

CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN THE CHANGING DEMOCRACIES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Call for Papers • workshop and special issue • DEADLINE EXTENDED to 10 March, 2017

Socio.hu Social Science Review, the journal of the Institute of Sociology, Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences calls for papers for its 2017 special issue on Civil Society and Social Movements in the Changing Democracies of Central and Eastern Europe to be published in December 2017. We are going to invite the selected participants for a workshop in Budapest in May to discuss the individual papers. The project aims to serve as a foundation for future, joint research application, primarily targeting the Horizon H2020 programme, Societal Challenge 6, Europe in a changing world for research in social movements studies in CEE.

Over the last few years both the post-transitory states the region of Central and Eastern Europe and the more stable democracies of the developed world have experienced unexpected turbulences in the political structures, the different generations and formations of the extreme right are on the rise, Euroscepticism, populism and even fascist ideologies are spreading as populist reactions to the new political challenges. A vast literature discusses the weakness and instability of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe. Various explanations are attributed to this weakness – the semi-peripheric position of CEE countries in the world economic system, their communist legacy as their political culture and a structural condition, or the depoliticization of these societies after the transition. Recent research suggests that the effects of the economic crisis in 2008 and the recessions of the following years, as well as the failures of the mainstream political establishment to reflect to the newly emerged problems of the masses also contribute to this phenomenon.

Civil society and social movements have been expected to be a major drive behind the democratization of Central and Eastern European Countries. Although the importance of an autonomous civil society in a democracy is rarely questioned, the question arises whether civil societies and the newly emerged social movements are capable to substantially contribute to the democratization processes of these countries. These doubts are stronger as we witness a massive rise of extreme right movements, GONGO-s and pseudo-civil movements supporting those in power. Despite the remarkable presence of various NGOs and grassroots movements emerging all over the region, despite the massive anti-government mobilizations in many countries, the presence and role of movements and civil society in general is less definite than ever since the regime change, while authoritarian tendencies and discourses are on the rise.

We are looking for papers that would address the questions on the role of the changed and challenged civil society and social movements in the democratization processes - are they able to counterweight the authoritarian and populist tendencies? Can we even expect such a major role from them in the fight against the authoritarian elites and power structures and if not, what other roles do they fulfil? To what extent are they internalized in the political macrostructures and how can they break out of them? How can they persist sustainably and what can we attribute to them as a success?

Please send your abstracts to socio.hu@tk.mta.hu

Deadline for submitting abstracts: 10 March, 2017. Abstracts (between 600–800 words) should include theoretical framework, methodology, and the main findings of the proposed paper.

The **workshop** will be held on 11–12 May. Meals and accommodation will be fully covered and a fund will be available for contributions to the travel expenses, too.

Guest editors:

Szabina Kerényi and Márton Gerő (Institute for Sociology, Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

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