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DREAMERS AND VISIONARIES

ABSTRACT BOOK

Knowledge Exchange and Academic Cultures in the Humanities. Europe and the Black Sea Region*



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Objectives:

With this conference, we would like to invite scholars to contribute to a first systematic research of this issue from different scholarly disciplines in the humanities interested in themes including (but not limited to):

- Political visionaries
- Utopia and ideology. When the dreams turn into reality
- The end of big utopias and the rise of private utopias
- The visionaries of Enlightenment vs revolutionaries
- Prophets and big social projects
- Technology visionaries, technological innovations and social change
- Women's dreams of equality – feminism
- Dominant culture and underground cultures. Conspiracy theories
- Language and anti-languages. Social networks and ways of protest
- The dream of united Europe



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Against the Barriers. The Unusual Story of the Usual Yusein Mashev

Срещу бариерите. Необикновената история на обикновения Юсеин Машев

Abstract: *In the context of the repressions of the Pomaks the unusual story of the miner worker Yusein Mashev from village of Ribnovo, which started in 1979 and finished in 1980, give us an idea of the time of the communist regime in Bulgaria. He succeeded to escape from the concentration camp in Belene, crossing during the night the Danube river. He was able to reach the town of Kyustendil and to cross illegally the Bulgarian – Yugoslav border. In the emigration camp in Italy he decided to depart illegally for Turkey, boarded the ship to Istanbul without documents, without any problems he reached his acquaintances and relatives in the town of Saray, Takirdag district. After five years he turned back to Bulgaria with false identity reached Ribnovo and smuggled his wife and two children into Yugoslavia.*

Yusein Mishev bravely resisted the change of the names of the Pomaks, the following repressions did not discourage him, he overcame all the barriers, caring a letter send to him in order to voice the protests in village of Kornitsa during March – April 1973. Makes important events available to the Bulgarian and world public, events which were hidden very carefully by the Bulgarian authorities. On the radio in Yugoslavia he told of the repression of innocent citizens and informed about the concentration camp in Belene, announcing the names of imprisoned in the II section Pomaks.

The aim of this research, based on field researches in Bulgaria and Turkey and many interviews, is to preserve for the history and science the unusual story of Yusein Mahev – a man of freedom loving spirit and rich vision.

Key words: *Pomaks, forced assimilation, Belene concentration camp, communist Bulgaria*

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Traumatic Insight on Film Memory: Forced Assimilation in the Focus of Post-totalitarian Bulgarian Documentaries

Травматичният поглед на филмовата памет: принудителната асимилация във фокуса на посттоталитарното българско документално кино

Abstract: *Documentaries cover the subject of the extremely tragic processes of forced assimilation of Muslim population in Bulgaria in different ways. During the Communist regime,*



they feature the negative political visions. Social engineering in the totalitarian state aimed at confessional unity of the nation and this process was especially intense during the 1980s. Documentaries were a part of the government manipulative tools that targeted revival of the communist nationalism and an apprehensive play on the strings of patriotism. Cultural propaganda covered up repression, assaults, forced change of names, forced deportation, internment in prison camps, harassment of intellectuals from the Muslim community, and human rights violation.

After 1989, Bulgarian filmmaking started interpreting this traumatic past in a different way, making a reassessment of history. Documentaries also took an active part in the debate on totalitarianism, using the screen to throw light on the political crimes. Beyond any dispute, one of the most painful subjects is the violence against Muslim communities that escalates to genocide. The subject of assimilation was more intensely covered during the 1990s and in the beginning of the Millennium. During the last decade, it gradually faded away and young authors today even neglect it. Although many good films have been made, we still get the feeling of insufficiency and understatement. The cinematic interpretations reactivate and question the traumatic memory, and further diagnose society. Quality documentary filmmaking always provides a multifaceted image of the past, preserves memories, and manages to aestheticize history in opposition to the trivial media images of the trauma.

