diagnostic, reflecting a specific homeopathic conceptualization of the human body, health and disease. This may be seen as one aspect of individualization in homeopathy, the approach through which the patient isn’t placed into a disease class but in which his/her unique features are taken into account when matching the symptoms of the patients



with the symptom picture of a remedy, the “similimum”. In this paper, I will examine the double orientation of homeopathic prescribing to individualization and classification. Drawing upon textual analysis of descriptions of remedies and homeopathic publications, interviews with patients and homeopaths, and observation of consultations and seminars, I show that individualization and classification are counterparts that cannot be meaningfully discussed if considered independently. I will do this by treating the various encounters of patients and homeopaths as rhetorical situations. I will argue that during the homeopathic consultation a process of construction and interpellation of the patient happens through various rhetorical devices. By examining this kind of devices, I will show how a sort of literature effect and a specific way of organizing knowledge in homeopathy simultaneously make the general to act on the particular while the particular seems to be fully acknowledged through the rhetorical force and practice of a “holism” defined in homeopathic terms.

ALEXANDRA DELIU – Research Institute for Quality of Life

*Identities and borders. International migration and identity shifts*

The presentation I propose is, at its core, oriented towards identifying types of strategies and resources used by individuals in their day to day lives in order to make sense of the social world around them. Specifically, I discuss matters related to social identity and identification in the context of international migration. Theoretical perspectives centered on social identity bring forward concepts such as in-groups and out-groups (Hogg et al., 1995; Stets and Burke, 2000), looking at group identity and vocabularies of otherness, thus emphasizing identity through differentiation, while identification refers to the continuous process through which self-definitions and definitions of social entities are formulated, amended and negotiated (Hall, 2000). For this, I analyze qualitative data generated through conducting in-depth interviews with current or former migrants, as well as stayers. The communities of origin, located in rural Romania, served as empirical sites and were initially the subjects of a series of case studies on the social consequences of international migration. I argue that migration becomes a discursive resource that enters individuals’ vocabularies and is used, alongside with common criteria such as gender, religious affiliation or ethnicity, for defining categories of others. Moreover, its reiteration leads to the emplotment (Basten, 2015), or structuring of individual narratives of migration as narratives of identity.

CĂTĂLINA IONELA REZEANU – University of Bucharest

*Women and men appropriating territories within home through inscribed places and gendered objects*

Social science researchers have shown an increased interest in studying the appropriation of space, by moving the accent from the social production of space to the social construction of space. In urban studies, Kärholm (2007) conceptualized a model of territorial production where personal control of territories is obtained through territorial tactics and territorial appropriation. Assuming that identity is linked to space, Glaeser (1998) developed a hermeneutic model of self, in which space appropriation manifest through the writing of space (the material inscription of self in small spatial contexts). In the anthropology of space field, Löw and Lawrence-Zúñiga (2001) emphasized the role of gendered places and inscribed places in the social construction of space. Starting from these premises, the aim of the present paper is to show how women and men from heterosexual cohabiting couples appropriate the domestic space through inscribed places and gendered objects. For this purpose we asked three questions: 1) what are the inscribed territories of women and men within the dwelling space? 2) what are the particular gendered objects that women and men use to mark and appropriate their particular zones inside the home? 3) what are the vocabularies of motives used by partners to justify their inscribed places? To answer these questions, we followed the research guidelines of Gabb (2008) and Bjornholt & Farstad, (2014) and adopted a qualitative mixed-method approach combining different techniques and instruments of data collection: texts writing and photo-taking by residents on a given theme, guided drawing of maps of territories from the dwelling space, and semi-structured couple interviews. We collected the data from 25 cohabiting heterosexual couples, residing in the metropolitan area of Brasov, Romania. In selecting the cases, we aimed at maximizing the variation of the sample based on dwelling and couple characteristics.

OANA ELENA NEGREA – University of Bucharest

*Gendered jobs and the issue of breaking the glass ceiling*

The matter of classifying people so as to construct order in a certain social setting is part of the founding principles of any given society. Still, division of social individual actors can lead to structural imbalances in a wide variety of domains, such as the intimacy of the familial space, but also everyday life and economic market. Take for instance the division of social work that is unanimously accepted as a trait of modern society. One of its by-products is the process of reproducing a gendered structure of occupations and jobs, which can generate disparities on several levels -interactional, economic and so on. When speaking of gender discrimination, Judith Butler (2004) also includes the

component related to how labour is divided in a gendered manner at both a local and a global level. Gender segregation in terms of economic activity sectors is not that difficult to envision, as public perceptions on what is/should be feminine and what is/ should masculine branch out in every corner of social life. Thus, gender classification in relation to the labour market may be a good starting point when discussing how cataloguing social life is brought about and (re-)negotiated in the current economic and social context of the unified European market. The aim of the present paper is to outline how gender segregation manifests itself on the Romanian labour market and if/ how formal and informal discourses are adapting to the new configurations of the economic arena. Simply put, how is a European country such as Romania dealing with occupational categories and re-shaping them so as to have a more inclusive structure of the labour market? Can we talk about gendered old and new minorities when it comes to the dyad of feminized sectors on one hand and masculinized sectors on the other?

ORSOLYA GERGELY – Sapientia University, Cluj-Napoca

*Just kidding? Female roles beyond humour*

Among the Hungarians from Szeklerland there is a saying: “The woman is not human”. Though everybody accentuates that this is only a joke, one still uses. And usually everybody is laughing about it. Rationally everyone agrees, of course, that the women are human being as well, they have the same rights, they are equal to men. But still the joke is “good”, since “everybody laughs”. The world of humour has always been a space for criticism, sarcasm, irony, often the helplessness, indignation, anger. Often apropos of a current social fact, social phenomenon or habit. The caricature offers a way for a visual humor, a short and funny cartoon with a strong and obvious message. The understanding of this message depends on the collective sense, collective conscious. Our analysis is based on caricatures: we choose to analyze those cartoons created by the graphic artist István Para in the Harghita Népe daily newspaper’s column in the last 12 months. Those will be the selected caricatures on which actually appear a women character or there is an obvious indication on a female person. Our research questions are: How does appear the Woman in this cartoons? What kind of female roles can be identified in this cartoons? What are the rational and emotional domain for “understanding” the humor?

ELISABETA TOMA – University of Bucharest

*Humans and androids. A discourse analysis of video games addressing the human condition*

Approaching video games for their potential in social change and innovation, in this paper I address a popular theme used in video games, which captures a social and philosophical issue: the distinction between humans and androids. In this paper I argue that this distinction contributes to the construction of our identity as human beings. On

the other hand, these video games also offer the medium and the experiences necessary in order to adapt to the latest technological developments and prepare their public for this probable and specific future development. This research is based on the analysis of video games like the Portal series (Valve 2007; 2011), The Talos Principle (Devolver Digital 2014) and SOMA (Frictional Games 2015), in which the differences between humans and machines are either pointed out or effaced, but discussed, therefore leading to philosophical and ethical experiences. The questions guiding my research are: What are the similarities and differences between humans and androids, as they appear in these games? What areas are chosen to portray these differences or similarities (microcosm / macrocosm, friendship, romance, professional life, etc.) and what do these choices say about the construction of humanity in video games? What are the elements of procedural rhetoric that are guiding the playing experience and what does the game teach the player? I answer these questions by using discourse analysis as a method and looking at elements of procedural rhetoric, underlining theories and norms that the game encourages or challenges (through the succes/failure or possible/impossible mechanics), main story, and character development. Devolver Digital, 2014. The Talos Principle. Available at: <http://www.devolverdigital.com/games/view/the-talos-principle> [Accessed May 24, 2016]. Frictional Games, 2015. SOMA. Available at: <http://somagame.com/> [Accessed May 24, 2016]. Valve, 2007. Portal. Available at: <http://www.valvesoftware.com/games/portal.html> [Accessed May 24, 2016]. Valve, 2011. Portal 2. Available at: <http://www.thinkwithportals.com/> [Accessed May 24, 2016].

COSIMA RUGHINIȘ – University of Bucharest

*The impromptu crowd-science of gender and age: from the Bechdel test to TVtropes.org*

There is a rich variety of platforms for eliciting, organizing and centralizing lay knowledge on various topics, from wikis to Q&A platforms, forums and search engines. I discuss two forms of methodical knowledge produced in such digital settings with little, if any involvement of academic practitioners: the discussion of Bechel-Wallace test results, and the TVtropes.org platform. Both are highly relevant for media analysis and critique on gender-relevant dimensions, involving numerous participants in the production of empirical data, classifications, analyses of specific media items as well as theorizing gender and the evolution of gender representations. Yet, they are rarely invoked in scholarly literature. I argue that these two forms of distributed, empirically-grounded reflection may support alternative forms of examining gender and age as social institutions, outside academic settings.

ANDRADA ISTRATE – University of Bucharest

*What happens after 35? Social representations of age in a Romanian prison*

Avoiding the age variable in the fields of criminology or sociology of deviance is virtually inconceivable. Usually, social scientists draw conclusions that highlight the age distribution of crime or the links between crime desistance and age. It's fairly clear: crime declines with age (Gottfredson and Hirschi 1990), and sometimes people even experience an age-related burn-out (Matza 1964; Hirschi 1969). There is even an age when criminals discontinue their criminal careers, leaving us all astounded when we meet an inmate well beyond 35. As it happens, this blatant interest prompted others to boldly state that age is the "easiest fact about crime to study" (see, for example, Allen et al. 1981; Hirschi and Gottfredson 1983). Drawing on 16 months of empirical research on the topic of prisoners' reentry (Ethnography of Prisoners' Transitions research project), this presentation discusses social representations of age in the carceral environment. Anywhere in between 25 and 60, research participants glumly declare that they are too old for prison, articulating, at the same time, regret and failure, acceptance and hope. Departing from this paradox, I will discuss local classifications and hierarchies related to age.

LUCIAN ROTARIU – University of Bucharest

*School of life -prison as a learning experience*

This paper explores the representation and discourse regarding prison experience of inmates from Bucharest-Jilava penitentiary. Their perceptions are examined before their liberation momentum (1-14 days). The results represent an extract from The ethnography of the prisoner transition study conducted by the University of Bucharest in partnership with the University of Oslo by the agency of the Centre of Research and Innovation in Social Services. Some aspects of prison are identified as a learning experience, a place where the person could develop new abilities and new coping strategies. These can be interpreted as deviant behaviours like adopting new crime techniques, learning to dissimulate and to cheat others but doing time was also associated with positive or neutral characteristics such as: self restrain, paying more attention or how to manage and avoid conflicts. Few participants developed new labour skills (from working on construction sites, barber shops and other blue collar or low skilled labour). Prison formed me I can tell that, I don't know how, but I'm glad that I went through this period, I consider it a trial period, and I tell you honestly, I grew up (here) very badly. [...] This experience from prison matured me badly; I have learned that you have to loosen up; no matter what the situation is [...] I have learned that I have to give up a lot from myself in order to be wiser and to get out of here (MC, before release).

*Ageing Differently. A Few Notes on Gender and Age in Advertising*

In this presentation I tackle the mutual constitutive relationship between gender and age in advertising. I take a brief historical look at international ads and I dwell mostly on recent advertisements that ran in Romania for various products and services. Other studies and surveys (EIGE 2015, GMMP 2010, Grünberg 2005) on gender in the media show that the vast majority of women present in the media and advertising are young and beautiful (see “the beauty myth”), while men tend to come in all shapes, sizes, and ages. Thus, I argue that age is highly gendered in the media and especially in advertising. In my presentation I provide answers to questions such as: How does advertising do gender? How does advertising do age? How are gender and age interconnected in ads? What kind of representations do advertisements offer for women and men of various ages, appearances, professional and familial backgrounds? Although the bulk of ads follow patriarchal stereotypes, some recent ads show that the dynamics between gender and age in advertising is much more nuanced and complex than the rather simple “women must be young and beautiful” (read “body”) and “men must be adult and expert” (read “mind”).

KRISZTINA BERNATH, RITA PASZTOR, ERZSÉBET SZÁSZ, ANDREA BALOGH, GIZELA HORVATH – Partium Christian University, and ANDREA BERCE – ResQ Consulting SRL

*The role of self-awareness in career management: youths' learning attitude, career plans and labour market knowledge*

The decision process to continue studies at tertiary level is quite complex, it unfolds due to the effect of many factors; the number of students who pursue tertiary education and the possibilities to continue studies have a significant influence both on the individual and on society. The choice of institution is closely linked to the information that young people have about the field, as well as their career plans -at the end of their studies, these significantly affect the position patterns of youth on the labour market. The Partium Christian University (PCU) carried out an integrated project between 31.07.2015 and 31.12.2015, which was funded by the Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007-2013 and aimed at facilitating the transition of 300 students from tertiary education to the labour market, by providing an integrated programme to increase their employability. One main activity of the project was counselling and career guidance, where students had to complete a series of tests assessing their behavioural and job profile in order to enable a greater self-knowledge, a better understanding of differences between behavioural types and to shape career guidance according to their characteristics. Based upon test results, students' behavioural profile was studied, in correlation with career aspirations and labour market needs (N = 270). Students' plans regarding the post-university period proved to be rather uncertain, since a large proportion do not have a comprehensive knowledge

of the field of their studies and they cannot see through the requirements of the labour market, while not being aware of their abilities. Feedback from students participating in the programme revealed that the world of labour has become more transparent and they were directed towards jobs where they would fit better, taking into consideration their skills and personal traits.

FLORIN LAZĂR, OANA PIRNECI, DANA GABA, GEORGIANA-CRISTINA RENTEA, ANCA MIHAI – University of Bucharest

*The feminisation of social work: implications for practice and professional identity in Romania*

In social work, the promotion and implementation of women's rights applies both to social workers and clients, given the consequences associated with the feminisation of the profession (Jennings & Daley, 1979; Koeske & Krowinski, 2004). This paper aims to explore the influences of the feminisation of social work on the daily practice of social workers, and on the public valorisation of the social work profession in Romania, a subject only marginally addressed in the Romanian social work scientific literature. The paper is based on the preliminary findings of a broader mixed methods research conducted with social workers registered with the National College of Social Workers in order to identify the profile of Romanian social workers. In Romania, 88% of social workers (Lazăr, 2015) and 80.5% of the employees within the social work system are females (MMFPSPV & SERA Romania, 2013). From the perspective of the evolution of the profession, social works' feminisation is reflected in the way it progressed towards approaches which are mainly guided by principles that find their basis in feminist social work (Dominelli, 2002), which permitted the rethinking of the profession as the basis for the implementation of human rights. In practice, however, providing support social services to clients within the framework of a caring relationship that puts at its centre the maternal skills (Dominelli, 2002) can give the impression of a natural process, not requiring appropriate professional training and intervention methods and, thus, no corresponding payroll – a reality that cannot be countered by providing a male-dominated management, strongly oriented towards administrative efficiency (Dominelli, 2002). Other implications of feminisation on social work practice are also analysed, together with the practical and political implications of developing a gender sensitive strategy to promote the profession.

ANA-MARIA ZAMFIR, CRISTINA MOCANU and ELIZA OLIVIA LUNGU – National Scientific Research Institute for Labour and Social Protection

*Occupational choices among educated young men*

Occupations are gendered in most of the countries and occupational segregation is reproduced as school leavers tend to choose occupation in which they see their own gender represented. Following Eric Anderson findings (2011) showing that men wishing

to avoid homosexual stigma generally do not work in feminized domains, we aim to investigate the influence of homophobia on occupational choice of educated young men. Our paper shows that decreased homophobia leads to diversification of behaviors available to educated young men who enter the labour market. We analyse HUGESCO dataset that provides information on higher education graduates leaving education in 2002/2003 in four countries: Poland, Hungary, Lithuania and Slovenia. School leavers were interviewed in 2008 and offered information on their first job. We restrict our sample to male graduates who have had paid work after graduation and explore their occupational choices. Using Labour Force Survey country data regarding the gender employment structure, we classify occupations in five categories: very-male dominated; male-dominated; mixed; female-dominated; and very female-dominated occupations. Also, we use a proxy variable for assessing the attitudes to homosexuality at national level: “the (dis)agreement on the fact that homosexuality is still a taboo in their country” (Eurobarometer Special Survey). Our results show that in countries with high homophobia, male graduates tend to reproduce the pre-existing occupational structure and enter more often in very male and male-dominated occupations, while a low level of homophobia at national level increases the share of male graduates choosing female and very female-dominated occupations.

#### **Educated Romania. “România educată”**

Chairs: VIOREL PROTEASA, University “Carol Davila” and ROBERT DORON REISZ, West University of Timișoara

FLORIN FEȘNIC – Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*Popularity versus Prestige in the Evaluation of Academic Publications Quality: An “Eastern European” Impact Factor?*

The ISI’s Impact Factor and Article Influence Score are two widely used measures in the evaluation of academic journals. Some scholars argue it makes little difference which of the two we use, since in practice they are highly correlated. Nonetheless, such a perspective is missing the point: when we evaluate the quality of paper X published by Scholar Y in journal Z, we are not interested so much in how well the IF and the AIS of the journals in Z’s category correlate; rather, we are interested on whether using IF or AIS as proxies for the quality of journal Z makes a difference. To answer this question, I looked at the distribution of IF/AIS ratios in recent years for journals in the fields of metallurgy, economics, sociology and social work (the list of ISI journals in these fields include some controversial journals such as Metalurgia International, Amfiteatru Economic, and Revista de Cercetare si Interventie Sociala). In each of these cases, the distribution of standardized (z) scores for the ratios of IF/AIS scores place the aforementioned journals in the category of outliers (z-scores greater than 3), which



indicates that their IF's is artificially inflated and thus misleading (e.g., in 2013, Revista de Cercetare's IF was 1.14, larger than the British Journal of Sociology (1.0)). This approach (computing the IF/AIS ratios and then identifying outliers in the distribution) provides an easy way to identify problematic journals (I call z-scores greater than 3 "Pinocchio scores"). An interesting finding is that such scores are characteristic for Eastern European academic journals (e.g., in 2013 in the field of Economics, among more than 300 journals with an impact factor greater than zero, I identified 11 outliers; of these, eight were from Eastern Europe, while the remaining three were from Brazil, China, and Germany).

