

CERGE-EI and the Faculty of Humanities (FHS) at Charles University

## Collective Memory in Central Europe

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**Office Hours:** upon request

### OUTLINE OF THE COURSE:

The course will offer a set of conceptual tools for understanding multiculturalism, ethnicity and collective memory in Central and Eastern Europe since 20th Century to the present. From an anthropological perspective and the analysis of some relevant ethnographic case studies, some of the questions that will be discussed in class are: What is the relationship between ethnicity and other types of identity? What is collective memory? How do ethnic groups remain distinctive under different social, economic and political conditions? What is Multiculturalism and its relation to the process of Globalisation? In which ways can collective memory be important in the creation of ethnicity? Is nationalism always a form of ethnicity? What ethnic conflicts do we face in contemporary Central and Eastern Europe? What can be the roots of ethnic differentiations and therefore, potentially, ethnic conflicts: religious, political, economic, linguistic or “racial”? Memory, silence and forgetting, how we should deal with the past in order to advance with the project of Europe?

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING POLICY:

**-Class preparation and participation:** this must be the element most crucial to the student’s interest and therefore, the class’s success. Students need to read well the text assigned prior to each class. Students are expected to actively participate in all class discussions. The goal of the course is to develop analytical and critical thinking skills that enable students to understand the texts and lectures and to engage in provoking discussion and written analysis.

**-Attendance policy:** Students are required to attend class. Excused medical absences require a written document the day of return to class. UPCES program only allows one unexcused absence.

**-Grading:** Throughout the course students will have weekly assignments and readings, a mid-term exam and a final research project.(see course schedule for due date). Final research paper should be 12 pages length and double-spaced. Guidelines will be given in class.

**Participation/daily preparation:** 20%

**Mid term exam:** 40%

**Final research paper and oral presentation:** 40%

### REQUIRED READINGS:

Package of readings classified by weeks will be available online and in paper. Additional readings, as any other resource as current documentaries, films or even music, will also be recommended throughout the course according to the needs and expectations of the class and any particular student's interest.

## **PROGRAM:**

### **Week 1**

#### **UPCES Orientation Lecture Series**

Lectures and site visits on subjects of history, culture, politics, and the economies of the Czech Republic and Central Europe in order to establish a common interdisciplinary background and vocabulary for all courses.

### **Week 2**

#### **Introduction to the course**

##### **A conceptual and theoretical approach**

Reading - J. Hutchinson and A.D Smith. *Ethnicity*. Oxford University Press, 1996 pp 3-31 - J.R Llobera. *Foundations of national identity*. Bergham Books, 2005 pp 159-191

### **Week 3**

#### **The collective memory and the collective identity**

**Case study: the uses and sites of memory among Hungarian population in Southern Slovakia** Reading - D. Torsello. "Memory, space, and time perceptions in a postsocialist village of Southern Slovakia". *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, 2005

### **Week 4**

#### **Ethnic groups and ethnicity: "us" and "them" Case study: the Turkish population in contemporary Germany**

Reading - R.Mandel. "Fortress Europe and the foreigners within: Germany's Turks" in V. A Goddard, J. Llobera and C. Shore. *The Anthropology of Europe*. Berg 1996 pp 113-123 - H. Donnan and T.M Wilson. *Frontiers of identity, Nation and State*. Berg, 2001 pp 1-17

### **Week 5**

#### **Ethnicity and nation. Nationalities as "imagined communities"?**

##### **Case study: the Czech nation throughout history**

Readings - J. R Llobera. "Anthropological approaches to the study of nationalism in Europe. The work of Van Gennep and Mauss" in. V. A Goddard, J. Llobera and C. Shore. *The Anthropology of Europe*. Berg 1996 pp 93-111  
- L. Holy. *The little Czech and the great Czech Nation*. Cambridge University Press, 1996 pp 17- 54

### **Week 6**

#### **Nation and the State. Collective memories & life stories Case study: life before and after Communism and the split of Czechoslovakia**