This paper analyses the genre and typological patterns specific for post-totalitarian Bulgarian documentaries. The focus of the study falls on leading authors, such as Maria Trayanova, Tatiana Vaksberg, Ivan Rossenov, Adela Peeva, Iglia Trifonova, Antony Donchev, Stanislava Kalcheva, Irina Nedeva and Andrey Getov, Dimitar Kotzev-Shosho. Two imagery trends are mainly identified: 1) documentary investigation with reconstruction of historical chronology and handling extremely valuable archives; 2) domination of the apprehensive portraiture genre, where personal records of events shape the picture of events in the past and track the consequences in the present. So far, Bulgarian film studies lack any full comparative study of the screen interpretation of assimilation processes before and after 1989.

Key words: *Bulgarian cinema, documentary filmmaking, forced assimilation, Muslim communities, totalitarian past*

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Monumental Memorialization of Political Violence in Bulgaria (1944 – 1989): beyond Traumatization, Contestation and Dangerization of Memory

Abstract: *The article examines monumental memorialization of political violence in the period of communism in Bulgaria. The text reviews contemporary research presenting the topic of transitional justice, formation of victim's identities and as part of post-communist cultural memory. A research is made of three theoretical approaches to understanding monumental memorialization – through traumatization, contestation or dangerization of memory and the social functions and meanings stemming from them. The analytical part represents a case study from Bulgaria, using ample empirical material – interviews, archive materials and other sources, part of a larger research by the author. Comparative analysis is used for description of national idiosyncrasies*



which is used as a basis to present their variants, temporal and spatial aspects. Social functions, political uses, interpretations, their use for reconstruction of national past and formation of national identity. A separate part of the text examines the initiators of these memorial signs – social actors, nongovernmental organizations and political parties, on which the degree of institutionalization and politization of this memory depends, as well as their use for far right radicalization. The text tracks the change of memorial landscapes and the major spatial trajectories (logics) of this post-communist topography of terror, as well as the symbolism embodied in it, combining political, traditional and religious meanings.

Key words: *Post-communism, transitional justice, trauma, contestation of memory, far right places of memory, urban space*

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Visionarity and Health: The Semashko Model and the Sovietization of Public Health in Bulgaria (1944–1951)

Визионерство и здраве: моделът „Семашко“ и съветизацията на общественото здравеопазване в България (1944–1951)

Abstract: *After the Second World War and until 1990, Bulgaria, as most of the former communist countries from the Eastern Europe, implemented a Semashko healthcare system developed in the USSR. Named after the First People’s Commissar of Health of the Soviet Russia, Nikolai Semashko, Soviet health care was developed as “social health care”, trying also to eliminate the social reasons for illness, thus transforming society and economy as a whole. This type of system was based on the centrally planned principles, on rigid management and on the state monopoly. Consequently, the healthcare system created by the Ministry of Health was integrated and centralized, completely controlled by the state. The system of health services in Bulgaria from 1944 to 1990 was inspired by the Soviet model Semashko, a centralized state system, which seemed to guarantee “free access to health services for the entire population”. In the research the author focuses on the policies in the field of public health in Bulgaria between 1944 and 1951, when the “Sovietization” in this field took place.*

Key words: *history of public health, Bulgaria, soviet healthcare system, the Semashko model*

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"Sleeping rabbits stay alive two weeks longer than others": The Institute of Physiology in Yerevan after the "Pavlov's Session" in 1950

„Приспаните зайци остават живи две седмици повече от другите“: Институтът по физиология в Ереван след „Павловската сесия“ през 1950 г.

Abstract: *In the late 1940s and early 1950s, the place of physiology in the structure of the Soviet scientific knowledge as well as in the system of its popularization changed. The process of raising the role of the natural sciences in the USSR using them for central ideological aims related to the triumph of materialism was marked by loudly propagated scientific events of greater political significance. Such an event was the so-called Pavlov's Session in Moscow in 1950, whose decisions influenced the scientific institutions in Soviet Union as well as in the Eastern Bloc countries. The school of the Soviet physiologist of Armenian origin Levon Orbeli was criticised and rejected. A Pavlov's Committee was set up to control the implementation of the Pavlov's teaching. The aim of the article is to present the influence of the Pavlov's session on the development of the Institute of Physiology of the Academy of Sciences in Yerevan in the early 1950-es when its experimental and research work became subordinated to the "Pavlovization" of physiology and political and propaganda tasks were added. The institute staff and activities grew, but institutional life was traumatized by the persecution of Levon Orbeli's school, which reflected on his adherents like the Institute director Ararat Alexanyan who was pressed to leave the position in 1953 during the power struggles were disguised by the session's rhetoric.*