BOGDAN VOICU – Research Institute for Quality of Life, DAN ADRIAN – University of Bucharest, CLAUDIU TUFIȘ – University of Bucharest and EUGEN GLĂVAN – Research Institute for Quality of Life

*(Inter-)citation in Romanian journals from social sciences*

Scientometrics become more and more salient in the political and academic discourse. Scholars are in a continuous look for assessing their work based on the evaluations of their peers, and citation indexes are said to answer such purpose. Our study provides a glance into the world of journals published in Romanian social sciences, in particular in Sociology, Social Work and Political Science. We consider their recent issues (during past few years) and look for inter-citations and publishing patterns. Implications for policy are discussed in the concluding section.

VIOREL PROTEASA and STOJANOVIC NINOSLAV – West University of Timisoara

*A bibliometric appraisal of the institutionalization of Political Science as a disciplinary field in Romania*

Over the past decade, policies for higher education funding, research and entry to tenure have included measures of scholar productivity. Significant emphasis was laid on academics' publications. We can distinguish two approaches to the latter: the "data bases" approach, in which, generally, ISI publications and impact factors are the hallmark, and the "big data" approach, in which impact indexes calculated on Google Scholar are central. If what is published in "traditional" data bases (ISI, Scopus etc.) is well known, then what is behind Google Scholar is much more difficult to trace. In our research we will address the latter: what is published and what is cited on Google Scholar in political sciences in Romania? The scope of our research is limited to the publication record of PhD supervisors, which we consider indicative for the institutionalization of the disciplinary field in Romania.

ADRIAN HATOS – University of Oradea

*Varieties of capitalism, welfare regimes, education systems and educational achievements: closing the theoretical and empirical gap*

Most of the educational research attribute educational achievement to personal attributes of the student like educational abilities, socio-economic background characteristics, parent involvement a.s.o. or, on a broader sense, to characteristics of teachers or of schools. Much less often the investigations into the acquirement of competencies investigate contextual factors like features of socio-economic organization of the societies in which education is occurring. This is surprising as the well-known model of welfare regimes of Esping-Andersen considers education by the degree of its commodification or of its policy-level approaches as welfare. This is convergent with the model of varieties of capitalism by Sosskice and Iversen which considers the correlation of labor relations and of product market strategies with skill formation. On the other hand, measures of competencies have been related to traits of the educational systems like importance of the VET or the amount of tracking in the lower secondary education. International comparative research has documented the negative correlation between the early tracking of children in the secondary school and the acquisition of competencies. In contrast, a large vocational sector in the upper secondary education seem to be conducive to higher performances. My paper will investigate theoretically and empirically the possibility of connecting these two streams of research: large socio-economic typologies with features of educational systems on the one hand and main traits of educational systems on acquisition of competencies in an attempt to evaluate on the basis of current theories the degree in which large scale differences in the organization of economy can have an effect upon educational achievements of students in the pre-tertiary schooling after controlling for the other factors involved.

Time slot II

ROBERT DORON REISZ – West University of Timișoara

*The discourse of scientific education and elite institutions. Lessons from the German private sector*

The goal of this talk is to present results from an empirical research on private higher education institutions in Germany. We have analysed a number of 110 organisations through their mission statements as available on the public internet presence. The fundamental idea was to relate their self-stated elite status with other elements of the self-image as well as information on their functioning and organisation. While other results of the research have insisted on the role of internationalisation and internationality in the creation of elite status, here we will insist on the importance of science and the scientific character of education.

*Technical and vocational education in Romania. Challenges and Trends*

Due to its essential role in the provision of skilled labour force, technical and vocational education represents one of the priorities in education reform in Romania. Although technical and vocational education reform requires major changes at various levels – quality, financing, policy coordination etc. – the policymakers have focused on developing a dual educational system (e.g. public debates on dual education were held this year at the initiative of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Economy based on the “Competitive Romania” Strategy). Our presentation is based on a qualitative research on technical and vocational education in Romania and aims to examine the opportunity to develop dual education nationwide. The paper presents an analysis of main stakeholders’ representations (policy-makers, employers, professors, students) on the development of dual education and current experiences and challenges in implementing the first models of dual education in Romania. The main questions we seek to answer are: Is the generalisation of dual technical and vocational education appropriate in the current socio-economic context? What are the implications of the expansion of dual education at national level? Is dual education the solution for a more efficient technical and vocational educational system?

CRISTINA STĂNUȘ – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu and DANIEL POP – Open Society Foundations

*State vs/and market in the diversification of EU-funded educational service providers*

A key yet often neglected feature of how EU funding for mitigating social and educational inequalities works is the fact that the common framework laid out for implementing national programmes to address these issues unavoidably leads to the creation of quasi-markets or welfare markets. The notion of education markets is not new and is traditionally associated with notions such as school autonomy and school choice (Glennerster and Le Grand 1995; Whitty 1997; Whitty et al. 2002). However, these are quasi-markets, since they are highly regulated, financing is separated from provision of service, there is competition between the potential providers of service, and there is some user choice (Levačić 1995). Moreover, services are free to the user and providers are not necessarily geared towards profit (Bartlett and Le Grand 1993). One of the key features of quasi-markets, frequently invoked as an argument in favour of resorting to such instruments in the delivery of public services, is the diversification of contractors. This involves two aspects: 1) quasi-markets for service delivery are expected to lead to the involvement of high numbers of non-state actors in the delivery of services; 2) quasi-markets are expected to stimulate the involvement of not-for-profits service delivery. However, both elements are shaped by the role that the state

wishes to retain for itself. The paper examines from this perspective the access of potential contractors to the markets for educational service delivery funded via the European Social Fund in four Central and Eastern European countries.

ROXANA BRIȘCARIU – Bucharest University of Economic Studies

*Music and movement important for early childhood education*

In this unending crisis of formal education, it starts to appear different kind of alternative methods and systems of education tools. Creativity and innovation of working methods it is a goal of education to stimulate the current generations. A particular field in education is music education. “Culture through Music” it is a project about different methods to learn about music, and move perspective from theory to practice music with limited resource. This is my objective in this paper to explore and describe perception of music teachers, educators, primary school teachers, musicians and student of music, about the three modern approaches of musical education, “Dalcroze”, “Orff” and “Kodaly” in Romania. Dalcroze, Orff and Kodaly, are about movement, rhythm and sound, all in the same time, with the aim of emphasize the development of creativity.

**Youth and Elderly: Relations, Stratification and Values**

Chairs: HORAȚIU RUSU – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, LUCIAN MARINA – University “1 Decembrie 1918” of Alba Iulia and ELENA DANILOVA – Russian Academy of Sciences

MIHAELA HĂRĂGUȘ – Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*Patterns of Intergenerational Co-residence in Central and Eastern Europe*

In this study we look at different situations of co-residence between adults and their parents (persons who never left parental home, persons who returned into parental home after an initial departure, persons who took their parents to live with them) and investigate the profiles of persons in these different situations. Our work is guided by the hypothesis that the interplay of children’s and parents’ needs and opportunities takes different shapes for different co-residential situations. We use data from the Generations and Gender Survey for seven Central and Eastern European countries (Bulgaria, Russia, Georgia, Romania, Lithuania, Poland, and Czech Republic) and we address the issue from the adult child's perspective. We found support for the hypothesis that children's needs (or weaker opportunities), such as lack of employment or low education) are associated with co-residence in parental home. The relation is more straightforward in case of persons who never left. We also found support for the hypothesis that parents' needs (absence of a partner, disabilities) are associated with co-residence in the child's home, for some of the countries. Georgia, Romania and

Poland distinguish by the association of parental needs with returns into parental home or with never leaving. There, co-residence, even when in parental home, is not only a form of downward support, from parents to their children until they can reach independence, but also a form of upward support for the frail elderly. Beyond needs and opportunities, it appears that the family situation is linked with co-residence. In all countries, independent living requires resources (such a dwelling) that in many cases are achieved through marriage and consequently a situation other than this is highly associated with co-residence in parental home, when compared with persons living independently.

MARINELA SIMON – Transilvania University of Brasov, LUIZA MESESAN-SCHMITZ – Transilvania University of Brasov, and FLORENTINA SCÂRNECI-DOMNIȘORU – Transilvania University of Brasov

#### *The attitude of elderly people towards volunteering*

In the current context, in which the process of demographic aging from Romania is more and more pronounced, the action lines of social politics are needed for target the welfare of the elderly people, by keeping them in community as active persons for a long period of time. The local authorities and NGO`s have an important role in achieving this desideratum, through which specifics methods can identify and offer to the elderly persons, active and interesting ways to spend their leisure time and to be involved in community, volunteering represents one of these ways. In this paper we want to highlight the results of a research which was conducted on Brasov community level and through which we aimed to identify the elderly people`s attitude towards activities regarding helping other members in need from the community, expressed both by formal way (volunteer in an institution) and by informal way (individual initiative). These results may represent the key elements of a strategy to involve elderly people in volunteering as a viable solution to the problem of loneliness and uselessness felt by this category of persons.

DELIA BADOI – National Scientific Research Institute for Labour and Social Protection

#### *Structural changes and challenges in ageing society – The employment growth in the Health and social work activity sector*

In the global changing context of the ageing society, the European Union countries are currently facing an increasingly need for human health and social work activities, where there is a lack of skilled labor force, able to respond to the increasing demand for services in this activity sector. As the social needs of individuals became more and more diversified, it is note that the number of potential people demanding for health and social work assistance will increase, by generating challenges for the available labor force meeting those social needs. The societal factors that influence this activity sector growth are being studied at the macro-social, in terms of structural changes that are

affected by the ageing process of the population and at the micro-social level, by correlating these changes with the social reconfigurations that modern family faced due the increasing of both gender work-life balance and women participation on the labor market. From this perspective, the present study aims to analyze this structural changes and challenges that have occurred in shaping human health and social work services at the economy level of European Union countries, from 2008 to 2014, by using Eurostat and Labor Force Survey data. The analysis will be focused on the characteristics related to the dynamics of the women employment and gender differences in the health and social work sector and on the conditions of the employment, in terms of the labor contracts and qualifications required for this activity sector, as well as temporary employment, average number of usual weekly hours of work and atypical forms of work.

RAMONA BESOIU – University of Bucharest

*Religion socialization and intergenerational relations. Intercultural and religious differences and similitudes – Youth in Romania and Germany*

Considering the increasing number of the ageing population, and the discussions around the social and health insurance, the problem concerning the intergenerational relations needs more approaches both in public and scientific domain. Both the Eastern and Western society is subject of permanent changes and transformations. The dynamics of family structure, of the labor market, of the economic and cultural framework determines changes in intergenerational relations development. This study aims to a quantitative sociological analysis of intergenerational relations regarding two successive generations – children (youth) and parents (elderly). Also the study identifies the following differences and similitudes concerning: (1) cultural values (strongly individualized in Western culture or based on a stronger social network in Eastern culture); (2) religious beliefs and values (Eastern Orthodox and Western Evangelical culture); (3) the functions, mechanisms and dynamics of intergenerational relations. The comparison at intercultural level is on youth in Romania and Germany. Reviewing current theories of intergenerational relationships, this study contributes by stating the thesis that religious socialization is an important factor for intergenerational relations. Moreover, this study proposes the lines for discussion for a further social involvement of educational policies in order to support the intergenerational solidarity.

VERONICA SOMEȘAN and MIHAELA HĂRĂGUȘ – Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*Unmet needs of care and emotional support for the elderly. An intergenerational perspective*

Old age comes with health deterioration and limitations in everyday activities, as well as feelings of loneliness and depression. Elderly care in Romania is based on a familialist welfare system, which makes families responsible for their members' wellbeing. When there is a shortfall between the care and support a person needs and what they actually

receive, we are in the presence of unmet needs for support. We investigate the degree of unmet needs for support, as well as the factors that increase the likelihood of being in such a situation, using Generation and Gender Survey data for Romania (wave 1). We found that the absence of close family members increases the chances for the person to experience feelings of loneliness and not receiving emotional support. Elderly living in urban settlements display lower chances of having unmet needs than their rural counterparts. Similar results were found when analysing feelings of depression and the emotional support received. Persons without a partner are several times more likely to be in a situation of unmet emotional needs than those with a living partner. It appears that difficulties in making ends meet increase the feelings of depression, as well as the probability of not receiving emotional support in this situation. Age is the most important factor when it comes to persons that need regular help in care and do not receive it. The older the person is, the higher the chances are to be in a situation of unmet needs for care. The role of a living partner becomes insignificant this time, as they would have been equally old and not able to provide personal care.

### **Elites as Ruling Minorities**

Chair: LENGYEL GYÖRGY – Corvinus University of Budapest

IRMINA MATONYTE – University of Management and Economics, Vilnius

#### *Differences of the Europeanness of political, administrative and media elites in Lithuania*

Europeanness is defined as individual's strong and positive A) emotional attachment and B) appraisal of current trends of the EU governance as well as supportive and optimistic view about C) the EU strengthening and development in future. On one hand, driven by the democratic elite theory assumptions (Etzioni-Halevy 1994) and different roles in the process of the European integration and Europeanization of their countries (Best, Lengyel, Verzichelli 2012), it might be expected that the segments of national elites might exhibit differences in their Europeanness. On the other hand, confronted by the democratic elitism (Best, Higley 2010) and elites' mutual cueing and coalescence arguments (Best 2012), it might be expected national elites might be very uniform and unanimous in their Europeanness. Also, specific aspects, related to political, social and cultural particularities of the recent developments in a country should be considered. Based on elite's survey data in Lithuania in 2014-2016 the patterns of Europeanness of three different segments of national elites are examined. We expect to find that amidst rather homogenously pro-European (high scores on all three dimensions of Europeanness) elites in Lithuania, we expect to find perceptibly lower emotional attachment to and projective anticipation of positive future developments in Europe expressed by the Lithuanian administrative elite (as compared to political and media elites). With some glances at the patterns of Europeanness of the Lithuanian population

(survey conducted in early 2016), we suggest that our study provides additional empirical support for the arguments of democratic elitism.

JELENA PESIC – University of Belgrade

*Value-ideological consolidation of the ruling elites in Serbia during the period of restauration of capitalist relations*

Based on empirical data, gathered through three different research projects ("Changes in Class Structure and Mobility in Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia" from 1989, "South-East European Social Survey Project" from 2003, and "Challenges of New Social Integration in Serbia-Concepts and Actors" from 2012/15), on political and economic elites samples for Serbia, the aim is to examine whether we can trace clear tendencies towards value-ideological consolidation of the two elites (political and economic) into unique ruling class, during the period of post-socialist transformation and restauration of capitalism. The analysis will rely on comparative examination of the changes in the extent of acceptance of two value-ideological patterns -political and economic liberalism – of the two elite groups, in the period from 1989 until 2012/15, as well as on the changes in the intra-group value homogeneity (given by coefficients of variation for the empirical statements measuring political and economic liberalism). Contextual framework of the analysis will be marked by three time points, denoting different phases in the dominant manner of regulation of social relations (late socialism as the starting point of the analysis, the phase of consolidation of capitalist relations and the phase of the crisis of neoliberal capitalist regulation). The analysis of the changes in dominant value orientations will follow the theory of normative-value dissonance.

ISTVAN MICSINAI – Centre for Social Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

*Group of elites: perception of power about themselves and others*

There are several studies about the difference of objective and the subjective view of different social phenomena (e.g social justice or the social network of a small group). The perception of own and the others' power by different elite groups concerns this field: in my presentation I will introduce the perception of power by six elite groups (political, economic, business association, trade union, administrative, media) in Hungary based on the ENEC (European National Elites and the Crisis: An empirical research on the impact of the financial crisis upon elite attitudes towards the EU) research in 2015. (In the research ten "actors" power were asked.) The results show that actually the administrative is in a specific situation because on the one hand they perceive the role of other elite groups the strongest comparing the others (on 1-100



scale) and on the other hand they have the strongest self-esteem, because they identified themselves the most powerful also comparing the other groups too.

LENGYEL GYÖRGY – Corvinus University of Budapest

*Attitudes of the Hungarian elites in comparative perspective*

The paper investigates the Hungarian political elites' symbolic and pragmatic relationship to the supranational institutions. First Hungarian MPs' regional, national and supranational attachment and threat perceptions are investigated as compared to the attitudes of other (German, French, Italian, Lithuanian, Spanish, Greek, etc.) national political elites. Next their policy preferences are investigated in the same context. Finally, the specificities of parliamentary elite attitudes are compared to the administrative, business and media elites within Hungary. The paper is based on the comparative data file of the ENEC 2014/2015 research, consisting of representative samples of political elites in eleven countries of the EU and comparative data on business, administrative and media elites within Hungary.