Reading - Z. Konopasek (ed). *Our lives as database*. Univerzita Karlova v Praze, 2000 pp 251-275 - H. Haukanes. "Telling lives. Autobiography and history after Socialism". *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, 2005

### **Week 7**

#### **Mid-term Exam**

H. Haukanes. Ambivalent traditions: Transforming gender symbols and food practices in the Czech Republic. *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, 2003

## **Week 8**

### **Ethnicity, history and culture**

#### **Case study: the role of religion in the creation of Polish national identity**

-J. Buzalka. Europeanisation and post peasant populism in Eastern Europe. *Europe- Asian Studies*. Vol 60, No 5, July 2008, 757-771

- C. Hann. Nationalism and civil society in Central Europe: from Ruritania to the Carpathian region in J. A. Hall. *The State and the Nation. Ernest Gellner and the theory of Nationalism*. Cambridge University Press, 1998 pp 243-257

## **Week 9**

### **“Minorities” and the State**

Reading - C. Szaló and E. Hamar. "The formation of ethnic minority identities and their social inclusion" in T. Sirovatka, et al. *The challenges of social inclusion. Minorities and marginalised groups in Czech society*. Barrister Principal, 2006 pp 245-265

## **Week 10**

### **From prejudice and discrimination to ethnocide and genocide.**

#### **Case study. Anti- Semitism and the the rise of neo-nazi groups in Central and Eastern Europe**

Reading - J. R. Bowen. "Culture, Genocide, and a Public Anthropology" in A. L. Hinton. *Annihilating Difference. Anthropology of Genocide*. University of California Press. 2002 - Starman. H. Anti-Semitism in Postcommunist Central and Eastern Europe. *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, 2004

## **Week 11**

### **The transnationalization of the labour market. On the dialectic of Europeanisation and Globalisation**

Reading –Thelen. T "The new power of old men: privatisation and family relations in Mesterszallás (Hungary) " in *Anthropology of East Europe Review*. Vol 21, N2. 2003  
Kastoryano, R. "Transnational nationalism. Redefining nation and territory" in Seyla Benhabib, Ian Shapiro and Danilo Petranovic. *Identities, affiliations and allegiances*. Cambridge University Press, 2007  
Documentary  
.-Film: *Osadné*. Dir. by Marko Skop

## **Week 12**

### **The paradoxes of multiculturalism in contemporary Europe**

Reading -M. Muhic. Multiculturalism in Central and Eastern Europe: Challenge or threat? *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, 2004

## **Week 13**

### **Deadline for Final Research Paper**

### **Oral presentations**

## **RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL READINGS:**

- Anderson, B. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, London: Verso. 1991

- Augé, M *Les formes de l'oubli*. Payot eds. Paris, 1998
- Bloch, M. *How we think they think. Anthropological approaches to cognition, memory and literacy*. Boulder. Westview Colorado Press.
- Brock, P. *Cultures and Little Peoples: Aspects of National Awakening in East Central Europe*. New York, Columbia University Press, 1992
- Buchowski, M. 'Coming to Terms with Capitalism: An Example of a Rural Community in Poland', *Anthropology*, 2003, 27, 1
- Climo, J and Catell, M (ed). *Social Memory and History. Anthropological Perspectives*. Altamira Press,CA, 2002
- Friedman, J. *Cultural identity and Global Process*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1994
- Gellner, E. *Nations and Nationalism*.Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1983
- Halbwachs, M. *On Collective Memory*. Univ of Chicago Press, 1992
- Hann, C.M (ed). *Postsocialism. Ideals, Ideologies and Practices in Eurasia*. Routledge. London and New York, 2002
- Hutchinson, J. *Nations as zones of conflict*. SAGE, 2005
- G. Mink: "Between Reconciliation and the Reactivation of Past Conflicts in Europe: Rethinking Social Memory Paradigms in, *Sociologický Casopis /Czech Sociological Review* Vol 44 (2008):3
- Sznajder, N *Jewish memory and the cosmopolitan order*. Polity Press, 2011