Key words: *Late Stalinism, Soviet natural sciences, Armenian physiology, Levon Orbeli, Pavlov's Committee*

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Dr Vladimir Kalaydzhiev or the Embodiment of Modernity

Д-р Владимир Калайджиев или въплъщаването на модерността

Abstract: *The text attempts an experimental "double reading" of a significant figure in the history of Bulgarian health care – Dr. Vladimir Kalaydzhiev, initiator and organiser of a large-*



scale public health care reform in Bulgaria in the 1960s. The authors' different approaches make it possible, on the one hand, to interpret the specifics of the health reform and the reasons for its (partial) repeal in the context of synchronous developments in Europe and controversial, on the other hand, to contraversially offer a diachronic analysis with basic characteristics of the "Catholic West" and the "Orthodox socialist East".

Key words: Vladimir Kalaydzhev, health care system, reform, 1950-1960s Socialist Bulgaria, WHO, modernity

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War Song in a Service of Ideology. Comparative Essay on the Example of Yugoslav and Ukrainian-Russian Conflicts

Abstract: *Both the official army music and combatants' informal folk songs have always played a noteworthy role in their respective societies regardless whether this music was created as means of actual propaganda or subsequently as part of reinvented commemorative culture. This article focuses on comparison of the two most recent European armed conflicts, namely 1) the ethnically motivated conflicts in former Yugoslavia between 1992 and 1995/1999, and 2) the interethnic violence followed by Russian military intervention in Ukraine in 2014; the Russo-Ukrainian conflict has not yet been settled and still threatens to escalate. Building on wide range of primary and secondary sources (mainly of Western, Central and South-Eastern European provenience) that has been ignored by a regional scholarship, the paper seeks to provide a contextual background behind the war songs and to compare their prevalent patterns and typology of their inner dynamics and transformations. This paper will not inquire into international, economical or military implications of the aforementioned armed conflicts; it will focus specifically on textual and contextual analysis of those songs. Study brings completely new insights on phenomenon of war songs in East European and former Yugoslav environment and brings much-needed light on the intertwined social, cultural and identity relations that can be established between the former Yugoslav and post-Soviet countries. This topic is very important since state doctrine, national narratives, historical memory affect current and also future development of both regions what is clearly visible on elaborated material.*

Key words: Yugoslav wars, Russo-Ukrainian War, war song, ideology, nationalism

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Verbal Manipulation in Political Discourse: Metaphors, Clichés, Emotions and Symbols in F. Tudman's Speeches During Wartime Period 1990-1995



Abstract: *This article examines verbal manipulation used in the public speeches of Croatian president Franjo Tuđman between the years 1990-1995 in the beginning of Breakup of Yugoslavia and during the Croatian War of Independence. He had to lead his country through turbulent period of changes and conflicts, and he had to persuade the nation and the international community to believe in his plans and his vision. This analysis presupposes that language is intentionally used instrument, not a random group of words and it is important and interesting to have a closer look on what the leaders are saying. Speechwriting is a specific process of creating a speech tailored to given audience because only then it will serve its purpose of persuasion. The speaker must know to whom and at what occasion he or she is talking to and adapt accordingly. For this thesis, four types of verbal manipulation – metaphors, clichés/stereotypes, emotions, and symbols – used by the president are analysed because they have vast manipulative potential. All of them are put into the context of the events happening around the time they were delivered. Direct excerpts from Tuđman's speeches are provided as an example of this phenomenon with an attempt to explain their manipulative potential.*

Key words: *Franjo Tuđman, verbal manipulation, Croatia, political speeches, symbols, emotions, metaphors*

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„One Day he Will Find me and Save me”. The Dream for Prince Known from the Fairy Tales of Charles Perrault and Brothers Grimm and the Accompanying Illustrations