**In the Mainstream Social Dynamics: Disentangling Minorities or Prevailing Majorities?**

Chairs: SILVIU TOTELECAN and ADRIAN SÎRBU – Romanian Academy, Cluj Napoca

SILVIA POPA – University of Bucharest

*The hyper-gentrification of wine: An Ethnography of Sommeliers*

Wine has received some attention in anthropology. Notably missing from this literature is a systematic engagement with the actors that influence directly wine consumers, namely wine tasters and sommeliers. Such workers create and lend class distinction to wine consumers. While the profession of wine tasters is better known, the global rise of sommeliers in recent years is indicative of a shift parallel to other areas of food consumption, such as the rise of "food artists". Wine tasters center their efforts on conveying technical knowledge of wine, chemical composition and physiology of perception. Sommeliers on the other hand center on storytelling about wine, more customized communication with more specialized audiences and generally avoid technical knowledge. While wine tasting is already part of the ensemble of practices of gentrification of taste and class ambitions, reliance on sommeliers is what I call, following urban studies literature, the hyper-gentrification of wine consumption, i.e. a process of hyper-distinction among groups that already possess cultural capital. I draw on more than six months of participant observation in events, restaurants and wine tasting cellars where sommeliers operate in Romania.

*From “cohabitant nationalities” to (post?) “national minorities” and the construction of (ideological) hegemonic/non-hegemonic relationships in media*

After the change of the political regime at the beginning of the 1990s in the countries of Eastern Europe, the issue of national minorities (“ethnic minorities” as defined by the 2101 Recommendation adopted on 1 February 1993 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe) ascended among the priorities of the political agenda of the region. Whether by major conflicts, or by significant political changes, the political status of the ethnic groups of varying size changed after the constitution of the European Union, and in a radical way especially after the 1990s. This change reopened the discussion on the definition of ethnic groups in Europe, whether or not related to a national political space, as well as the relationship between ethnic and national (Brubaker 1996, 2004, 2006). My paper offers an analysis of how, in post-Communist Romania, these policy changes concerning national minorities led to the reshaping of media discourse concerning the relationship majority / national minority in connection with the hegemonic / non-hegemonic conceptual distinction. My empirical corpus consists of self-referential discourse samples promoted by the current radio and television programs (during the last decade) treating about minorities without national reference, such as Aromanians or Roma.

SILVIU G. TOTELECAN and ADRIAN T. SÎRBU – Romanian Academy – Cluj-Napoca

*Inducted (neo-)minorities within the mainstream maelstrom*

In contemporary societies, the ever closer and accelerated interpenetration between globalization, global market and digital communication produces a flattened uniformity not only upon everything could subsist as particularity, specificity, minority in a traditional/orthodox/classical sense, but for the very distinction/demarcation between minority and majority. Under the concerted action of those three forces/dynamic/streams, this uniformity entails the need to consider in an increasingly holistic context any articulations of the socio-cultural groups, and equally, to examine the minority-majority relationship within the prevalent trend through which any specificity is integrated, if not dissolved, into the mainstream. It is into the even more extensive metabolism of the mainstream to convert any kind of difference in the form of commodity, to aestheticize (spectacularize) it, and expose it for consumption within the socio-cultural global “bazaar”. Thus, goods, brands, local experiences, cultures and more are standardized to be packaged for global (and, of course, mainstream) consumption. It can, however, occur that groups of customers are assembling themselves around a certain product by giving it a special status that makes it susceptible to step out from the infinite chain of consumer goods. Re-subjectified, re-invested with socia(bi)lity, such “products” become the symbolic and practical identifiers through which the social bonds of a new kind of socio-cultural groups/entities

are crossing today, creating and differentiating a whole range of inducted (neo-) minorities.

ADRIAN T. SÎRBU and SILVIU G. TOTELECAN – Romanian Academy – Cluj-Napoca

*The “creolization” of minorities’ self-asserting social languages. (Or the self-deconstruction of the scholarly minority/majority idiom.)*

The background horizon against which one has to advance any coherent discussion about minority/majority distinctions apparently exceeds the current use of these terms within the social sciences -one that remains anyway in debt to the original nation-state societies’ constructs to which it belongs. The reason behind this – perhaps an obscure one, but not at all hidden – would be that this supplement pertains to the over-determinations, increasingly de- and/or re-territorialized, by which, according to various cumulative and contradictory contexts, the very meaning of the concept of minority became encumbered. Another reason for the conceptual destabilization of the “minority” notion consists in the fact that the performative aspects of its meaning (already entailed by its multiple legitimate uses) became an active tool within the self-asserting social strategies of any non-majoritarian (or non-mainstream) group – independently of the genealogy or the make-up of its constituting and delineating social ties! Against the overall background produced by the convergent effects of dynamics responsible, in the end, for the mainstream as such (e.g. the global markets, the globalization of social worlds, the widespread use of digital technologies), and as another follow-up, it is precisely the socio-cultural success of identity politics that creates a powerful generative mold. Thus, one paradoxical outcome is that the questions raised by the proper description of minority/majority delimitations -i.e. the power relations through which plays, for any minority, the balance between self- and hetero-identification -are disjointed from the more traditional ones raised by the identity topics (and thus disconnected from its classical theorizations). However, this practical-symbolic force of virtual any minority to “creatively” self-institute itself (along any other one), whichever its features, doesn’t express some equipollent vitality of the minority-principle (neither, necessarily, its resilience). It only muddles the self-understood in what may remain “majority”.

ADINA MANTA, University of Bucharest

*In the search for new cultural spaces. A social cartography of Bucharest Alternative Cultural Scenery*

The search for alternative cultural spaces is a wide undertaking. It can vary locally and globally and opens plenty of opportunities for newly emerging cultural productions and expressions. There has been a growing interest in studying cultural spaces from their urban regeneration potential. Discussions about these spaces can be found in the literature under concepts such as: art spaces (Grodach, 2011), cultural spaces (Alexander, 2003), creative spaces (Becker et al, 2009), cultural laboratories (Polleta, 1999) or free spaces (Polleta, 1999), yet it is called for a

more dynamic perspective which integrates approaches from different disciplines. Mixing methods from mental geography, psychology and sociology, this study explores the alternative cultural spaces in terms of its pluralism, managing to identify a new conceptual framework, the fluxus space. Fluxus spaces are cultural spaces situated at the intersection of public-private, old-new, informal-formal, legal-illegal expressions, playing an important role in artistic development and in the urban and community regeneration processes.

## **Minorities Being Majorities; Majorities Being Minorities**

Chair: ZBIGNIEW RYKIEL – Rzeszów University

ZBIGNIEW RYKIEL – Rzeszów University

*The concepts of majority and minority*

JOSEPH BENEDICT RUANE – University College Cork

*Comparing internally-generated religious minorities and externally-imposed ethno-religious minorities: Protestants and Catholics in France and in Ireland*

The Protestant minority in France was internally-generated, the product of a split within the existing French population in the 16th century. Severely repressed in the 18th century, it was emancipated by the French Revolution. In the 19th century it moved from the political margins to full participation in French society. In this it was facilitated by the post-Revolution split in the Catholic population and struggle for power between pro-Church and anti-Church forces. Viewed over the *longue durée* it offers an example of the unilineal historical path characteristic of many European countries involving minority emergence, oppression, resistance, survival, emancipation, integration and (to a degree) reconciliation. The Protestant minority on the island of Ireland has had a much more chequered history. First, it can be seen as both majority (part of the Protestant majority of the British state) and minority (on the island of Ireland). Second, it was an externally-generated minority, the product of external conquest and colonisation, and the subsequent difference was ethnic and colonial as well as religious. Third, Second, the partition of the island in 1921 created a Protestant majority in Northern Ireland and a Protestant minority in Southern Ireland. Fourth, for most of their history Irish Protestants were a dominant minority on the island. After 1921 Protestants were a dominant majority in Northern Ireland, but are now forced to share power. If current projections hold they may soon be a minority. Meanwhile the Southern Protestant minority (like its French counterpart of the 19th century) has benefited from the post-1960 division between pro-Church and anti-Church Catholics. Using the French case for comparison, this paper will explore the dynamics of internal and external minority-majority relations under conditions of externality and internality, of religious and of

ethno-religious conflict, of dominant and subordinated minorities and majorities, and of changing majority-minority demographics.

LIA MARIA POP – University of Oradea

*The Paradox of the Roma Linguistic Majority Turned into a Cultural Minority and altogether into a Political Ambiguity*

The paper is addressing the Roma minority's condition in the United Europe, focusing specifically on the paradox of their arithmetic linguistic majority turned into a cultural and political minority, because of the unacknowledged reality and because of the political division of the continent. The de facto Roma arithmetic majority in the EU is documented by using the public national sources of different EU states; the Ethnologue, as the international linguistic data base; and accredited national. It is also cross-checking the facts by interviewing Romanian citizens Roma speakers accustomed to move across the continent, as migrants or after 2007, traveling as EU citizens enjoying de jure the right to Free movement. The research is exploring the significance of the variety of the Roma linguistic idioms as part of the same dialect: the RROM. It questions the function of the Rrom dialect as a bridge towards other Roma and even more – migrants familiar with the LOM and DOM dialects – simultaneously as a fortress against the non-speakers. In more positive terms, it attempts to explore the Roma language potential to become a lingua franca among the deprived group established in the camps across Europe and trying to get a way to integrate therein; or on the contrary -as a language of the possible acts of recruitment for criminal organizations. The wide possibilities of the Roma language to open transnational approaches and to serve them, as a language of a majority interacting constantly with new culture are not capitalized, because of a vicious circle. The Roma language is in a condition of being minor culturally and because of it is stigmatized. It is the victim of the stigmatization professed by the national majorities which host the Roma people because it is known as minor – lacking major creations or unaware of such creations because of the limited education of the speakers. The paper is trying to list the adopted national languages of the Roma which become mutually understandable via the RROM dialect and to figure out how many others could become with the new migrants coming to Europe. To promote the language peculiar positive functions, the papers urges the scholars to study it from the perspective of its potential to be a cultural bridge. The paper also proposes to the EU linguistic policy makers to encourage the Roma studies – by the non-native speakers too – in order to promote the tolerance and to prevent the EU national polities'

radicalization. Acknowledgement: The study is done in the framework of the EU fp.8, MIME project, <http://www.mime-project.org/>.

RADOSVETA DIMITROVA – Stockholm University, and DELIA STEFENEL – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

*Factorial Structure and Measurement Invariance of Family Connectedness Measure among Roma Minority and Romanian Majority Adolescents in Romania*

This study examined measurement invariance (the degree to which the scale measurements conducted across different populations exhibit identical psychometric properties) and factor structure of family connectedness (e.g., youths' activity with and affection for their family; Karcher, 2005) in mainstream Romanian and Roma minority youth in Romania – former post-communist state hosting the largest Roma settlement in Europe and the world. A focus on Roma is relevant and timely at a moment when so many vulnerable children are migrating and/or seeking refuge around the world and when issues of inequality are gathering more attention nowadays. We compare Roma and Romanians because Roma are the largest minority group in Romania accounting for nearly 2 million people (Romanian Census, 2011; European Council, 2012) characterized by strong family connections and extended family network. We follow prior work on indigenous communities indicating the salience of family connectedness among these populations (Stuart & Hose, 2014). Participants were 426 youth aged 9 to 19 years old with Roma (n = 206) and Romanian (n = 220) background who filled in a self-report measure of family connectedness comprising 11 items (Stuart & Jose, 2014). First, confirmatory factor analyses (CFA) conducted separately for each cultural group provided support for the one-factor structure of the instrument. Second, we achieved good configural, metric and scalar invariance models, indicating similar patterns and strengths in factor loadings, means and intercepts across samples. We conclude that the measure investigated here is a brief and valid tool of family connectedness that can be used for cultural comparison with samples from Romania.

**Time and Social Policy: Imaging Welfare Futures**

Chairs: ȘTEFANIA MATEI and MARIAN PREDA – University of Bucharest

CARL PARSONS – University of Greenwich, London

*Child welfare – an ecological future*

Much has been written about integrated support for children and families but sustained and nationally supported professional and community support has seldom endured. England has had a range of policies to support poor (troubled?) families and there is widespread recognition of the “ideal” where health, education social welfare and even criminal justice agencies can work together. Some “evidence-based”

initiatives have been combined to make bundles of interventions. The ecological future recognises person-focussed training with more in common across professions than separate specialisms, with early intervention which is multifaceted, multi-layered and sustained across a child's development. Examples are given of integrated Intervention Initiatives (IIIs) and the rationale, costs/savings and societal responsibilities are laid out. Barriers are considered and a way forward is proposed.

SIMONA MARIA STĂNESCU – Research Institute for Quality of Life

*Social policy for family in member states of the European Union*

The paper is a screening of family benefits in the 28 Member States of the European Union and contributes to the research of shared trends with respect to family approach in these countries. Four types of family benefits including eight distinctive categories are analysed: child-benefit, child care allowances, child-raising allowances, and other benefits (birth and adoption grants, allowance for single parents, special allowances for children with disabilities, advance payments for maintenance and other allowances). The paper is based on primary and secondary analysis of 28 sets of national data provided through the European Union's Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSOC). Three categories of member states are considered: founder member states of the EU, other "old" member states, and the new Central and Eastern ones. Chronological development of national regulations with impact on family benefits is analysed in connection with the moment of becoming a member state. Various forms of family benefits legislation and their main subjects of interest are further researched. The last part of the article looks at the coverage of family benefits. Seven member states operate in this respect based on regulations adopted before EU accession. Belgium, Finland, and Lithuania have the "most preserved" family regulations per category of member states. The first three topics of family regulations are: child, family, and allowance / benefit. The most frequently provided family benefits: birth and adoption grants, and special allowance for children with disabilities. France, Finland, Hungary, and Slovenia provide all identified eight family benefits. Only two types of family benefits are available in Ireland, Spain, and Cyprus.

CRISTINA MOCANU – University of Bucharest

*Complementarities of educational and welfare policies -the case of Romania*

Education was relatively much later considered in the analyses of different welfare regimes, even if worldwide education is recognized as a core asset of an individual. Both welfare programs and expansion of education are associated with industrialization and democratization and the influence of one on another are still strongly debated. Also questions if different strategies/choices of governments to invest in education and/or in different social policies can profile different political strategies are analyzed more and more by different research papers. On the one hand we know that the welfare regime

itself is a source of stratification, being designed more or less with the purpose of reducing inequalities. On the other hand, education is still one of the most important predictor for future success and earnings. Different organizational characteristics of educational systems might point if equality of educational opportunities is achieved or if contrary intervention is driven by a “stratification culture”. There are states investing more in providing equal opportunities in education and then admitting the inequalities created by educational and social insurance systems, as there are also countries investing at higher levels both in education and in social insurance programs. Nonetheless, nowadays levels of public expenditure and support of population for a specific type of intervention limit the capacity of governments to design specific policies that address effects for the future. This paper aims to address how Romania attempts to “intervene” in the reproduction of social stratification through social and educational policy and to analyze if there are empirical evidences of a trade-off in between education and social policies. Finally, the paper aims to evidences some possible effects on the long run if the current architecture of educational and welfare systems are maintained.

ANNA KOLOMYCEW – University of Rzeszów

*Social enterprises in co-production of welfare services. Conditions for cross-sectoral partnerships creation in Poland*

The rapid growth of social economy sector observed in Poland is connected with external financial support, which seems to be a strong motivator for social economy sector creation. Definitely, the social economy sector in Poland is still under the process of creation, but observed tendencies and directions of its development raise questions about real needs of Polish society, its awareness and knowledge about social economy, role of engaged entities and effectiveness of financial sources provided for social economy support. I would like to focus on several problematic issues, which strongly influence the development of social economy in Poland. The most important problems seem to be as follow: a) weak and unstable social sector in Poland; b) vague legal regulations, multitude of legal forms and constant changes of organizational and institutional frameworks of the social economy sector; c) the amount of social entities created in recent years in Poland, does not testify their quality and stability; d) the lack of education in the field of social entrepreneurship; e) relations with public sector. On the one hand, public authorities support the emergence of social enterprises, but on the other, they limit their access to public service contracts. In the same time, the “top-down” approach makes social entities dependent on public institutions and public money. In the presentation I would like to focus on specifics of the social economy sector in Poland, its legal and institutional arrangements as well as limitations and barriers; to stress the nature of relationships between social economy entities and the public sector in Poland and try to answer the question of whether the social economy



entities operating under the current legal and institutional conditions may become real partner of public authorities in the provision of public services.

COSIMA RUGHINIȘ, STEFANIA MATEI and ELISABETA TOMA – University of Bucharest

*Imagining the future and the human nature through a tech-startup lens. A case-study of the Innovation Labs program*

In recent years the Romanian antreprenorial ecosystem has gradually evolved, through programs and events such as Startup Week-end, How to Web, Impact Hub Bucuresti, Innovation Labs, MVP Academy, RICAP, Spherik Accelerator, or Techsylvania. The tech-startup becomes an experience increasingly open to young people who have a creative idea and want to make it real through technology. Many startups claim to make a significant difference in social organization or personal life, creating new forms of communities, relationships and also by enhancing human abilities such as perception, memory, or cognition. We examine the prototypes developed in the Innovation Labs Program, looking into how young people aim to redefine the human nature and our future lives by connecting digital technologies with creative problem definitions and imagined solutions.