Abstract: *Magic stories are extremely difficult to analyze, as they have both folklore (oral) and literary (written) existence, they are oriented towards the little ones, but at the same time they send messages to the adults and last but not least – they are almost always accompanied by illustrations, which further complicate and expand the meaning of the written. Artists become "translators" who have to adapt the content to the specific needs of the particular audience and the peculiarities of its time. Millions of children around the world have shaped their understanding of the roles of man and woman and the relationship between gender and behavior based on the well-known stories of ordinary girls rescued by princes, unusually appeared in their lives. This article will analyze the verbal and pictorial representation of the main characters in two of the most famous fairytales – "Cinderella" and "The Sleeping Beauty". The aim is to highlight certain patterns that have an important contribution to the formation of gender stereotypes in children and their dreams of happy and successful life.*

Key words: *Charles Perrault, Brothers Grimm, „The Sleeping Beauty”, „Cinderella”, children's illustration, feminism*

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Socio-Religious Visionaries in Bulgaria (1920–1950s): the Christo Oustabachieff Case

**Социорелигиозни визионери в България (20–50-те год. на XX в.):
случаят Христо Устабашиев**

Abstract: *The article is a case study of the life, work and ideas of the Bulgarian political and religious figure Christo Oustabachieff (1871–1953). Beginning his career as a financial official, political activist and founder of one of the first xenophobic organizations, after the First World War he devoted himself entirely to religious activities: he founded the “Good Samaritan” Religious Society (1921), became leader and ideologist of the Orthodox Holy Society for Spiritual Renewal of the Bulgarian people (1924), of the “Greater (Peaceful) Bulgaria” Union (Political Party) (1926–1944), of the “St. John of Rila” National Defense Organization (1933) and of the Slavic-Bulgarian People's Christian Union (1945–1953). His ideas have a religious and political character and represent a prototype of the Christian Democratic tradition in Bulgaria. In the context of the post-WWI crisis and the widespread of the New Religious Movements, he declared himself a spiritual leader and initially guided his numerous followers with oral prophecies, revelations and dreams. Developed in the 1930s in written messages, they acquired an eclectic character, uniting religious fundamentalism, messianism and prophetism. Oustabachieff's political visions in the 1930s–1940s were strongly influenced by authoritarianism, nationalism, xenophobia, and anti-Semitism. Their core was an idea of a Slavic monarchy – based on Christian Democratic values, a future center of a Balkan federation, and a realized Medieval and Bulgaria Revival period ideal of “Great Bulgaria”. The study uses historical approach and is based on unknown archival sources, combined with data from periodicals and published works of Oustabachieff.*

Key words: *New Religious Movement, Bulgaria, Christian Democracy, messianism, millenarianism, authoritarianism, nationalism*

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Family and community memory as a vision for the future. Ivan P. Milev – chronicler and visionary of the Bulgarian village

Abstract: *What society do we come from, who are its founders and what have they done to make Bulgaria exist today? An invaluable source of this information can be found in the preserved*



archives of Ivan P. Milev, who describes the history and customs of a Bulgarian village – Dobri Dyal. The article presents his ethnological and historical notes, which provide important information about the traditions, folk customs and rituals, as well as about the institutions established in the village – a community center, a church, a cooperative. The text also introduces the personality of Ivan P. Milev as a visionary of the Bulgarian village in all its diversity – folklore, history and institutions. With the vision that what has been preserved as a written word serves as a gift, a treasure for the next generations, but also as a guiding light for the future and for the preservation of the Bulgarian spirit. "Dobri Dyal (cultural and historical notes)" is presented as a microcosm of the Bulgarian. Through his personal history, the author presents the struggle, the tradition, the memory, the vision for the future of an entire nation. Community memory is defined as giving strength and determining the dream future.