CRISTIAN PĂTRĂȘCONIU – University of Bucharest

*Reasons for a Sociology of Political Time*

Sociology of time is a domain in visible expansion, being relevant both academically and publicly. Its scope includes political themes as a matter of course. For Romania, the analysis of political subjects by using methods and concepts from the sociology of time is yet at the very beginning. Therefore, it is necessary to establish a trend of academic research that aims to propose benchmarks with time variable parameters. I consider that the possible outcomes of such an inquiry would be important both sociologically and socially. This paper discusses some of the fundamental concepts in the sociology of time, summarizing and examining several arguments that may apply effectively to political field. The assumption that lies behind this research option is that time management influences quality of life, including quality of social and political life.

IULIAN OANĂ – University of Bucharest

*Social classes through the lens of time capital*

For a while, sociological theories, especially the ones which at their basis have aspects related to modernization or postmodernity, have assumed that stratification by social classes will disappear through processes of individualization. Conceptualizations which take into account that the contemporary reality is reflexive -A. Giddens, liquid -Z. Bauman, or one of individualization -U. Beck or S. Lash, by assuming that social life is more and more non-linear, perspectives by which the structural determinism of social classes (e.g. social mobility) over the life of individuals does not have explanative power.

However, recent studies of authors such as M. Savage or T. Piketty claim the contrary. Differences between people still exist, are visible, and processes of individualization have a higher probability to be associated with more favorable social positions. Following the line of P. Bourdieu, which was recently expanded by M. Savage and his colleagues, where the determinants of social classes are different forms of capital owned by individuals (economic, social, and cultural), I propose bringing in time capital as another determinant of the class position held by individuals within the social structure, because it is the resource at the basis of other types of capital -if we take into account that all human actions are taking place in and as time.

ILEANA CINZIANA SURDU – University of Bucharest

*Social Perspectives over Family Time versus Engaged Time. Individual Leisure Time Capital*

The contemporary era is characterized by people's wish of having a fulfilling career, a quality family life, and also necessary time for personal activities. All these activities often create a conflict between the desired time and the actual available time. Since antiquity, leisure time has been perceived as "a great challenge". With the advancement of modernity and capitalism, leisure time established itself as reference factor for the economic industries. This transformation started in the 20th century, when time was defined as a human right by the United Nations. The study explores the ratio of money and time, of desired leisure time and accomplished leisure time in the process of harmonizing family life and professional life. Through this paper, I propose an understanding of individual leisure time capital as part of "psycho-sociological time capital", obtained through the efficient capitalization of personal time. This can improve one's quality of life, life satisfaction, as well as health status in the process of identifying the balance between family time and engaged time.

ANDRADA TOBIAS – Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*Crafting leisure activities: how corporate employees experience free time?*

Cultivation of leisure is an essential part of what constitutes so-called 'new-careers', especially among highly educated people in the neo-liberal society. Focused on interior freedom, self-development and confidence, leisure time activities became an excellent resource that can be explored by companies offering opportunities and free time programs for their employees and at the same time an excellent apparatus to exercise control over them. The flexible working program, team-buildings and short periods of leisure during the program is often associated with the idea that employee can be more productive and also more satisfied with his work. In this context my research interest focuses on companies' attention on the leisure time of their employees and how can it be exploited in the benefit of the company. In parallel, I would like to explore how

corporate employees experience their leisure time activities, the meanings of their actions and how they utilize new resources within that time to develop themselves.

RAMONA MARINACHE – University of Bucharest

*A Social Venture into Daydreams*

Over the past three decades, sociology reclaimed the field of sleep and dreams dominated by works from medicine, psychology and philosophy. In sociology, sleep and dreaming are researched separately. On the one hand the current knowledge on sleep is rapidly expanding, consolidating the foundation of the sociology of sleep; on the other hand, dreams and dreaming are researched almost exclusively in relation with the physiological state of dreaming (REM). Few studies on sociology of sleep mention daydreaming, but few attempts have been made to investigate its social importance, although psychological studies showed we daydream three times more than we dream. Studies made so far by researchers from different discipline (sleep science, psychology, anthropology and social historians) suggest that daydreams could be a new way of studying individual and collective social reality. In this context, the focus of this study is on the unmapped field of daydreaming and its results, on finding answers to the question: Why should sociology study daydreaming and daydreams?

MARA STAN – University of Bucharest

*Cryonics suspension -debating life finitude, extending time capital, cancelling death and re-engineering the self*

The study discusses the anti-death movement inside the transhumanist doctrine and its social implications. This new spiritual doctrine reconciles in an unconventional way mysticism with technology, secular religion with scientific innovation. It analyses current debates over extreme life extension by cryogenic suspension (vitrification procedures that imply death is a diachronic process, not a synchronic moment, and, moreover, a reversible one, undertaken by immortality seekers). Ethical, scientific, financial and spiritual controversies come into consideration, as pro and counter-arguments emerge from ongoing debates investigated by netnography of reviewers' blogs. This methodological approach facilitates in-depth access to beliefs and attitudes expressed in relationship to continuity of stream of consciousness, laic after-life representations coined "heaven for atheists" and self-projection in the future with the Faustian conviction that anything is possible, as endeavour to live it all, have it all, own it all, recraft oneself even past the current definition of legally pronounced death verdict. The study calls for the questioning of agency and performativity in the context of transcending time dynamics and achieving biological and chronological time suspension, and lack of dualism or dichotomy between life and death. It brings a new perspective on the traceability & sustainability of time capital (Preda, 2013), while discussing the impact of the philosophical presumption that death is not only wrong,

but curable and avoidable, by future medical progress and overall scientific and technological advancement. Conclusions of reviewers' comments on feasibility and opportunity of cryonics bring forth an expanding preoccupation for placing more value on life, whilst debating over the permeability of the life and death threshold as last remaining parenthesis between immanency and transcendence, by legitimising and commodifying a higher degree of self-control over personal time capital into a reconfigured, self-crafted welfare future.

### **International Migration Today: The Focus on Transnationalism and Gendered Processes**

Chairs: MONICA ȘERBAN – Research Institute for Quality of Life, IONELA VLASE – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu and BOGDAN VOICU – Research Institute for Quality of Life

AET ANNIST – University of Tartu; University of Bristol; Tallinn University Publishing

#### *Relocating the meaning of life: Transnational rural Estonians coping with dispossession*

Eastern Europe provides a laboratory to explore very rapid entry into neoliberalism, unprecedented anywhere else in the world with its combination of the eager "will to improve" (Li 2007) and efforts to "return to the Western World" (Lauristin and Vihalemm 1997). Further, these conditions have also shaped a particular type of transnational and diasporic postsocialism caused by discontent with the discrepancies between the expectations and the experiences with real neoliberal capitalism. I will focus in particular on "social dispossession" (Annist 2015) in postsocialist Estonia. This process has severely undermined people's ability to informally solve local and communal problems. The local and national institutional solutions further weaken and/or channel political mobilisation as local needs are assessed on funders' scales. My ethnographic examples connect social dispossession in the postsocialist states with ethnic dispossession in diasporic/transnational contexts as disenchanted individuals struggle to relocate the meaning of their lives. Whilst on the one hand offering a platform for resistance as migrants repossess some of their symbolic and social capital through generating new status hierarchies, on the other hand, migration is

reformulated as a moral issue with consequences that complete this global exercise in stratification.

PAULA TUFIȘ – University of Bucharest, MONICA SERBAN – Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy and MĂDĂLINA MANEA – University of Bucharest

*Academic Achievement of Immigrant Children. Individual-Level Sources of Success: The Self, Parents, and Friends*

Previous studies have shown that immigrant children's academic achievement differs across origin and destination countries, and that there are important predictors of achievement at multiple levels: individual, school, community, and country. In our analysis, we focus on discussing individual level effects but we also assume that there are important macro-level effects that have to be taken into consideration. We account for these latter effects by using a cross-classified hierarchical model by origin and destination countries. We use the PISA 2012 data on mathematics achievements of 15-year-old students to explore how various factors influence achievement and how much variance in achievement there is at the individual level, between immigrant students in different destination countries, and between students from different origin countries. We draw on ideas from research on the academic achievements of children, in general: that the way parents interact with schools is an important factor that can enhance or hinder children's academic success, that the child's peers may be an important resource in motivating children to do well in school and that both cognitive and non-cognitive traits of children may influence their success in school.

BOGDAN VOICU – Research Institute for Quality of Life

*International migration and social values. The case for osmosis?*

This paper addresses a rather neglected issue in nowadays migration studies, and focuses on the circulation and diffusion of social values due to migration. It reviews various analyses considering migrants, either immigrants, either returnees, and studies there reported change in attitudes and behaviors, as well as in values. The paper builds on well-known literature, including assimilation theories, transnationalism, social remittances, that is combined with insights from sociology of values and value change, and from debates around diffusion coming from social network theory. Recent quantitative studies on transferring values or their manifestations to the host society are explored, in particular focusing on the portability of cultures, with respect to basic human values (Rudnev, 2014), civic participation (Aleksynska, 2011 ; Voicu, 2014; Voicu & Rusu, 2012), political behaviour and attitudes (Voicu & Comsa, 2014; Voicu & Tufis, 2016), gendered-educational inequalities (Dronkers & Kornder, 2014), life-satisfaction (Voicu & Vasile, 2014), or social trust (Dinesen, 2013; Voicu, 2015). Mirrored studies are used to discuss the transferability of values to the host society (Pérez-Armendáriz, 2014;

Voicu, 2016). The discussion leads to a refined model of migrant integration in a transnational world.

MONA MIHAELA CORINA SIMU – Research Institute for Quality of Life

### *Images of refugees' crisis through the "eye" of written press*

The article intends to present the image of the migration issues, as it appears in Romanian newspapers, during the recent/ present immigrants' crisis in EU. The method of content analysis will be applied on several national daily newspapers. A corpus of articles covering the present refugee crisis will be obtained; the related words in these press articles will be counted (words related to the topic and "relevant" to the studied issue: "migrant", "afflux", "children", "dead", "wall", etc.) A hierarchy of the resulted words, based on their frequencies will help to describe and obtain the media "image" – the reflection – of the issue in these newspapers for the studied period of time. The study is based on the assumption that media is like a mirror for the society, and that they reflect the social problems of the society: "The mass-media play a large role in shaping public agendas by influencing what people think about, and ultimately, what people consider to be a social problem" (Leon-Guererro, 2016). The media generally reflect the "population's opinion", thus we can obtain relevant information about the "perception" that the Romanian public has on the researched issue. The study allows a better understanding of the perception of the phenomenon and the phenomenon itself, taking a "glimpse" on authorities' future policy agenda.

## **Sociology of the Internet**

Chair: BOGDAN NADOLU – West University of Timisoara

ESTRELLA GUALDA – University of Huelva

### *European Citizens Tweeting on Refugee Crisis: New Challenges for Old Societies Managing the Rights of Minorities*

In the last decade, the European Union had approved and launched some measures in order to promote Intercultural Cities, Diversity Management and Integration of Immigrants in Europe. Despite this European Frame, now we are at a crossroad that range from solidarity and humanity to an important restriction of refugee's human rights across Europe. In this paper we try to compare the international approaches to the refugee crisis in different countries in Europe. Data were extracted from Twitter (from 14 December 2015, after the Paris Attacks, to 15 May 2016). Through our sampling process during six months we achieved more than 1 million tweets about "refugees" using as search strings this word in six different languages (English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish). We performed a discourse analysis, focusing on the comparison between countries. Qualitative analysis with the help of both Atlas

ti and T-Lab software was executed. Results showed diversity of discourses in Europe today about refugees and refugee crisis (from solidary to xenophobic ones), some of them very characteristic of concrete countries or local events that took place. These results allow us to reinforce the idea that we are at a key moment for the development of Europe in the future, especially with regard to aspects concerning the living together in cities and villages.

ALEXANDRA GUBANOVA – Russian State Children's Library

*Kids Online: how to select and evaluate quality, safe and positive e-content for children*

Recent polls show that the age of onset use of the Internet in Russia decreases – for the whole country it is 10 years old, for Moscow and St. Petersburg – 9 years old [Galina Soldatova, Elena Rasskazova and others (2011). Russian Kids Online]. Such situation entails parent's concern about the quality of sites children visit. Therefore, the relevance of methods of selection and evaluation of quality, safe and positive content for children increasing. It's not enough to describe the requirements for the safe and positive sites for children and necessary to understand how to determine whether the website is interesting of a child. To achieve this goal, authors developed a method of evaluating websites for children. Children can be referred to the group of respondents with a low level of sincerity (about 68%) [Svetlana Maiorova-Scheglova (2006). Neoprosnye metody issledovanij detstva]. It is necessary to apply specialized techniques developed for a specific purpose. It was developed a questionnaire for mass survey of children in the game form. The questionnaire was based on the following criteria to the evaluation of websites: 1) Information contains a training and development materials. 2) The texts are written literate language (no slang). 3) The design should not contain contrasting, incompatible, overly bright colors. 4) The images must correspond with text. Respondents made a journey to the country of the best sites "Weblandia" (<http://web-landia.ru>) and filled in the "Diary of traveler", which contained the guiding questions adapted to children's and adolescent's™ understanding. The advantages of the method: (1) shows the weaknesses of the site from the point of view of the children; (2) sufficiently high degree of relevance, because of objective rate of sites.

CRISTINA MĂDĂLINA ȘTEFANA – National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest

*The impact of Internet upon gymnasium pupils*

One of the main objectives of the Internet sociology is the analysis of social impact of the Internet upon pupils. This paper aims to design an analysis of the impact that the Internet has upon gymnasium pupils. The study will expand on two pylons. In the first place, we will try to analyze the pupils' digital culture, by identifying the number of hours spent on the Internet during the day, by identifying the main activities done on the Internet, by identifying the most used social networks, by identifying the websites and

social networks where they created accounts etc. In the second place, we will try to identify to what degree the Internet influences the school performances, the extracurricular activities, the cultural life, the friendships, their relations with their parents and the pupils' sexual curiosities, the main purpose of the paper being represented by designing and identifying of statistical correlations between the number of hours spent on the Internet and the variables above mentioned. In this research we will be guided by the following questions, directly correlated to the research goals: "How many hours per day gymnasium pupils spend on the Internet?", "Which are the main activities done on the Internet?", "To which degree the time spent on the Internet affects the school performances, the extracurricular activities, the cultural life, the friendships, their relations with their parents and the pupils' sexual curiosities?", "Does the usage of Internet positively or negatively affect gymnasium pupils?". The research will take place in Bucharest and it will focus on the gymnasium pupils, enrolled in the V-VIII grades. In order to achieve the paper's goals, we will use as research methods the sociological survey, based on questionnaire and focus group.

BOGDAN NADOLU – West University of Timisoara

*Dear Google, who am I?*

Into the present hyper-connected and high tech society we produce a large amount of digital traces that gradually become a pattern with direct influence on our daily lifestyle. By each click on the info-sphere we show what we liked, what are our interests, what did we intend to do and so on. The continuous increasing of the economical dimension of the Internet has generated various marketing techniques and tools to identify consumer clusters, specific behaviors and even sensibilities. Thus, more and more the digital universe tends to change its shape following our interests, aspirations, expectations, hobbies and so on. And this has become so deep that searching for a random list of words from various computers there were obtained a very different results from Google. Technically the browser history and the cache from the specific computer define the further results but these form also a personalized digital goggle. In this paper we will make an analysis of the results obtained from Google on a set of 30 random words for two computers samples in 2015 and 2016, with a total of 50 cases. Is there only a market purpose? How deep can be perturbed the digital reality by the artificial intelligent tools and application? How much from our digital presence is defined by various computer software? Are we close by our goals with this filtering of the searching results? These are only several questions that we will try to answering starting from the collected data.



## **Work Changes and High Performance Organizations**

Chairs: CARMEN BUZEA – Transilvania University of Brasov and RALUCA RUSU – “Nicolae Bălcescu” Land Forces Academy, Sibiu

SIMONA MARIA STĂNESCU – Research Institute for Quality of Life

### *Work values in social economy organisations*

Social economy principles could be summarised as one man one vote. The democratic participation and the reinvestment of the profit in the benefit of members are attractive for the ones willing to promote both social and economic sides when performing within an organisation. According with EU data, there are 2 million social economy enterprises in Europe, representing 10% of all businesses in the EU. An increased number of people representing 6.5% of the EU's employees are working in social economy sector. The paper explores new directions in work values and organisational performance in Romanian social economy from the human resources point of view. The following aspects will be analysed: the structure of the employees from the social vulnerability perspective, and openness for recruiting vulnerable people. The paper is based on qualitative and quantitative data.

ROZALIA KLARA BAKO – Sapientia University, Cluj-Napoca

### *Online Presence Standards for Governmental Organizations*

In the age of a pervasively computerized workplace, multimodal practices and online presence of organizations are key factors of success. We propose a framework for analyzing online presence of governmental organizations, based on literature review and pilot studies carried out in the field of e-government in Romania. The four stages approach developed by the United Nations (UN 2014), the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C 2016) accessibility standards, and the Nielsen Norman Group usability criteria (Nielsen 2011) are key elements of this framework. The UN survey framework on e-government is based on a four stages model: the first stage of emerging presence refers to a passive online content provision for citizens, while enhanced presence marks downloadable forms and governmental documents. The third, so called transactional presence is more of an interactive web stage for governmental organizations, enabling submission of tax statements, payment of fines, comments on policy drafts. The fourth and most advanced stage of e-government is the connected presence, enabling multi-channel interaction between governmental, business, and civil society actors.

CRISTINA FALUDI – Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*The approaches on work and social entrepreneurship in vocational and training education in Romania. A thematic analysis of the written curricula*

In Eastern Europe private and corporatist sector has emerged after the installation of the democratic regime in the '90. Romania has introduced entrepreneurial education in vocational education and training (VET) since 2003/2004. This paper will explore to what extent the entrepreneurial learning curricula prepare the young people from VET to the most recent challenges from the labour market: the high death rate in small and medium enterprises (SMEs), environmental challenges, the implications of the economic crisis on SMEs, the ethical dilemmas involved in profit-maximising entrepreneurship, the major social and economic barriers faced by young entrepreneurs (including women and minorities), as well as the strategies for addressing them in an informed and innovative way. The paper will also examine what types of content, competencies and attitudes/values related to social enterprises are promoted in the written curricula. The research is based on thematic analysis of the written curricula – textbooks and teaching guides – including entrepreneurial education textbooks since 2003/2004 and it will be grounded in the thematic categories generated by literature review. The rationale is that although one cannot infer causality, textbooks may be influential in shaping young people's perspectives on work and social entrepreneurship.

DIANA-CRISTINA BODI – Transilvania University of Brasov

*To be manager in social work area*

Lack of social work during the communist period meant that after 1990, social services are organized a little chaotic, particularly due to the lack of professionals and legislation. This led to the practice of social work by persons with another specialization than the social worker. Also, the management of social work organizations were made mainly of people with different professional training of social work and management. Therefore, it began to appear structured ways of training of specialists based on a methodology such as specializations courses of Social Work, Master in Management of Social Services, which provides vocational training qualifications in this field. This presentation discusses the difficulties and challenges involved in social work management, how to adapt the

general functions of management and social work organizations, and the organizer of specific activities in social work, such volunteering and supervision.

RALUCA RUSU – “Nicolae Bălcescu” Land Forces Academy Sibiu and HORAȚIU RUSU – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

#### *Work ethics and performance*

The main purpose of this study is to highlight the fact that all the dimensions of work ethics, namely hard work, nonleisure, independence and asceticism, are positively correlated with performance among military students. The study conducted on a sample of military students from the “Nicolae Bălcescu” Land Forces Academy of Sibiu has shown that the cadets attending a technical military branch specialization have a higher level of ethical work values. Each dimensions of works ethics influences some of their attitudes on work, namely the desire to make an increased effort in an organizational context.

CARMEN BUZEA – Transilvania University of Brasov

#### *Examining Work Motivation of Romanian Managers*

Based on D. McClelland's theory of needs (1961) we investigated work motivation on a sample of 86 managers from Romanian companies. As theory of needs stated, there are three major needs (for achievement, for affiliation, and for power) which underpin human motivation, shaping work behaviour and managerial performance. We aimed to identify the dominant need among managers, in order to suggest effective motivational techniques. Using an 18 items scale proposed by Lussier and Hirsch (1988) we found a moderate need for achievement and a relatively low need for affiliation, with the need for power in the last position. Several ways to enhance managers' motivation have been proposed, in the light of job requirements and organizational values. Discussion of practical implications for both researchers and professionals aiming to enhance employees' work motivation are presented.

### **Living with(in) Digital Technology**

Chairs: COSIMA RUGHINIȘ and MARIAN-GABRIEL HÂNCEAN – University of Bucharest

ALINA PETRA MARINESCU – University of Bucharest and "Danubius" University of Galați

#### *Organizational Coaching and Collaborative Learning through Popular Video Games*

The present study aims at exploring the potential of art games as a medium for organizational coaching and fostering employees' engagement, on the one hand, and deepening the understanding on decisional processes of corporate employees when leaving their companies, on the other hand, by involving several research participants

into a novel experience -playing a philosophically-oriented video game and discussing its significance. We decided to use a video game given the attention that has been increasingly given to games as opportunities for philosophical or ideological reflection on life, being considered fruitful resources for collaborative social critique and reflection. Specifically, this research explores the diversity of gameplay interpretations formulated by players engaging with “Every Day the Same Dream” (EDSD), a La Molleindustria casual game tackling the issues of daily routine and refusal of labor. At the same time, the study looks into players’ comments on several online platforms where EDSD can be played free of charge, considering their properties as collaborative media for discourse construction. It also analyzes impressions coming from 12 former and actual corporate employees whom were firstly asked to play the game and then share their feelings and understanding. For a broader perspective, the subjects in this research were later engaged in a series of in-depth interviews concerning their professional experiences.

STEFANIA MATEI – University of Bucharest

*Living with(in) technology after death. Post-mortem agency as an emergent feature of digital commemorative practices*

People find in online environments new resources for commemoration. One example consists in online memorial funds, representing donations to different charities in memory of dead persons. Collected by means of online commemorative platforms that allow financial transactions, money becomes a means to create post-mortem presence and even agency. Organizations rely on digital media to invite people to express their post-mortem gratitude and appreciation by donating money to charities associated with dead persons. Online memorials are spaces in which the relation between the living and the dead is structured according to the possibilities opened through design. Therefore, in such a space death and afterlife are shaped in the interactions established between different actors: commemorated persons, developers and designers, profile administrators, visitors, donors, and different charities. Technologies in general and technologies of commemoration in particular are not neutral instruments, but have an important moral contribution (Verbeek 2008). They mediate perceptions, actions, and experiences; in this process, they come to mediate existence (Verbeek 2011). Following this understanding, online memorial funds are technologies through which posthumous presence and agency are accomplished. Money collected through online memorials leaves traces that extend agency beyond death. Therefore, deceased persons are assigned with a role in the world that may not be related to their previous engagements. Online memorials create “special monies” (Zelizer 1989) that philanthropically act on behalf of the dead person. In this context, online memorial funds construct dead people as moral agents and render them posthumously accountable for the well-being of society. By distributing agency among different actors, online memorial funds are

technologies that reshape morality as an emergent feature of commemorative practices.

MARIAN-GABRIEL HÂNCEAN – University of Bucharest

*How statistical software packages shape social data manipulation. Visual statistics and social network analysis*

Traditionally, in social network analysis, visualizations have been solely used for illustrative purposes (data description). Recently, owing to the technological innovations (development of software packages), visualizations extended their functionality as tools for data collection and analysis. The first section of the presentation introduces the historical development of graph images in the field of social network analysis. The second part discusses how visual displays are used in both exploratory research and confirmatory analysis. The last part of the presentation illustrates through an example the multi-functional nature of visual images for social research projects. Specifically, data on the personal collaboration networks of Romanian, Polish and Slovenian sociologists are visually deployed both at individual and population levels. Additionally, references to visual summarization techniques and related software packages are brought forward.

COSIMA RUGHINIȘ – University of Bucharest

*Discovering Scientific Literature through Actionable Researcher Personas on Academia.edu and ResearchGate*

Scholarly social networks such as Academia.edu and ResearchGate introduce a novel approach in literature search, bringing authors to the fore as nodes in exploration paths. While traditional literature search occurs in a text-based environment, academic social sites bring forward the authors. They make use of actionable researcher personas to facilitate discovery and encourage user engagement. Still, the topic of search and exploration remains underrepresented in the discussions on academic social networks. Current interface design limits the potential of researcher personas to facilitate discovery, and the potential of literature discovery to enrich researcher personas. By introducing the concept of actionable researcher personas and discussing actual limits and opportunities in its implementation, we contribute to a better understanding of the potential of academic social networks to change literature discovery and create a novel experience of search, centered on authors' mediated presence.

*The creation and development of national population biobanks: cases of Estonia, Iceland and UK*

The paper discusses the development of national population biobanks in Estonia, Iceland and UK. Created in the turn of the century, their aim to explore interactions between genes and environmental and lifestyle factors, these projects fuelled media attention in the most controversial part of genetic research. While within genetics, the trend in the late 20th century/early 21st century has been towards growing acknowledgement of the complexity of genes and the multifaceted relations between genes and environment, the public discourse has often been using the provocative language of genetic causation. The sociological analysis of the phenomenon has been dominated by the Foucauldian perspective (coined in the notions like geneticization, biomedicalisation and genetic responsibility) which warns of the prospect of the geneticisation of social problems, naturalisation of inequality, etc. This paper takes a Bourdieusian perspective and argues that the public discourse of genetic causation should not be viewed in such a totalising way but rather as a strategic tool used to gain symbolic capital in the context of growing dependence of the scientific field on economic and political fields. Population biobanks as scientific projects are especially dependent on outward forces - on the one hand, their establishment and maintaining requires major financial input, on the other hand, they are dependent on the recruitment of donors on massive scale. The paper discusses the different strategies used by the promoters of the three projects with different levels of autonomy in regards to other fields, in terms of financial and scientific autonomy, as well as different levels of public trust in science. 10-15 years on, it is possible to review how the differences in adopted strategies and other contextual factors have influenced the relative success of the projects, especially in terms of gaining and maintaining public and political support.

BALAZS TELEGDY – Sapientia – Hungarian University of Transylvania

*The sociological test of the Future Orientation Index*

Using the new possibilities offered by the services provided by Google Trends, Preis, T., Moat H. S., Stanley H.E and Bishop S.R. created the Future Orientation Index (FOI) which has at its basis the search patterns of the internet users using the Google search engine. Although this approach has its serious limitations, as far as Google is the most popular search engine of in the World, the analysis of the FOI could bring some interesting and new results regarding the connection between big data and sociology. The novelty of my research will be that the above mentioned authors analyzed only the correlation between the FOI and GDP, but according to my hypothesis, at country level there are further sociological explanatory variables which can explain the differences among the analyzed countries. To test my hypothesis, I will rely both on different World Bank indicators and other, rather sociological data, collected during the latest waves of VWS and EVS. Bibliography Preis, T., Moat, H.S., Stanley, H.E. and. Bishop S.R. 2012. Quantifying the Advantage of Looking Forward. in Scientific Reports 2, 350;

DOI:10.1038/srep00350 balazstelegdy@gmail.com Sapientia, Hungarian University of Transylvania, Romania Department of Social Sciences, Miercurea Ciuc.

ADRIAN DUȘA – University of Bucharest

*Modern, web based tools for social science methodology*

Within the universe of social science research methodology, there are well established instruments and techniques (statistical analysis, inferential tests, even advanced fancy topics like bootstrapping or small area estimation), but there are also some newcomers. One such methodology is called QCA – Qualitative Comparative Analysis, which is a mix between the "established" statistical analysis using large samples and the qualitative analysis. It is a flavor of both, using case studies as input but comparing all possible pairs of cases to obtain a minimal solution that shows the relations between a set (or a combination) of causal conditions to produce an outcome. This kind of methodology has been strongly supported in the last ten years by advanced computer algorithms, with some new R packages being developed for this particular purpose. This presentation is about introducing both the methodology itself (which is practically unknown in Romania) but also these R packages to perform QCA, one of which offering a graphical user interface for those users who are not familiar with the R environment.

LAURA NISTOR – Sapientia – Hungarian University of Transylvania

*Online shopping: new pleasures vs new fears*

After presenting some possible theoretical groundings for the theme of online shopping (sociology of consumption, postmodern theories, ICT-use, etc.), the presentation will present some data on the online shopping experiences of the Romanian public. The questions are directed towards the following aspects: Who are the most active online shoppers in Romania? Which are the dominant socio-demographic variables which are important in structuring these consumer practices? Which are the most important motivations and impediments of online shopping?, etc. The empirical background is represented by several different surveys and data sets (Eurostat, Eurobarometer, Gemius, GfK surveys, etc.) which use different variables in order to determine the prevalence of the online shopping phenomenon. Thus, methodological issues in terms of best practices of measurements are also discussed.

ALEXANDRA PETRONELA GRIGORE (ISBASOIU) – University of Bucharest

*Media consumption and Facebook: how, when, where and with who?*

The main purpose of this article is to understand how media consumption is reflected on Facebook and to see whether the social network tends to become a replacement for the traditional channels as TV and radio. I focus on identifying how people use Facebook when it comes to media starting from the type of content and reaching the action of the user, the device, the pages, the applications or the platforms used. Are there any special

occasions which require using Facebook for media? Is Facebook a replacement for other sites? Are there any reasons for using the network instead of others channels? This kind of concerns, but also the rapidly changing landscape of media consumption habits, is influencing domains like marketing and advertising and can determine a better approach when targeting consumers.

OANA MARA STAN – University of Bucharest

*Whistleblowing practices benchmarking for Romania-based top employers*

The study concerns the legitimization and institutionalization of an emerging field of preoccupation – that of whistleblowing or integrity denouncement, across 57 corporations tagged as premium employers in graduate surveys. Provisions on whistleblowing are included in the code of business ethics that belongs to the corporate governance strategy. The conceptual model of comparative investigation relies on a benchmarking framework applied to official corporate websites and analyzes the following categories: coverage (types of misconduct), accessibility (internal and external communication means), addressability (targeted stakeholders), core principles and explanations on process stages. Corporate procedures on whistleblowing strive to be comprehensive enough to cover a fragmented, heterogeneous and highly atomized area of illegal, unethical, or offensive behavior. Findings suggest informal collective mechanisms involved in ethics should be integrated across official corporate procedures to enhance legitimacy and applicability of the latter. Moreover, the emerging concept of ethical crowdsourcing can play an important role as insider's civil alarm that serves the purpose of prevention and early detection of corporate misconduct. The article discusses solutions to upgrade such procedures, involving counselling, training, mediation and arbitration techniques, dedicated ombudsperson, hybrid outsourcing strategies, through the lens of theoretical connections to agency and accountability. Technology is conceptualised as anonymity mechanism and facilitation for reporting of wrongdoing, applied to organisational policies.

PAOLO PARRA SAIANI – Università degli Studi di Genova

*The resources of social research in the time of Big data*

Cuts in research and in particular to social research arouse periodically petitions and warnings by the main European scientific associations. What are the consequences and challenges posed by the reduction in resources available for research purposes? The big data can be an answer, a solution, a way to access the information in a cost-effective way? Or they may increase the gap between rich and poor universities university and the level of inequality between researchers? It is a way to finally lay the foundations of the information society and knowledge, glimpsed in recent decades, or maybe the



growing importance of big data in the research will be accompanied by problems still not entirely clear?

IOANA-ALEXANDRA RUSU – University of Bucharest

*Virtual communities as a resource for health advice*

The quest for information by young parents, especially mothers, is on the rise. The production of literature on how to raise children has grown exponentially over the last half century, as has the preoccupation for informing oneself on the subject (Rothbaum et al., 2008). The internet offers an immense quantity of information from sources varying in terms of quality and credibility. In the beginnings of life as a parent, people go through a time full of insecurity. Simultaneously especially new mothers are more or less isolated from their previous social lives and the need arises to compensate for this deficit through online interactions (Madge and O'Connor, 2006). One important concern is health, ranging from topics such as the best choices in pregnancy and birth, to breastfeeding, weaning and medical decisions, such as choosing a pediatrician, giving medication or vaccinating. By using a netnographic approach, this research tackles the question of how medical information is created and transferred in a virtual community of parents, and how people select the sources they follow.

MARIAN VASILE – University of Bucharest; Research Institute for Quality of Life

*Searching for health related informations on the Internet: agency vs structure*

“And because I see that there isn’t one student that doesn’t know to use a tablet, a phone, a PC, I think that using digital manuals is a reform that we should do” (Victor Ponta, Prime Minister of Romania, September 15 2014). This is a representation about digital literacy and how the knowledge transfer should be done in the near future. For all that: who are those that search health related information on the Internet? The less developed a country the higher the (functional) illiteracy rate. In this paper I wish to see if the agency defeats structure regarding searching for health related information on the Internet. I use a multilevel model, expecting a negative response. Data comes from Eurobarometer.

ANCA MIHAI, FLORIN LAZĂR, GEORGIANA-CRISTINA RENTEA, DANIELA GABA and OANA PIRNECI – University of Bucharest

*Connectivity and discontinuity in social work practice: Challenges and opportunities of the implementation of an e-social work system in Romania*

To increase the efficiency of the social work system in Romania, “investments in improving the current IT system in order to build an efficient electronic social work system” (Romanian Government, 2014: 85) and the “development of a modern payment system” (Romanian Government, 2014: 85) are key-points in the National Strategy concerning Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction for the period 2015-2020.

Among other utilisations, the e-social work system is meant to be used by potential clients when submitting a request to benefit of means-tested measures. The current level of digitization of the Romanian society, particularly among vulnerable groups, leaves room for constructive debate regarding the feasibility and the potential challenges of such a project: (1) Romania ranks last among EU28 countries on digital skills (European Commission, 2016a), (2) “the majority of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion live in rural areas” (Tesliuc, Grigoras & Stanculescu, 2015: 314), where about 50% of households have a computer (National Institute of Statistics, 2015: 1), (3) only around half of those active on the job market have digital skills (European Commission, 2016a), (4) between 2010 and 2015 around 3% of the population, in average, used the internet for submitting forms to public authorities (European Commission, 2016b), etc. The purpose of this paper is to identify the challenges posed to social workers’ daily practice by the introduction of digitalisation, as well as its potential effects on the social worker-client professional relationship. We analyse the national policy and data provided by the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) – (connectivity infrastructure and quality, digital skills of human capital, use of internet by citizens, integration and digital technology, and digital public services). Our study contributes to understanding the potential changes in social workers’ traditional roles brought forth by the implementation of a digitized social work system.