Key words: family memory, community memory, Bulgarian village

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Dr. Radan Angelov Sarafov and his sacrifice for democracy

Abstract: *Dr. Radan Sarafov (1908-1968) lived actively but his life is still relatively unknown to the Bulgarian academic and public audience. He was a strong character with an ultimate and conscious commitment to democratic Bulgaria. Dr. Sarafov was chosen by IMRO (Inner Macedonian Revolutionary Organization) to represent the idea of cooperation with Anglo-American politics prior to the Second World War. Dr. Sarafov studied medicine in France, specialized in the Sorbonne, and was recruited by Colonel Ross for the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), remaining undisclosed after the withdrawal of the British legation in 1941. After World War II, he continued to work for foreign intelligence and expanded the spectrum of cooperation with both France and the United States. After WWII, Sarafov could not conform to the reign of the communist regime in Bulgaria. He made a connection with the Anglo-American intelligence services and was cooperating with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for more than a decade. Sarafov was caught in 1968 and convicted by the Committee for State Security (CSS) in Bulgaria. The detailed review of the past events and processes through personal drama and commitment reveals the disastrous core of the communist regime. The acknowledgment of the people who sacrificed their lives in the name of democratic values is always beneficial for understanding the division and contradictions from the time of the Cold War.*

Key words: Cold War, anticommunism, democracy, communist regime, intelligence, counterintelligence, Committee for the State Security (CSS), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

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Hasan Eren - from Vidin to the Peaks of Turkology

Хасан Ерен – от Видин до върховете на тюркологията

Abstract: *The study follows the life and scientific trajectories of the turkologist Hasan Eren from the town of Vidin, lecturer at the University of Ankara, editor and author of various dictionaries, including the first etymological dictionary of the Turkish language. It traces the preparation and growth of the world-famous Turkish linguist and lexicologist, who left Bulgaria to study and after his exceptional training among Hungarian orientalists such as Gyula Németh he grew up as one of the most famous Turkish scholars in the field of linguistics.*

This study presents the conditions and possibilities for Turkish intelligentsia in Bulgaria in the twentieth century.

Key words: *Hasan Eren, Vidin, Gyula Németh, Turkology, Turkish language, Lexicology*

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Danilo Kish's Fictional Self and the Father's Figure („Garden. Ashes“ and „Hourglass“)

**Фикционалният аз на Данило Киш и фигурата на
Бащата („Градина. Пепел“ и „Пясъчен часовник“)**

Abstract: *The article examines two novels from the trilogy of Danilo Kish ("Early Care", "Garden, ashes" and the Hourglass) - a writer and essayist, the descendant of a Hungarian Jew and a Montenegrin mother. Both in his novels and in his essays and short stories, the centre of many cultures and identities, a follower of Kafka, Joyce, the Tick and whose main themes always carry the shade of nostalgia, the marks of the vanished world, which is experienced as the only thing dear to the artist. The theme of the disappearing world of Hungarian Jews is told from three different points of view in the trilogy. For the unfortified Self in the trilogy, the disappearance of the father is connected with the wavering of the identity, with the search for grounds for the very existence. From the narration of horror, the apocalyptic crack of life and meaning, the lurking death that transcends everything because it is finality. But amid the devastation and doubt of the written word, there remains the hope that the story provokes the reader, outlining the space and giving meaning to pain, sacrifice and death.*

Key words: *Balkans, Hungarian Jews, father, identity*



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Mass Ideologies for Young Men and Women

Масови идеологии за младежи и девизи

Abstract: *The article focuses on the projections of mass ideologies in the 1940s in periodicals for children and adolescents. The spirit of the time reflected in literary plots is analyzed: cult to action, not knowledge, joy of the national unification of the Bulgarians, readiness for self-sacrifice. The ideas of education of the Bulgarian youth, developed in the book of Naiden Sheitanov and Naiden Pamukchiev "The Great Bulgarian Youth" and their popularization in the periodicals for children and adolescents are compared. The behavior of Bulgarian writers who were equally well adapted to the ideology of Great Bulgarian nationalism and the proletarian internationalism that followed it after 1944 is commented. The author pays attention to the socio-cultural contexts in which the ideologies for young people and virgins in Bulgaria are developed.*

Key words: *Bulgaria, 1940s, youth, organization "Brannik", mass ideologies, periodicals for children and adolescents, appellate structure of the text*

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Ideology and utopia: the national state structure of the USSR (presented on the example of the North Caucasus territories)