ROZALIA KLARA BAKO – Sapientia – Hungarian University of Transylvania, Cluj-Napoca

#### *Participatory Culture and the Internet in Romania: A Case Study*

We propose to present preliminary results of the upcoming Global Information Society Watch country report for 2016, with highlights on Romanian ICT policies and practices on digital inclusion. Has the internet leveled the playing field in Romania? Did access to online spaces bring more fairness and resources to people? We propose a case study on those left behind: Romania's digital immigrants and their digital literacy. Jenkins (2006) has noted that the interactive web gives space for a participatory culture that enables learning. Recent studies on Romanian people's digital literacy have shown that while infrastructural access to mobile internet has doubled since 2013, the quality of participation has not. The "digital turn" (Westera 2013) did not happen in each community. The rural, the poor, the less educated have scarce access to quality content and less keen to participate in the process of shaping the internet. While looking at the darker side of the digital divide, we highlight initiatives aimed at bridging the gap between digital natives and digital immigrants. Can participatory culture of the few bring benefits for those left behind?

## **New Families, Old Societies -New Challenges of Migration for Families in their Countries of Origin**

Chairs: VIORELA DUCU and IULIA HOSSU – Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

ELISABETH SCHROEDER-BUTTERFILL – University of Southampton

### *Transnational Family – Identity Between Presence and Absence*

Nowadays, transnational families are in the social environment of all European countries. Space, relations, identity and family practices have restructured and redefined together with this new kind of family. Thereby, the family assumes new dimensions. It halts between two axis: the presence and the absence of one of its members. The existing researches draw attention upon the importance of studying and knowing of this social reality. In this manner, studies show that in Romania, about 8% of children have one of their parents left abroad for work. By this paper we have in mind to discuss the practices which define the space and existing relations inside this kind of family. Moreover, the study illustrates the modality through which relations inside this kind of families are redefined and their identities are rebuilt.

MIHAELA HĂRĂGUŞ and VIORELA DUCU – Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

### *Challenges of Migration on the Dyad Adult Child – Elderly Parent in Romania*

Romania has a familialist welfare system (in the terms of Esping-Andersen, 1999), which makes families responsible for their members' welfare. Accordingly, Romanians have a powerful sense of duty towards their family members, be they adult children who are in a difficult situation or old parents, and the responsibility concerns both care needs and material help when it is necessary. The mutual help relationship between parents and children is disturbed by a phenomenon that has a very large extent in Romania: work-related migration in other countries. Official records show that in 2012 there were 2,341,263 persons who had emigrated (The Statistical Yearbook 2013), amongst which 58% were aged between 25 and 45. Studies from Romania reveal that adult children are the net beneficiaries in the case of co-residence with their parents, when, alongside housing, they receive help in housework and taking care of the children (Hărăguş 2014). Older people are the net beneficiaries of intergenerational transfers only when they are very old (over 75 years old), they have health issues and problems in accomplishing daily activities and are alone (they do not have a living spouse), regardless of whether they live together with their children or not (Mureşan 2012, Hărăguş 2014). Our paper will follow the track of care in the cases when adult children are migrants and the elderly have stayed in the country. The direction of the support through care – downward or upward – depends on the needs and opportunities of those involved. During this research we have employed multi-site qualitative research in order to grasp the multiple facets of the phenomenon; thus, the field research has been carried out in 6 settlements

in Romania (3 urban, 3 rural). Participants to the research have been elderly persons (over 60), whose children have left abroad.

IONUT FOLDES – Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*Reimagining the Romanian families. Transnationality and intergenerational solidarity across borders*

The main purpose of this paper is to gain better understanding of how geographic distance between adult children and their elderly parents influence intergenerational solidarity in Romania. Recent studies about migration emphasize the existence of some transnational social, economic and political spaces, made possible by transmigrants, the social actors characterized by their geographic mobility, social relations and cross border networks (Ban, 2009; Basch, et al, 2005). Above all, when the transmigrants members of the extended family stay in touch with the non-transmigrants members, maintaining their kin relations even at long distance, we are dealing with so-called, transnational family (Baldassar, et al, 2007:14). Theoretical approach for analyzing family relations is intergenerational solidarity, which describes “intergenerational cohesion, after children reach adulthood and establish careers and family of their own” (Bengston & Roberts, 1991:856). Using preliminary data from the ongoing survey “Intergenerational Solidarity in The Context of Work Migration Abroad. The Situation of Elderly Left at Home”, the present study aims to compare relationship between adult children and their parents, before and after crossing the national borders. Following dimensions of intergenerational solidarity and presuming the correctness of the argument which states the continuity of kinship relations even across borders (Baldassar, et al, 2007), it is expected to find similar behaviors in the relationship between the two generations, before and after the turning point. Also, since it is not the case for a dichotomy (Litwak & Kulis, 1987), using controlling variables, it is presumed that geographic distance has only an indirect effect for the intensity of kinship relations, other factors may offer better explanations for possible changes in parent-child relationship.

CĂLIN ILEA – Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*Environmental portraits as means for depicting transnational families*

By examining interviews with photojournalists, research in visual anthropology and observations made during filed studies, this paper makes a case for the usage of environmental portraits in the study and dissemination of study results on the subject of transnational families. Given my background as a photojournalist I was in front of a dilemma when invited to participate in a sociological study on the subject of transnational families. How to use my skills in a meaningful way? The result was an innovative methodology that allowed us to combine some of the core values of photojournalism alongside methods of research from visual anthropology. The first field

work done in several villages from the rural area of Suceava and Bistrita Nasaud turned out to be the best opportunity to test the assumption that environmental portraits are a key method to obtain relevant visual data but also to give an image to the subject of the research. The resulting photographs are shown in order to debate and exemplify their usage as part of the larger study while this paper addresses the challenges of creating and using environmental portraits to depict transnational families from two points of view, the one of the photojournalist and the one of the researcher.

ÁRON TELEGDI CSETRI – Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*Cosmopolitan consciousness of the transnational experience*

Traditionally, cosmopolitan consciousness was considered a result of modern education – with an emphasis on universalistic values, see Kant’s cosmopolitan anthropology, for example. However, with the rise of the nation-state and the relativizing of such values during late modernity, this became a highly questionable thesis. Our inquiry concerns the way in which a flesh-and-blood transnational experience -such as migration and belonging to transnational and mixed families -might build a different, and perhaps more genuine cosmopolitan consciousness, one not based on universalism but on one’s own simultaneous anchorage in multiple worlds.

NÓRA KOVÁCS – Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest

*Global migration and marriage: What shapes the dynamics of Chinese-Hungarian mixed couples?*

The proposed paper scrutinizes life events narrated by a middle aged Hungarian woman with four children, married to a Chinese wholesale tradesman for twenty-six years. The presentation is integrated into the results of a piece of anthropological research on Chinese-Hungarian mixed couples. The proposed paper scrutinizes life events narrated by a middle aged Hungarian woman with four children, married to a Chinese wholesale tradesman for twenty-six years. The seven hours of conversation with her opened up a window to several decades of the life of a Chinese-Hungarian mixed marriage and mixed family challenged regularly by apparently irreconcilable notions of marriage, family, and love; notions shaped by the spouses’ different sociocultural backgrounds. Tracing their relationship from its genesis in the isolated cold war era to the globalised present, migrants’ transnational practices appear as factors shaping mixed marriage experience and intimacy in a fundamental way. Her ethnographically rich account reflects elaborately on how distance and closeness is created and manifested in cultural terms revealing the dynamics of exchange and emotion in their relationship. The wider context of the topic is inseparable from the contemporary phenomenon of international migration. The proposed presentation is integrated into the results of a piece of anthropological research on Chinese-Hungarian mixed couples, an inquiry that explores an intimate aspect of Chinese migrants’ integration in Hungary. Based on data gathered

through fieldwork and semi-structured interviews with members of married, cohabiting and dating couples, as well as members of separated or divorced couples, it has set up a relationship typology and explores notions and values that are at play in shaping the dynamics of these relations. Furthermore, it explores how spatial mobility and transnational practices shape the lives of mixed marriage-based families.

ADINA NICOLETA ERICA SCHWARTZ – West University of Timisoara, University of Palermo and RAFAELA PASCOAL – University of Palermo

*How family and emotional ties are used as coercive instruments by the exploiters on the Romanian feminin migration. The study case of Italy*

After the Fall of the Communist Regime, Italy started to receive major flows of immigrant Romanian women, due to the transformation at economic and social structure in Romania. Due to the Patriarchal family model in Italy, the majority of this women have come substitute the emancipated Italian women in the sector of domestic work and caregiving (Pitch 2004). Before the entrance of Romania in European Union, many women have had to recur to smuggling and trafficking networks in order to entry into the destination country, exposing these women to exploitative conditions as well as vulnerable situations. Despite that on a first migration phase, the majority of immigrant women came to Italy through criminal networks to the domestic sector, on a second phase the criminal networks have started to understand the profits of prostitution, displacing young women into sexual exploitation. Nowadays, Romanians can reside legally in Italy as Communitarian citizens, being the biggest foreign community in Italy with 1.131.839 people, which 57% of them are women, without having to recur to smuggling networks.<sup>1</sup> However, Romanians are still exposed often to labour and sexual exploitation as well as domestic service, being the number one origin country of human trafficking victims, with 6101 victims, according to EUROSTAT. With a major focus on human trafficking and exploitation of Romanian women in Italy and the role of their families, the present article presents the outcomes of a qualitative research, with focus on the issues: 1) Motherhood being used as a coercion instrument leading to a double vulnerability; 2) The importance of cultural perspective of women being the “breadwinners” of the family; 3) The application of the loverboy method on sexual exploitation; 4) The vulnerable situation of Romanian women exposed to exploitation in Italy.

GEORGIANA-CRISTINA RENTEA and LAURA ROTĂRESCU – University of Bucharest

*Yesterday's children, today's youth: The experiences of children left behind by Romanian emigrant parents*

This paper focuses on exploring the experiences of children from some Romanian villages concerning the effects of parental emigration and highlighting the challenges and strategies of adaption lacking one or both parents' support, the evolution of family

relationship, individual and family life plans. Based on semi-structured interviews with young people whose parents migrated when they were adolescents, the findings showed their experiences, emotions and needs as children left behind. Through the lenses of the young research subjects, their parents' migration decision has been perceived as a sacrifice to achieve the family's well-being. Besides the increasing level of the family revenues as a main advantage of the migration process, as a way to properly respond to the children's needs, the disadvantages were also emphasized in terms of assuming the adults' role within the family or lacking direct support in key moments of their life cycle. The realities presented by these young people reveal a family world where the fulfillment of the financial needs appear to be the most important goal. For many of the young people we interviewed the individual life plan is bringing to the fore the desire to invest in education, as a mean to achieve a sufficient income in the country of origin, which can decrease their dependence on the parental financial aid.

VIORELA DUCU – Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*"Mixed" families living in Romania*

This paper wants to tell the story of two types of transnational mixed couples, both of which decided, at some moment, to spend a part of their life in Romania. The first type consists of young couples that are at the beginning of their relationship and they decide for themselves and for their children, if it is the case, to live in Romania. The second type consists of couples which are retired age and, after living and working abroad, have decided to stay in Romania. In this paper, we try to analyze the reasons for their choice and their life strategies. We will also try to reflect in the paper the way in which the extended family and the community accepts their being "mixed". This paper is based on qualitative research which combines individual and couple interviews.

IULIA ELENA HOSSU – Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*Transnational Family – Identity Between Presence and Absence*

In our progressively mobile and ageing world, researchers and policy makers are increasingly interested in the implications of migration for the support and care of older people "left behind". An important strand within this work examines transnational family ties and the care and support from a distance by older people's migrant children. The main tenor is one of viewing migration as leading to older people's greater social, material and emotional vulnerability, unless offset by remittance flows. Very little research has considered transnational family links within the context of the wider networks within which older people are embedded, nor has the impact of migration on these networks been scrutinised. The Transylvanian Saxons, a German-speaking minority in Romania, present an ideal case study to examine the interplay of local and transnational dynamics in old-age support provision, because emigration to Germany

post-1990 among this minority group was dramatic, and the Saxon population remaining in Romania is now notably aged. This paper draws on interviews from 2008 and 2015 with stakeholders and older Saxons in and around Sibiu and documents the greater role which local networks play for older people's welfare compared with the numerically more significant transnational family links. However, the importance of local networks is by no means incidental to mass emigration, but instead has arisen out of the transformation of local kinship and community networks through emigration and wider societal changes.

KATHERINE HELEN LEMASTERS – Washington and Lee University; Cluj School of Public Health and ANDREEA ISABELA VARGA – Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*The Pregnancy Experiences of Women in Rural Communities in Romania: Understanding Ethnic and Social Disparities*

Health disparities often begin in utero and intensify throughout life. We report findings from the first component of a phenomenological qualitative study aiming to describe the structural disadvantage experienced by women in rural communities, focusing on Roma communities. The primary research questions are (1) how do women in these communities experience pregnancy, (2) what health-related structural disadvantages do they face and (3) what role does ethnicity play? Between December 2015 and February 2016 we conducted 42 semi-structured interviews with professionals, experts in health and social policies, who work with disadvantaged and rural communities, and/or who work with Roma women specifically. We conducted 31 interviews in English and 11 in Romanian, and all were audio-recorded after attaining informed consent. Between April and June 2016, we also conducted interviews with recently pregnant women from rural areas, all in Romanian, which were also audio-recorded. Interviews were transcribed and translated into English when necessary. Data were analyzed using thematic analysis, assisted by the NVivo package. Critical dimensions associated with women's pregnancy experiences in disadvantaged, rural areas were identified: women's interactions with the healthcare system, women's familial and community roles, the existence of taboo topics surrounding reproductive health, decisions about pregnancy and family planning, feelings about being pregnant, and viewing pregnancy as a natural process. The role of ethnicity and ethnic subgroups is also explored across these dimensions. Ethnic and social disparities affect women's pregnancy experiences in distinctive ways. Expert and recently pregnant women's interviews described a wide array of structural determinants around women's pregnancy experiences, which highlight potential areas for further investigation and intervention.

ORSOLYA GERGELY – Sapientia University, Cluj Napoca

*Father in charge? Men in parental leave*



Almost all the mothers take the maternity leave and stay at home with their child couple months or years. And generally the fathers do not take paternal leave. Even if they take a few days off right after the child arrived, usually the fathers do not leave the labor market for childcare reason. But in many countries the share of men among parental leave users is rising (Finland, Portugal etc.). The increase of fathers' involvement has a lot of positive outcome: could help women recover from pregnancy and childbirth, is good for child health, and has a positive impact on female employment, which might reduce the family's poverty risk. Parental leave may also help reduce discrimination against women in the workplace and particularly in hiring. What is the case in Romania in these days? We propose a case study to analyze the motivation of those men, who are taking paternal leave (between 1 month and 2 years). A qualitative research could help us in understanding what kind of motives can be identified behind such kind of decision. What kind of labor market position, opportunity and activity can be observed in their cases? Can be identified a financial decision behind the paternal leave? The wife's carrier how important is in this scenario? By the help of semi-structured interviews, taken with fathers who are in paternal leave (or were in the last 5 years) we hope we might be able to have a more detailed answer regarding to the fathers' role in paternal leave and child care and division of housework in the modern contemporary family.

DUMITRU BATÂR – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

*Symbolic dimensions of family culture*

Drawing on the author's previous published works and research experiences on the sociology of the family, the paper analyses the main symbolic dimensions of traditional and modern family patterns. Special attention is payed to the cultural aspects governing family life in contemporary Romanian society.

### **Labour Markets, Migration and Minorities in Developed Countries and New Democracies**

Chair: AURELIAN MUNTEAN, National School for Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest

BIANCA BULIGESCU – Research Institute for Quality of Life

*Atypical employment for young workers and graduates: does it represent a stepping stone or a dead end?*

Youth employment fell to 32.5%, unemployment, inactivity and school drop-out increased in the European Union while young people are more likely to be employed in atypical jobs. The main aim of the current paper is to explore country variation in labour market prospects and policies for young people, and to investigate to what extent they

are more prone to flexibilisation policies compared to adults and whether that is stepping stone for a career. First, the paper explores cross country variation in policies and labor market regulations. The paper finds that for well-off countries temporary and part-time employment might be related to cultural preferences whereas for poorer countries it is a measure of under-employment as captured by the high involuntary rate of atypical jobs. Second, the paper uses REFLEX micro-data collected in 2004/2005 containing information on tertiary graduates labour market careers in 15 EU countries. The unique panel dimension of the data containing retrospective information on the first job allows us to investigate to what extent atypical employment is a stepping stone for young tertiary education graduates controlling for the degree of firm flexibility, labour market mismatch, innovation and type of competition and demand for products. The main hypothesis tested is whether having a first flexible job increases the chances of being trapped in a secondary labour market as predicted by the labour market segmentation theory. The paper finds that having a first job an atypical job increases the likelihood of having an atypical job five years later, having training and learning on the job (human capital investment) decreases the likelihood of having an atypical job five years later, there is a high degree of labour market reallocation of labour supply. Sensitivity analyses are carried for liberal professions versus salaried employment.

MONICA ROMAN – Bucharest University of Economic Studies

*Different patterns in migration behavior of adolescents and young adults: a survey data analysis*

The paper aims at identifying and analyzing the factors that influence the intentions of Balkan youth to live outside their origin country. We have used a survey data set provided by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation and logistical regression models were applied in order to estimate the significant factors that motivate young individuals to migrate. The research provides a comparative approach between adolescents as they are the most willing to emigrate, and young adults, confirming that there are different factors that influence intentions to emigrate in the two groups.