Abstract: *The model of the national-state and territorial structure of the USSR was implemented in strict accordance with the Marxist-Leninist theory of socioeconomic formations. According to this theory, every society goes through several stages of development: the primitive system, slavery, feudalism, capitalism, and communism. This is a naturally progressive process. Based on the works of Engels, Soviet scientists created a theory of the development of ethnic communities. Each formation had to correspond to a certain type of ethnic group. Guided by the "right of nations to self-determination," each nation was to receive its own statehood.*

This model existed before the collapse of the USSR. Since the 1980s it began to crumble, various ethnic groups, or rather their elites, were dissatisfied with their status. The autonomous regions of the North Caucasus began to transform into republics. The republics wanted to get the status of an ally. Administrative transformations did not improve the economy and living standards



but on the contrary, led to increased bureaucratic growth. However, National Societies believed that the key was to appoint “their own” (a person with whom they had an established relationship and understanding) boss. Different peoples within the same autonomy often clashed. At the end of the twentieth-century tensions grew in the North Caucasus. It became obvious that the formation of territorial units along ethnic lines did not justify itself, however, this structure is preserved at the present time due to the fear of destabilization of the situation.

Key words: North Caucasus, Marxist theory, social development, state-territorial structure, ethnos, nations, types of ethnic communities, remnants, self-determination, autonomy, culture, The Mountainous Republic of the Northern Caucasus, highlanders, Cossacks

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Eurasianism Today and What Lev Gumilev Was Right About

Abstract: *Lev Gumilev, the son of the famous Russian poets Nikolai Gumilev and Anna Akhmatova, according to all the canons of history, had to remain in the shadow of his great parents. However, Lev Gumilev went down in history as a very outstanding personality, the author of the original idea of the birth and development of ethnicities, which was called the “passion” theory of ethnogenesis. This theory causes great controversy about its scientific nature to this day. Lev Gumilev developed his theory within the framework of the concept of Eurasianism. Among the wide variety of Eurasian peoples, Gumilev saw a common ethnic origin, common stereotypes of behavior that could lead to the geopolitical unity of the territory inhabited by them. At the end of the last century, primordialism in ethnology was rejected by the majority of the scientific community, and Gumilev’s ideas were criticized. However, last years the Eurasianist ideas of Lev Gumilev are experiencing a new wave of importance in connection with the strategic path of development that the Russian Federation has chosen for itself, which is progressively building the United Eurasian Community.*

Key words: Eurasianism, Lev Gumilev, post-Soviet space, Russian foreign policy, Eurasian Economic Union

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The great social experiment: when dreams did not turn into reality



Abstract: *The great social experiment in building socialism, which was supposed to develop into communism, was based on a number of attractive political myths, for the creation of which a special symbolic universe was created, a wide range of various sign systems were involved, among which language played the most important role: as a means of creating a political myth and the means of its constant feeding (the myth-making function of the language). This allowed (in conjunction with other means of subjugating the totalitarian state) for a long period to manipulate the consciousness of the masses, educating the younger generation in the given ideological framework.*

However, being the most important means of creating myths, language at the same time has enormous potential for its destruction. An analysis of texts criticizing the political ideology prevailing in the Soviet empire allowed us to single out two main types of myth-destroying texts: 1) texts criticizing the existing order (anecdotes, caricatures, parodies, political fables, etc.) and 2) texts that destroy the "information vacuum" (photographic documents, archival documents, autobiographies, etc.). The artistic works of dissidents of socialist ideology (Vladimir Vysotsky, Nikolai Guberman, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Mikhail Bulgakov, etc.), which often combined both functions, had a special appellative-influencing force.

Analysis of the role of language in the creation of myth as a socio-cultural phenomenon on the example of the myths of the Soviet era in the context of modern globalization of knowledge and the interdisciplinary scientific paradigm demonstrated the semiotic mechanism of myth creation and the dynamics of their destruction.

Key words: *myth-forming function of language, symbolic universe, myth-destroying texts, informative vacuum, socio-cultural phenomenon, socialist ideology*

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Is the glass ceiling inaccessible? The educational situation of Roma youth in Hungary

Abstract: *After the turn of the millennium, European studies unanimously noted that there are significant differences between Roma and non-Roma students at all levels of education. In the last two decades of educational policy in Hungary, elements aimed at inclusion and maintaining selectivity have been mixed together. In our cross-sectional study, we present the situation of young Roma people in the educational system of Hungary in 2016. In addition to outlining the overall picture (employment and education), we also look at softer indicators, such as the educational plans and motivations of Roma youth. We use the Hungarian Youth Research 2016 database (respondents aged between 15 and 29), including Roma or dual identity youth (N=328). The probability sample of 8000 persons is representative for age, district and type of settlement*



(N=8000). Our results have shown that inequalities are climbing upwards. While inclusion and catching-up with non-Roma students can be detected in primary and secondary vocational education (i.e., without the baccalaureate), there is a significant gap in terms of obtaining a baccalaureate and entering tertiary education. Studying attitudes related to learning points to the fact that young Roma people have begun to see education as a value in Hungary, but at the same time they are confronted with a lack of opportunities.

Key words: Roma minority, sociology of education, inequalities, youth, Hungary

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Restorative justice as a new response to crime - the modern vision and Bulgarian dreamers and opponents

Abstract: The concept of restorative justice as a type of alternative justice that focuses on the recovery of harm from crime, the victim, the perpetrator and the status quo in general, rather than on repression, is no longer new. It has long had its international legal basis – acts of the UN, EU, Council of Europe and others. Its main tools – victim-offender mediation, family conferences, problem-solving circles and more, are already established and widely used in most European countries and America, Asia, Australia, and Africa. Although marked in some strategic documents in our country recently, restorative justice is not a legal fact yet. However, in the global criminal crisis, deficits of the criminal justice system's functioning could be successfully, if not completely eliminated, then at least mitigated through its mechanisms. Individual scientists and representatives of non-governmental organizations have not only dreamed since the beginning of this century but are working hard to introduce its models. Politicians and decision-makers and part of the legal community show stubborn rigidity and resistance, refusing to put this issue on the current agenda of society, under various pretexts, but primarily defending their "preserved interests and monopoly" in criminal justice. At the same time, the crisis with the COVID-19 pandemic raises the issue again with particular urgency. That is why it is high time to abandon the unproductive "penal populism", to revitalize the debate for the mentioned novelty and achieve synchronicity between visionaries, dreamers, practitioners and users.

Key words: restorative justice, victim's protection, new penal politics, resistance

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Political Visionary of the Founder of Visegrad Group

Политическото визионерство на създателите на Вишеградската група



Abstract: *The purpose of this article is to present the creation of the Visegrad Group as a result of the political visionary of the first post-communist leaders of Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia - Lech Walesa, Jozef Antal, Arpad Gönz and Vaclav Havel. United by their identical views on the future, they put aside long-standing bilateral contradictions and chose to cooperate with each other in the name of successful integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. Built to speed up pre-accession negotiations, the Visegrad Group proved to be a viable and effective organization that even intensified its activities after the accession of its members to the EU in 2004, and three decades after its establishment it established itself as one of the most stable regional organizations.*

The article describes the domestic political conditions in the three countries after the fall of the totalitarian system, as well as the changed international situation. The new foreign policy priorities, which are the basis of the idea of unification, are clarified in detail. The activities of the three statesmen as dissidents and their ideas for the future development of the society, which are the basis of the partnership between the Central European countries, are presented. The factors that influenced the establishment of the Visegrad Group are clarified, as well as the principles on which the cooperation between the member states is built. The primary goals of the organization are revealed on the basis of the founding declaration. It is concluded that thanks to the political visionary of its founders, the Visegrad Group is an example of effective cooperation.