TOMASZ HERUDZIŃSKI – Warsaw University of Life Sciences

*Transformation of work in the post-communist society – perception, attitudes and strategies of young Poles*

The paper describes the process of system transformation focusing on the area of work. Transformation of work sphere in a country subjected to a process of transformation is illustrated by the example of Poland. The description of transformation processes will refer to two dimensions: normative and of consciousness. The first relates to changes in the labor law, the other to the state of consciousness in society. Incorporating the Polish labor market into transnational structures is examined here from two perspectives: regional and global scales. In a regional perspective there are the changes

resulting from the Polish participation in the structures of the European Union. The sphere of work is treated here as a key element of wider social reality. Changes of labor in the context of society transformation from the central-autocratic to democratic market one described on Polish example. The results are based on a survey carried out in 2008 on a sample of 384 persons. They involved a deliberately selected category of people considered “privileged”. They are seen to be so due to external features which make them potential beneficiaries of the systemic transformation in the perspective of labour market. They are young people (aged 24 to 35), well educated (having university education equivalent to Masters degree) and living in Warsaw, the largest labour market in the country. The individual orientation choices will be reviewed in the context of the national survey results. In the study, reference is made to two previous projects. The first one was used for analysis quoted in the book by J. Koralewicz and M. Ziółkowski, The Polish mentality. What the Polish people think about politics, economy and social life at the end of the nineteen eighties. The second one relates a study called Values and interests of the contemporary Polish society.

YOAN MOLINERO GERBEAU – Spanish National Research Council and GENNARO AVALLONE – University of Salerno

*Producing cheap food and labour: migrations and agriculture in the capitalistic world-ecology*

Through the perspective of world-ecology, one of the most recent approaches in international relations, we aim to analyse global capitalism as an ecological project based on the appropriation of human and extra-human nature oriented to support the accumulation process. Agriculture and its labour force occupy a central role in maintaining the world-system in which global chains, international migrations and centre-periphery relationships interact. This paper shows how global processes occur at this intersection. The aim of this paper is to contribute to the analysis of the current world-system through this innovative approach and then show how the world-system’s structure and its crisis have articulated a highly internationalized production model whose most significant effect has been the generation of large migrations of cheap labour across the planet. It is also proposed to descend to the local context to highlight examples because the organization of work at this territorial scale is representative of global agricultural production.

ADĂSCĂLIȚEI DRAGOȘ – CEU Budapest and AURELIAN MUNTEAN – National School for Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest

The article examines the impact of the recent crisis on collective bargaining. It challenges the views according to which trade unions are uniformly weak and weakened by the crisis. The literature on Central East European industrial relations agrees on one point: that labor as a collective actor has been weakened over the past two decades and that there is no sight of improvements in its fortunes. From the pre 1989 peak

unionization rates, post-communist trade unions have gradually lost membership during the democratization period. Trade unions have won some battles in the traditional sectors of union power such as the automotive industry, but these represented exceptions embedded in their local contexts (Bohle and Greskovits 2012). By comparison, national union confederations lost the strength both to maintain membership levels and to influence political decision making. We compare the strategies of unions in the healthcare and education sectors in Romania during the recent crisis. Romania provides an appropriate case for testing how and whether anti-crisis reforms and intensive emigration of professionals in one sector impacts the capacity of unions to organize. The country joined the EU in 2007 and since then has undertaken several significant public sector and labor market reforms. Both left and right wing governments that have been in power introduced reforms that cut public sector employment and sought to limit the influence of the trade unions. Second, the country has been badly hit by the recent economic crisis which prompted the right-wing led government to take a loan from the IMF in 2009. This provided a rationale for the government to introduce one of the most severe austerity packages in CEE that aimed primarily at cutting public sector costs: 25% cuts in public sector wages, bonuses and hiring freeze, in addition to the governmental decision of closing down hospitals in 79 towns. Third, the healthcare sector witnessed a massive wave of emigration since the country has joined the EU. Like other cases in CEE where intense emigration of healthcare workers took off after accession (Kaminska and Kahancová 2011), in Romania around 21% of doctors left the country between 2007 and 2012 (Dragomiristeanu et al. 2013). We argue that the unions in the Romanian healthcare sector were capable of using their organizational resources to set the governmental agenda and obtain tangible benefits through negotiations. These benefits amounted to a significant increase in the budgetary resources for healthcare. We find that the main strategy used by unions for pushing their agenda was to organize strikes in different hospitals across the country and to threaten with the organization of general strike. To support our argument, we use interviews with union leaders and governmental representatives. As counterfactual test for our claims we use interviews with unions in the Education sector, where unions adopted a more cooperative stance and did not succeed in enhancing their welfare. In addition, we make use of a recent expert survey measuring variation of union strategies. We tested our hypotheses on the Romanian case and found that the bargaining power of unions varies across sectors. We argue that two factors explain this variation. First, welfare gains obtained by the unions depended on their capacity to protest against government policies and adapt their protest strategies to the new unfriendly environment created by the anti-union legislation passed as a part of austerity policies. In this respect, unions in the healthcare sector, have adopted a guerilla-type strategy in which smaller and more frequent protests have been preferred to single shot protests. This strategy proved to be more efficient because of the reduced costs it incurred on the union itself and because of the visibility it gained on the national media. By comparison, union in education sector sought to bargain with

the government by using the traditional approach of single shot protests and high level bargaining, which resulted in a failure to obtain any significant welfare gains for workers. Instead, workers in the education sector have lost all the gains they obtained before the crisis. Second, we find that the ability of unions to build coalitions, even with non-union actors, improves their chances of influencing the policy agenda of the government. As in the case of healthcare unions, even if these coalitions are temporary and the actors that take part in them come with different interests they can bring gains to unions by increasing their associational power. By comparison, unions in the education sector completely neglected the possibility of creating coalitions with external allies which resulted in their failure to defend their members' rights. This was a conscious bet by the unions in education who relied on their traditional protest strategy and lobby channels in spite of the changing political and economic conditions in the country.

### **Sustainable Community Development: Challenges, Risks and Opportunities**

Chairs: DAN CHIRIBUCĂ and IONELA MARIA RĂCĂȚĂU – Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

ELENA KOLOSOVA and SVETLANA MAYOROVA-SCHEGLOVA – Russian State University for the Humanities

*Community development embracing new childhood realities, from a socio-humanitarian perspective: a multidisciplinary thesaurus*

In the social-humanitarian knowledge in Russia there is a significant discontinuity between theoreticians, developing approaches and methodology for the analysis of the processes related to childhood, to the new community structures, and the developing indicators to assess the welfare of children. Official indicators rely on outdated materials, whereas there have been many significant changes in the field of Russian childhood in the past decade. At the same time, there appear some design-projects that describe fast transformation of childhood (till 2030). Simultaneously, they put forward as positive and desirable, worthy of promotion and implementation, some marginal theses such as: the family today and in the future need less and less children, the local community structure will reconfigure according to the new existing realities. Sociology of childhood today plays an important role among the studies of childhood. Nevertheless, interdisciplinary approach allows to synthesize existing theories and methods and to use them in research of modern children and adolescents, within the framework of community development. Russian sociologists of childhood implement special project on the synthesis of the results of different studies (sociological, psychological, pedagogical and others) and create on their basis a universal Thesaurus oriented on officials and experts in practical work with children. The major goal of the

project is to convey an updated knowledge about modern childhood and its implications for community, forecasting capabilities and planned changes. The project involves deeper scientific description and application guidelines about new phenomena for Russian reality: quasichildhood, glamorization of children, practice of early education "from the cradle", divergence (separation) of the educational vectors in different layers, the contradictions of the systems of social protection and social punishment in childhood, rejection of inclusion etc. Abstract made within the grant of the Russian Humanitarian Scientific Foundation (project No. 16-06-00792 "Childhood in the socio-humanitarian perspective: Thesaurus").

IONELA MARIA RĂCĂȚĂU and DAN CHIRIBUCĂ – Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*On the challenges of becoming a sustainable developed community: to be or not to be? Case-study over the Certej – Brad Romanian mining site*

Over the last years, scientists and policymakers have become increasingly concerned with the ways groups and communities emerge, suppress, or reconfigure along with diverse patterns of interest or various local environmental changes. The sustainability of a community depends on adopting an integrative approach to common goals, on creating and maintaining its economic and environmental health, ensuring security, respect and stability, promoting social equity and collective vision, and fostering citizen participation in planning and implementation. Though, when it comes to some actions which might have visible and long-term consequences over what humans value – such as mining activities, the sustainable future of a community might take different turns that require more attention, more common decisions and approaches. Aiming to point to some features related to what a sustainable community means and to assess the challenges and opportunities which stand for creating a sustainable community, this paper emphasizes the case-study of a Romanian mining site and its impact over local community's development. It will also enlighten community's perceptions and representations of the mining activity, leading to a thoroughly perspective over the dynamics of mining actions. Moreover, it will bring to the fore the social features of the surveyed community, the actual and the perceived community infrastructure and resources, the individual and community values, conflicts and health situation, and the costs considered worth to be paid by the community for becoming a sustainable developed one.

BOGDAN NICOLAE MUCEA – "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia

*Model of concentric circles: a possible cause of the invalidation of the referendum concerning the mining restart at Rosia Montana*

After the fall of communism in Romania, the old mining community of Rosia Montana had to adapt to the changes arising from globalization, a process intensified with the emergence of a foreign investor in the area that produced changes in the traditional

community. At the same time, the mining company Rosia Montana Gold Corporation (RMGC) has adopted the glocalization strategy to attract to its side the local community. In this regard, the population of Rosia Montana and part of the county of Alba had the opportunity to express their opinion about restarting of mining in the Apuseni Mountains through a county referendum held at the end of 2012. Although the proportion of people who wanted restarting mining was a significant one (62,45 %), disregarding the model of concentric circles the referendum was invalidated because of non-fulfillment of quorum.

ROXANA BRISCARIU – Bucharest University of Economic Studies

*Public policies for roma population. Local implementation mechanisms*

According with European Counsel, Romania has about 1.85 million of ethnics roma (8,32% of the entire population) and this is only an estimation. “National Roma Integration Strategies 2015-2020” aims to create a legitimate framework to develop public policy for social integration of roma population. To reach the goals, the national strategy needs to implement mechanism, technical measures and concrete action at local level. Roma communities through inside diversity impose to specific action. To answer at challenges and needs, the actors from local level must to find positive and practical mechanism to integrate roma population. Developing human resource from public administration, central and local, also the collaboration between institution cross and across level can be a pattern for local authorities to implement national strategic goals for inclusion of roma population? That's the question around which revolves the paper.

DAN CHIRIBUCĂ, CĂLIN BACIU and MARIA RĂCĂȚĂU – Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*Social participation in the landscape of sustainable mining industry: insights over the gold mining projects in Romania*

Nowadays the mining activity needs to be legitimized, not only economically profitable. The failure to establish and maintain good community relations could result in major difficulties leading to the impossibility to carry out the operational activities, even in the situations in which the mining enterprises already have a regulatory licence to operate. Addressing the environmental democracy, this paper discusses the challenges, the limits and the legitimate role of social participation in decisions related to the use and exploitation of the natural resources. The qualitative and quantitative data collected through interviews and structured questionnaires are used to analyze the trust, social acceptance and public perception against two gold mining projects developed in Romania, as well as to identify the factors that affect the social license to operate granted by local communities. Beyond the empirical data, the paper approaches the interdependence between local and global, between domestic place and external

societal landscape as regards the norms emergence, content, dissemination and empowerment resulted from CSR and SLO activities, requirements and expectations of the stakeholders involved in mining operations. Considering the present gap between social licence theories and sustainable development practices, the paper also discusses the need of a new paradigm focused on social issues in an equal manner with environmental and employment issues.

### **Politics of the Past, Politics of the Present: Uses and Abuses of Memory in CEE Post-Communist Societies**

Chairs: SIMONA SZAKÁCS – Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research and MIHAI STELIAN RUSU – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

ZOLTÁN SALÁNKI – The Institute of History “George Barițiu” of Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca

*Hungarian language school education in Romania between 1948-1989. Biased interpretations of statistical data in historiography.*

Once with the last historical reconstitution published in 1997 [1], and a quasi confirmation of it by presidential condemnation of the communist regime in 2006 the research of Hungarian minority education from Romania, in the communist era, seemed to be arrived at a dead point. However, due to the various historiographical approaches and the political use of it the topic tends to be a never-ending story of the local multiculturalism/interculturalism issue. After the downfall of the communist regime, mother-tongue-based education became a central element of the political struggle for minority rights. Due to a serious lack of data, most of descriptions were based on the traces of educational regulations and political events on minority education. In this context the educational evidence were interpreted mostly in a dialectical key: majority-minority, Romanian-Hungarian, official-samizdat, censored-uncensored, counted-estimated. This ended in divergent opinions reflected in the field literature, social policy debates and in the common sense fallacy of majority-minority representation. Collecting as much structural data as possible and avoiding the pitfalls of existing data sources our study redraw the trend line of Hungarian language school education in Romania between 1948–1989 and seeks to depict its meaning trough the light of past educational policies, political events, the national trend line, demographical evolutions and the present needs and tendency of this sort of education. [1] For the mentioned paper see Vincze Gábor, “A romániai magyar kisebbség oktatásügye 1944–1989 között”



The Hungarian minority education in Romania. 1944–1989], in *Magyar kisebbség*, 1997, nr. 1-2.

STELLA GROTOWSKA – AGH University of Science and Technology, Kraków

*Street Art and the Past – Discourses of Memory in the Public Space of Contemporary Poland*

The presentation addresses a problem of the social functions of street art in the context of social memory. Street art should be distinguished from graffiti, as the latter is less sophisticated in terms of form. Although both art practices are based on criticism of late modernity, capitalist economy, privatization in various sectors of social life, etc. criticism and opposition in the graffiti art projects is spontaneous, in street art ones – intentional – street art becomes a form of social activism. The starting point of the presentation is the assumption that street art is a medium of communication and artists' work can inject new topics into the public debate. Street art can be used not only to explicitly or implicitly support and reproduce the social order, but also to rise the challenge, performing in both cases essentially the same function of symbolizing basic social norms, standards and values, which continually transform. From this point of view, it may be assumed that street art is a kind of data that reveals attitudes, changes in the morality and social values. This research approaches street art works created by Polish artists after 2000, available on the internet or in printed materials where the subject matter is/was focused on historical events. The data are analyzed using scientific methodologies of qualitative sociology.

MICHAEL SHAFIR – Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*Competitive Martyrdom, Double Genocide and Holocaust Obfuscation: The Case of Romanian Law 217/201*

In a generalization that can apply across the board to most former communist countries in East Central Europe, there are three aspects shared in their attempt to face the mnemonic confrontation with the recent past. They can be encapsulated in trilogy "Double Genocide–Holocaust Obfuscation–Competitive Martyrdom." The presentation analyses these aspects separately, but also in their intertwining points. It then proceeds to analyze "action and reaction" to Law 217/2015, which extended the categories of offense against Holocaust denial (Emergency Ordinance 31/2002 and Law 107/2006) to cover repeated attempts to rehabilitate the Iron Guard and its sympathizers.

MIHAI STELIAN RUSU – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

*Commemorating the Holocaust in Romania. A National Topography of Remembrance*

Almost six decades after the resolution of World War II, the Romanian state finally assumed its responsibility for the Romanian Holocaust by commissioning the Wiesel Report and accepting the conclusions delivered by the International Commission on the

Holocaust in Romania in November 2004. Synchronizing its legislative agenda with the working of the Commission, in the same year the government ruled the 9<sup>th</sup> of October as The National Day of Commemorating the Holocaust in Romania. In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly decreed the 27<sup>th</sup> of January as the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The present study examines how precisely has the Romanian state observed the two memorial days dedicated to the remembrance of the Holocaust. In examining the patterns of commemorating the Holocaust in Romanian space, the study attempt to map out a national topography of remembrance. Secondly, the study examines not only the spatial distribution of Holocaust commemorations across Romanian territory, but also makes a thematic analysis by investigating the content of these memory practices. In doing so, the study explores the hypothesis of a “double externalization” of state responsibility, consisting in a double deflection performed by the Romanian state authorities: a) first, by commemorating the Hungarian Holocaust in Transylvania, b) and secondly, by focusing on the German Holocaust instead of the Romanian one in the rest of the country.

### **Cherchez la... classe! The Relevance and Contours of Social Classes in Post-Communism**

Chair: CĂTĂLIN AUGUSTIN STOICA – National School for Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest

CRISTIAN POP – Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca

#### *A new class schema for Romania. Applications and implications*

My work is a contribution to the social class literature by discussing the case of Romania in a wider context. Using the empirical data provided by the “Class Structure and Social Stratification in Contemporary Romania” research (2010, on a representative sample of 4508 subjects), I construct a new class schema, mainly based on occupation, useful in understanding the current post-communist context. Its main features are flexibility and comparability that enable the new social class system to be a powerful analytic tool for describing and understanding the actual Romanian society. My study concentrates, from a methodological perspective, on several aspects. An important interest is the one related to social inequalities. The inequalities are measured, from an objective standpoint, following social classes’ internal stratification logic and the intergenerational social mobility patterns (based on both absolute and relative rates). From a subjective perspective, inequalities are based on individuals’ auto-positioning at different levels in the stratification order. Moreover, entailing a complementary perspective, I analyze the status attainment process using the classic model proposed by Blau and Duncan in 1967. Also, all the results follow a “red wire” represented by a generational, cohort perspective, as individual born in several socio-historical contexts

may have different life chances and opportunities. The results depict a reality where the top social classes have an important advantage, over other classes, in terms of resources. The deprived social classes fight, with little success, to overcome their inherited position. All the results are passed through critical filter that enable further discussions about the relevance of class analysis in present Romania.

ȘTEFAN DANIEL LIPAN – National School for Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest

*The morals of objects: middle-class subjectivities in Bucharest*

This paper discusses the preliminary findings of an ongoing research on middle-class subjectivities in Romania's capital, Bucharest. It explores the meanings and usages of objects that are given to charity by persons who aspire to be/identify themselves as middle-class. This paper considers middle-class as a cultural practice, a process in the making, and takes into account the role of culture in social life while also inscribing the practice in the context of unequal distribution of power and resources between classes. Also, the argument is grounded in a material culture perspective, according to which objects are important and express value in a manner which is not possible in areas of explicit formulations. In the Romanian context, class talk, as in many post-socialist societies, has been approached with a general reluctance and, when used, class has been more of a gradational concept rather than a relational one. Thus, focusing on objects, seemingly unimportant (given) objects, shifts the attention on the relationship between classed individuals, and brings forth the often silent moral values behind the "should-s" and "must-s" present in everyday language.

ALIN SAVU – National School for Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest

*Middle-Class Childhoods in Bucharest*

Departing from and drawing upon Vincent and Ball (2006) regarding practices of the English middle-class, one section of my work illustrates the case of Bucharest families and their children enrolled in extracurricular activities (such as arts, sports, foreign languages etc.), as part of strategies of class (re)production or upward social mobility. I discuss how the Bucharest middle-class is imagined through the choices related to extracurricular activities and the role parents think they play for (the future of) their children. While studies have long concentrated on the role of schools, families and education in class reproduction (Bourdieu, 1986), what is less explored is the experience of the main subjects of these processes. Therefore, the second part of the presentation deals with how the Bucharest middle-class is lived, illustrating the experience of children engaged in this kind of educational/recreational activities. What do these children's routines and daily lives look like? Is the class ideal poignant in them? What does it mean to be the subject of middle-class aspirations as a child? Using snippets from the daily lives of ten children from Bucharest I will answer these questions, addressing issues such

as consumption, time management, children's relational spaces and notions of class and childhood. The data used was collected during a nine-month fieldwork, using direct and participant observation in institutions providing extracurricular activities, semi-structured and in-depth interviews with parents, children, teachers, child psychologists and therapists. Moreover, I used operationalized drawings and family journals for recording routines and practices of the middle-class family from a child's perspective.

MAGDALENA CRĂCIUN – National School for Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest

### *Subjective definitions of Class*

For the interviewee, an interview is an opportunity for self-reflection and self-presentation. This proved to be even more the case in interviews in which the topic was the Romanian middle class. They represented a first occasion to formulate their ideas about social classes, class distinctions and class relations and to think about themselves, relatives and peers as belonging to a certain social class.

This paper draws upon such interviews, which were conducted during the exploratory stage of an on-going project on the material culture of the middle class in contemporary Romania. It explores subjective definitions of social class in general, and middle class in particular. Furthermore, it analyses these definitions in relation to biographical trajectories, social conditions and historical changes.

The paper thus contributes to the growing sociological and anthropological literature on the (re)configuration of social classes in post-communist societies (Patino 2008, Heiman, Freeman and Liechty 2012, Fehervary 2013, Ost 2015, Carrier and Kalb 2015). In all these societies, the social classes are, in Li Zhang's (2008: 24) felicitous words, a "process of happening." The (re)configuration of the upper-, middle- or lower classes takes place under neoliberalism, but in relation to pre-socialist and socialist notions and realities. In addition, it benefits from the economic and political repositioning of Eastern Europe, but happens at a time when new relations and divisions develop across social classes and national spaces at the European and global levels. Nevertheless, the very conceptualisation of social class in these post-communist societies is rarely the main focus in these studies.

BOGDAN IANCU – National School for Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest

### *Picket Fences: Housing and Material Aspirations of Bucharest's Middle-Classes*

In a study on the post-socialist materiality's of middle-class houses from the suburbs of a Hungarian city, Fehervary (2011) investigates the shift from "the dreams of modernist utopia embedded in 'man-made' (and thus better than nature) miracle materials like plastic and concrete" to a "neoliberal social order embedded in 'natural' (in fact super-natural) materials like Bramac roofing tiles." In post-socialist Romania, along with

double-glazed windows and other objects that revive the gray flats built during communism, one can also find various vintage objects (i.e., old clocks, smoothing irons, kettles etc.) bought at flea markets. Such vintage objects transform their owner into a “curator” of domestic space (Halle 1993) and help configure materialities loaded with specific meanings. At the same time, the will for autonomy and proximity to nature have also translated into specific middle-class’ housing aspirations, e.g., owning a house with picket fences (or “casa pe pământ” in Romanian) either in Bucharest’s old neighborhoods that were not destroyed by Ceausescu’s urban policies or in the city’s (mostly rural) suburbs.

Employing ethnographic data, I will explore Bucharest middle-class’ domestic universe as a central space for defining housing and consumption practices of this class. Specifically, I will examine how socialist-era flats along with post-socialist gated communities and houses with picket fences have become the pillars of middle-class’ identity and aspirations. On this point, I will highlight how meeting “respectable material standards” (Patito 2008) is an integral part of middle-classness. I will also discuss situations when aspirations conflict with reality by looking at cases when the new owners realize that their houses are located in areas with an extremely poor infrastructure and/or that the costs of utilities are much higher than initially advertised and/or that easy access to (good) kindergartens and schools is severely limited

MONICA STROE – National School for Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest

#### *The Foodie Scene as a Project of Middle Class Authentication*

The current research aims to investigate the role of food as a material boundary of class. It looks at the young middle classes of Bucharest in an attempt to map their food related practices, the substantiation of their ideologically-informed choices and the parallel shaping of the local food scene. The research briefly explores how choices are being structured under two tendencies identified as salient – nutritionism and the “real food” trend – and attempts an in-depth exploration of the latter.

Consumers adhering to the “real food” trend are fundamental contributors to the shaping of the local foodie scene and foodie identity. The research zooms in on the processes of appropriation of lower class tastes and practices in contemporary Bucharest – rustic repertoires, street-food, fast-food, peripheral venues, rough textures, cooking from scratch, informal trade and even foraging – in an attempt to shape a foodie consumer portfolio informed by aspirations to minimalism and authenticity. The quest for authenticity through appropriation is furthermore reinforced in practice by the integration of food under productive leisure (deSolier 2013).

The research explores materialities, narratives and practices in an attempt to explain how the realm of basic, down-to-earth, “real” food – feeding into Bourdieu’s “taste of necessity” category – is sought by a part of the middle class foodie scene as an antidote

against alienation. It also looks into how the appropriation of lower class tastes might fit into a self-colonisation frame.

CĂTĂLIN AUGUSTIN STOICA – National School for Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest

### *The Way We Never Were: Class Distinctions in Classless Socialist Romania*

In the official discourse, communist societies in the late '80s were classless societies. In practice, distinctions among people based on education, occupation, income, or life-style still operated, despite official claims. Moreover, some of these distinctions were based on pre-communist class differences. Employing data from individual interviews and other sources, in this paper I examine the contours of classes in socialist Romania. Specifically, I focus on an individual's subjective assessment of her position in the social hierarchy during communism, as compared to post-communism. On this point, I examine what were the subjective objective markers of classes or social categories during communism. Several questions are at the core of my analysis: What role did family background play for an individual's subjective belonging to a particular class or category during communism? What roles did education and occupation have for one's self-positioning in the social hierarchy of socialist Romania? What meant belonging to a specific class during communism in terms of income, wealth, and life-style? What were the symbolic and material boundaries of classes or social categories during communism? How were symbolic boundaries and distinctions institutionalized and maintained prior to 1990? How did individuals perceive the inequalities among social classes/categories in communist Romania? What role does the present (i.e., the post-communist transition) play in shaping individuals' perceptions of classes and inequality before the collapse of communism?

### **Exploring Social Relationship Patterns Inside Organizations or Communities from a Social Network Analysis Perspective**

Chair: MARIAN-GABRIEL HÂNCEAN – University of Bucharest

IULIAN OANĂ – University of Bucharest

### *Exploring emergence in transactional data through social network analysis*

The contemporary context, in which Big Data analyses appear more and more frequently in researchers' attention and discourse, brings into discussion two challenges: empirical and theoretical. On the empirical side, authors such as R. Burrows and M. Savage raise attention on the fact that in this period, named "knowing capitalism", transactional data (another term for Big Data) are created inside companies as a by-product of transaction operation. To this it adds up what R. Kitchin calls "a new empirism" -purely inductive analyses, without previous assumptions. On the theoretical

side, J. Urry or S. Lash stress out the non-linear aspects of social reality, characterized through the frame of complex systems theory, where traditional relations of causality are invalidated, being of interest emergence -the result of the interaction between elements of a given system. Given these perspectives, I consider that the methodology which social network analysis proposes is adequate to bring together the empirical aspects of Big Data and the theoretical ones of emergence within a system. I have analyzed transactional data from the technological field (hardware and software), ranging over a period of five years, from which it has resulted a system with 4788 unidirectional relations between the nodes. By applying the out-degree metric it was brought forth the emerging structure resulted from buying-selling operations (the interaction between elements), highlighted through key players.

BOGDAN BUCUR – National School for Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest

*Exploring the personal network of Jean Pangal. Approaching the Romanian interwar time period from a relational perspective*

My paper reports the empirical results recently published in my last book, Jean Pangal, documente inedite: 1932–1942: contributii la analiza retelelor sociale istorice (Romanian only). Consequently, I bring forth an example of social network analysis conducted on historical archives (an original approach for the Romanian research community). The ego-network of a historical figure (Jean Pangal) is elicited and explored, building on data available from historical archives. The exploratory and descriptive analysis of Jean Pangal's personal network illustrates a possible avenue for approaching the inter-war Romanian historical time interval. On my view, this research strategy complements the historical analysis and increases the understanding of social phenomena within the interwar historical period.

LOREDANA DENISA MOSTEANU – University of Oradea

*Information flow in online networks*

In the last decade, virtual communities attract the interest of more and more scholars and researchers. As they represent a widely used method of spreading information, I tested the manner in which one particular online group behaves in terms of transferring information. To test the effectiveness of an online community in the spreading of information it is important to compare the structure of the community to that of a randomly generated network. In this way, deviation from expected patterns can be interpreted as strengths or weaknesses of that specific network structure, and can highlight how this network might be employed. To do this, I compared the properties of the LSRS Facebook group network to two randomly-generated networks; the first network is an Erdős–Rényi model which has the same number of nodes (4725) and edges (24822) as the LSRS network, and the second is a Watts-Strogatz Small World model which also has 4725 nodes and an average degree of 10. As I am interested in

information flow, the clustering coefficients and average path lengths are the most important properties. I have also included measures performed on the giant component of the LSRS network, which has dropped 637 nodes as being isolated from the main LSRS community. If we compare the main three networks, we can see that generally the LSRS network performs well as a means of communicating information. It has the lowest average path length, which means that on average everyone within the community can be reached with the fewest number of steps. In general, it is expedient to have a short path length if you wish information to travel effectively between all nodes. Even including the more isolated people, the LSRS network still performs the best by this measure.

MARIAN-GABRIEL HÂNCEAN – University of Bucharest

*Predicting citations using the attributes of the coauthors. A personal network analysis conducted at the level of three academic communities of sociologists (Romania, Poland and Slovenia)*

The aim of this study is to test the relationship between an author's scientific impact (citations, Hirsch index and publications) and the characteristics of her personal collaboration network (the structural features of the network and the attributes of alters). Data on the research productivity of the sociologists working full-time in the Romanian, Polish and Slovenian academic departments were collected from the Web of Science. Hierarchical regression models were tested to account for the impact of research productivity. Publications and the mean Hirsch scores of alters were found to have a statistically significant impact of the ego's research productivity impact. Additionally, the publication profiles of the top researchers within each of the three academic communities were uncovered using clustered graphs (i.e. built using VISIONE and EgoNet software packages). Contrary to the homophily effect supported through testing the regression models, the qualitative investigation of the clustered graphs suggested a myriad of publication behaviors (among which both homophily and Mathew effects were indicated). This analysis suggests a major caveat: the menace of ecological fallacy in the context of moving from the macro-level (the community) to the micro-level (researcher).



## **Electoral and Political Challenges in New Democracies**

Chairs: MIRCEA COMȘA – Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, ANDREI GHEORGHITĂ – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, AURELIAN MUNTEAN – National School for Political and Administrative Studies and CLAUDIU TUFIȘ – University of Bucharest

CLAUDIU TUFIȘ – University of Bucharest

### *A Sensitivity Analysis of Political Participation*

Political participation is one of the few topics that will stay with political scientists forever, because it is at the center of living in a community/society and it keeps being invented and re-invented in order to accommodate inevitable social, cultural, and technological changes. A brief summary of the last 50 years will go from Milbrath (1965), to Verba and Nie (1972), to Barnes and Kaase (1979), to Verba, Scholzman, and Brady (1995), to Rose, Mishler, and Haerpfer (1998), to Norris (2002), to van Deth (2014) and this is only one of the multiple routes one can take in analyzing the topic. Despite the richness of studies on political participation, our understanding of the factors that are related or that influence political participation is far from being complete and far from reaching a consensus: depending on data, geography, time, and the model being used we have results pointing at different explanations of political participation. The paper I am proposing for this panel, based on the aggregated WVS dataset, will present a sensitivity analysis, using it not as the usual tool for testing the robustness of the results, but rather as an exploratory strategy. The goal of the paper is not only to identify robust results, but also to uncover combinations of correlates and determinants that might offer a more general explanation of political participation.

MIRCEA COMȘA and CAMIL POSTELNICU – Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

### *Vote buying and voter intimidation in Romania: estimations based on crosswise and item count techniques*

Qualitative studies and the media coverage of elections in Eastern Europe indicate a considerable widespread of electoral misconduct compared to survey-based reports. There is a large agreement in the literature (Gonzales-Ocantos et al. 2012, Corstange 2012) that social desirability bias related to survey research accounts for most part of this discrepancy. In order to estimate this bias, we have used two appropriate strategies, the crosswise model and the item count technique. Our data were collected on a national representative panel survey concerning 2012 local elections in Romania. The results provide strong evidence that vote buying and voter intimidation are more common behaviors than expected or estimated through direct questioning technique. No matter the technique we used (crosswise or item count) or the elections we referred to (anytime or 2012 local elections), our data indicate a quite large social desirability bias regarding electoral misconduct: 8% for anytime vote buying, 15% for anytime voter intimidation, 18% vote buying in 2012 local elections, and 28% voter intimidation in

2012 local elections. Moreover, our data prove that social desirability bias varies among the categories of some relevant socio-demographic and political variables: age, education, and region, respectively political interest and partisanship.

LUCIAN ȘTEFAN DUMITRESCU – Romanian Academy

*Right-Wing Populism and Strategic Narratives in Hungary. Fidesz vs. Jobbik*

This paper works from the assumption that right-wing populism in Hungary has always displayed a special trait in the post-Cold War era, namely its particular focus on foreign policy matters. Nowadays, right-wing populism in Hungary brings to the fore a fully-fledged Eurosceptic discourse, replete with ethnic and anti-immigration tropes, but also a more veiled one, which resembles classic strategic narratives. Defense policies and foreign policies go public through strategic narratives. According to David Campbell, strategic narratives are always related to a societal, i.e. identity, impetus. Therefore, by delving into contemporary right-wing populism in Hungary, my presentation captures not only the structural conditions that systematically foster a specific voting behavior but also an invented collective identity that both Fidesz and Jobbik capitalizes on in order to forge their specific foreign policy narratives. From the very beginning of the post-Cold War era, Hungary, along with Poland and Czechoslovakia, openly declared their desire to join NATO and the European Community. Under Fidesz, Hungary's inclination towards Euro-Atlantic structures has weakened and Budapest looks to be more Russian-prone than it has ever been in its recent history. Strikingly, the strategic narratives that bear the populist mark of Jobbik are not only Russian-oriented but overtly anti-EU and anti-NATO. By reversing a classical poststructuralist approach that links foreign policy with collective identities' reproduction, my paper points out that both Fidesz and Jobbik have come up with peculiar strategic narratives which have constantly fueled a collective identity that Hungary desperately tried to get rid of in the immediate aftermath of the Cold War. Regarding the methodological path, discourse analysis has been used.

ANDREI GHEORGHIȚĂ – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu and MIRCEA COMȘA – Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

*On the conditionality of leader effects in post-communist societies: estimating the impact of party and leader characteristics*

In the contemporary political environment, the added value brought by leaders to the electoral performance of their parties appears to be significant and growing. Although the degree to which leader effects are decisive for the results of elections is unclear, the increased public attention to leaders instead of issues is a finding beyond any possible debate. This shift from political parties to leaders as key actors of electoral campaigns is usually referred to as personalization of electoral politics, candidate-centred politics or simply leader effects on voting. However, there are serious variations in the degree

to which leader popularity is converted into party votes and many scholars have suggested the existence of several conditions that moderate the manifestation of leader effects. Among the most frequent such conditions discussed, party characteristics and leader characteristics are frequently discussed. This paper aims to explore the extent to which personalization of electoral choice is contingent on party characteristics and easily observable leader characteristics across new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe. For this purpose, it employs data from Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES), modules 1, 3, and 4. The party characteristics tested as moderators of leader effects are the following: party size, party age, incumbency, and ideology. On the side of leader characteristics, we investigate the effects of gender, age, executive experience, incumbency, experience in party leadership, top position in former communist party, and experience of dissidence.

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