Key words: Visegrad Group, Central Europe, political visionary, regional cooperation

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The Postcolonial Nature of the Post-Soviet Space: a reading of the cultural condition of Albania

Abstract: *Postcolonialism has always concerned itself with the conditions in former colonies of European maritime empires. However, based on current frameworks defining imperialism and the post-colonial condition, the erstwhile Soviet Union could be classified as a colonial power. Its aggressive annexation of nations and paranoid control of information and education systems are reflective of colonial practices. Nevertheless, the Eurocentrism inherent in the culture of its former members prevents them from acknowledging their postcoloniality. Albania is one such nation. Not only was it a province of the Ottoman Empire for centuries but also a satellite state of the Soviet Union. Although Albania broke away from the USSR in the 1960s, it remained under the aegis of Soviet ideology as its nationalist dictator Enver Hoxha was a staunch Stalinist. This created unique cultural conditions which eminent Albanian writers like Ismail Kadare could not help but represent in their works. The post-Soviet space, including Albania, shows a number of symptoms of*



postcoloniality which are a direct consequence of Soviet imperialism. This paper will explore the postcoloniality of the post-Soviet space and analyse its symptoms in Stalinist Albania. In this context, it will also briefly examine the orientalist frameworks often employed by the West in its dealings with the ambiguous Europeanness of East and Central European nations.

Key words: *Empire, Soviet Russia, Postcolonial identity, post-Soviet space, Albania, Ismail Kadare*

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Discourse on Europe and the European Identity of Albanians

Abstract: *Political discourse on Europe and EU integration in the Albanian social and political reality has played an important role in all its continuity and evolution from the 1990s until today. It has been used by various political actors as one of the main instruments aimed at informing, propagating and communicating with the broad masses of the electorate and citizens. Discourse on Europe is also discourse as a form of thinking about identity, because all the values, beliefs and ideas it adheres to also determine how Albanian citizens see themselves in relation to the past, the present and the design of their future. The idea of Europe and the European identity of Albanians is not late among Albanians, which is articulated only from the 1990s onwards. On the contrary, the most common point of view considers the Albanian people with an early inherited European identity and also related with the geographical determination, which was lost as a result of historical fates and finally in an attempt to regain it. All this contributes to the further consolidation of an ideology of "deserved" integration in Europe, part of which we have been and must necessarily be. Therefore, this paper aims to analyse the Albanian political discourse focused on Europe as an idea and the attempt to transform the discourse for Europe, in an ideological hegemonic discourse. It aims to discuss whether Europe and EU integration has become the main hallmark of Albanian political discourse given the importance it takes in explaining, defining and justifying issues, actions and events in general.*

Key words: *Europe, political discourse, ideology, identity, integration*

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The Dream of Pirin National Park and the Realities of Socialist Eco-Policies in the 1960s and 1970s



**Мечтата за Национален парк „Пирин“ и
реалностите на социалистическите
екополитики през 1960-те и 1970-те години**

Abstract: *The main objective of the article is to outline the initial steps for the establishment of the Pirin national park in the 1960s and 1970s and the first legislative initiatives taken by the state (Vihren National Park, Pirin Public Park and Pirin National Park) and the increase of its territory and scope. It also monitors the development of the park and the expansion of activities, as well as the attitude and participation of the population and the changes that occur in people's lives with the creation of the park. The forms, through which the government strives to preserve but also to use the natural wealth of the mountain and the changes in the attitudes of the population towards the surrounding nature, are also presented. Archives, materials from the museum in the town of Razlog and publications on the subject were used.*

Key words: Pirin National Park, Bulgaria, eco-policy, first protected areas, Bansko

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**First Democratic Republic of Georgia (1918-1921),
a Result of the Changes in the International System**

Abstract: *The independence of the First Democratic Republic of Georgia was announced on May 26, 1918 by the Georgian Social-Democrats, who were preaching against nationalism and the creation of a Georgian state years prior, therefore, it is evident at first sight, that major international events of the 1910s played a crucial role in the establishing of an independent Georgia. This research paper aims to examine the foreign factors that made the Georgian political elite change their minds and resulted in the creation of the First Democratic Republic of Georgia. First, the paper will analyze the internal political situation in Georgia and the attitudes of the Georgian political elite, then the policies and attitudes of three major powers – Russia, Turkey and Germany, towards Georgia will be examined. The author has presented the reflections of famous Georgian researches on the topic and some archive sources as well.*

Key words: Georgia, nationalism, Social-Democrats, First World War, Revolution, Russian Empire, Ottoman Empire, Germany



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