

## Gender and Minorities in Post-Socialist Europe

**Lecturer: Dr. E. Soler**

**E-mail:** [esoler@cerge-ei.cz](mailto:esoler@cerge-ei.cz)

**Office Hours:** upon request

### OUTLINE OF THE COURSE:

This course aims to introduce students with historical and contemporary issues of gender and “minorities” in Central/Eastern Europe. Throughout the twentieth century, the territorial frontiers of the European community towards the outside and the internal political frontiers between the community and its member states have been shifting significantly. Based on ethnographic work, among other sources, in this course we will analyze how, despite the current rise of populism and radical nationalism, the complex project of Europe is trying to guarantee the peaceful coexistence of different ethnic, linguistic, religious and political forms across national borders based on the principle of cultural diversity and cosmopolitan tolerance.

### 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 discussions and written analysis.

- **Attendance policy:** Students are required to attend class. Excuse medical absence requires a written document the day of return to class. UPCES program only allows one un-excuse 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: 30%

Oral presentation: 10%

## Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description
A+	97-100	Excellent Work
A	93-97	Outstanding Work
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	Good work
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Acceptable Work
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Work that is significantly below average
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	0-59	Work that does not meet the minimum standards for passing the course

### UPCES Academic Integrity Policy

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are not tolerated. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the development of knowledge and learning is encouraged at many stages of the learning process. While we value technology for educational purposes, we also value originality and the retainment of knowledge, and thus using AI for assignments and examinations, even if rephrased, is strictly prohibited and considered an academic integrity violation, unless the instructor explicitly allows for it in the context of evaluated work

### UPCES Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy

The UPCES program in Prague promotes a diverse learning environment where the dignity, worth, and differences of each individual are valued and respected. Discrimination and harassment, whether based on a person's race, gender, sexual orientation, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or other legally protected characteristic, are repugnant and completely inconsistent with our objectives. Retaliation against individuals for raising good faith claims of harassment and/or discrimination is prohibited.

### UPCES Diversity Policy

UPCES fully embraces diversity and strives to create a safe and welcoming environment for students from all backgrounds. Prague is a wonderfully diverse community and UPCES is no different. All students should feel at home while studying abroad and UPCES will do its utmost to make sure that becomes a reality. Although unique challenges may arise, we believe that students from all walks of life will encounter wonderful opportunities for enrichment as they explore a new culture while studying abroad.

## REQUIRED READINGS:

Package of readings classified by weeks will be available on-line and in paper.

Additional readings, as any other resource as current documentaries, doc-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.

## WEEKLY 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. The construction of minorities in Central and Eastern Europe

##### Reading

- Bogaards, M and Petó, A. Gendering De-Democratization: Gender and illiberalism in Post-Communist Europe. *Politics and Governance* 10 (4): 1-5, October 2022
- Agarín, T and Brosig, M. Minority integration in Central and Eastern Europe-An introduction in Agarín.
- M. Brosig. *Minority integration in Central and Eastern Europe*. Rodopi BV. Amsterdam-NY, 2009

### Week 3

#### The Jews, The Roma and other minorities under the Nazi regime

##### Reading

- Uli linke. Gendered difference, violent imagination in U. Linke, *Blood and nation. The European Aesthetics of Race*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999
- Stewart, M. Remembering without commemoration. The mnemonics and politics of Holocaust memories among European Roma, *JRAI*, 2004

### Week 4

#### Minorities under State Socialism

##### Reading

- Zoltan Barany, The Roma under State- Socialism in Barany, Z *The East European Gypsies*. Cambridge University Press, 2002
- Georges Mink. Between reconciliation and the reactivation of past conflicts in Europe. Rethinking social memory paradigms. *Sociologický Casopis-Czech Sociological Review*, 2008, Vol 44, No, 3

## Week 5

### Transition to Democracy and the socio-economic impact on minorities. The cycle of poverty and social exclusion.

#### Reading

- Renata Sedláková. The media as a tool of social exclusion. An example of presentation of the Roma in the Czech Media, in Sirovatká, T *The Challenge of social inclusion. Minorities and marginalised groups in Czech Society*. Barrister Principal, 2006
- Pavel Navratil. Social work with socially excluded Roma families in T. Sirovatká, *The Challenge of social inclusion. Minorities and marginalised groups in Czech Society*. Barrister Principal, 2006

## Week 6

### The policies of the labour market. Gender, Class and the “underclass”

#### Reading

- Pine, R. “Retreat to the household? Gendered domains in Postsocialist Poland” in, Hann, C.M (ed). *Postsocialism. Ideals, Ideologies and Practices in Eurasia*. Routledge. London and New York, 2002
- True, J. Engendering Political Economy in J. True. *Gender, Globalization and Postsocialism. The Czech Republic after Communism*. Columbia University Press, 2003

## Week 7

### Mid-term Exam

#### Reading

- Aidan McGarry. Round Pegs in square holes. Integrating the Romani community in Hungary in T. Agarín. and M. Brosig. *Minority integration in Central and Eastern Europe*. Rodopi BV. Amsterdam-NY, 2009

## Week 8

### Housing and Roma settlements. Can we talk of a process of “Ghettoization”?

#### Reading

- Tomas Sirovatká. “The policy of labour market and social inclusion” in Sirovatká, T *The Challenge of social inclusion. Minorities and marginalised groups in Czech Society*. Barrister Principal, 2006

## Week 9

### Education and language minority rights

#### Reading

- Elena Marushiakova and Vesselin Popov. “Identity and language of the Roma (Gypsies) in Central and Eastern Europe” in *The Palgrave Handbook of Slavic Languages, Identities and Borders*. Ed by T. Kamusella, M. Nomachi and C. Gibsola, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016
- Laura Cashman. Romani teaching assistants in the Czech education system. An opportunity to address barriers to the labour market in T. Agarín. and M. Brosig. *Minority integration in Central and Eastern Europe*. Rodopi BV. Amsterdam-NY, 2009

## Week 10

### Islam and women's rights in the new construction of Europe

#### Readings

- Umut Erel. Reconceptualizing Motherhood. Experiences of migrant women from Turkey to Germany in, D. Bryceson and U. Vuorela. *The transnational family. New European frontiers and global networks*. BERG, 2002

## Week 11

### Roots of ethnic conflict and the increase of radical nationalism

#### Reading

- Goll, Sebastian, Mlinaric, Martin and Gold Johannes (Ed.). *Minorities under attack. Othering and Right-Wing Extremism in Southeast European Societies*. Harrassowitz Verlag. Wiesbaden, 2016
- Lukas Novotný. Right-wing extremism and no-go areas in Germany. In *Sociologický Casopis-Czech Sociological Review*. Vol 45, 2009

## Week 12

### Towards new policies and forms of multicultural integration in the process of Europeanization and Globalization. Reading

Soler, E. Long-term "ethnicized silences", family secrets and nation building, *Ethnologia Polona*, vol. 42: 113-129, November 2022

T. Agarin and M. Brosig. Multicultural solutions for Central and Eastern Europe. Concluding observations in T. Agarin. and M. Brosig. *Minority integration in Central and Eastern Europe*. Rodopi BV. AmsterdamNY, 2009

B Rechel. The way forward in, B. Rechel. *Minority rights in Central and Eastern Europe*. Routledge, 2009

## Week 13

### Dateline for Final Research Paper

### Oral presentations

## ADDITIONAL READINGS

Anderson, B. 1999. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, London:

Verso. 1991

Balibar, Étienne. 2004. *We, the People of Europe: Reflections on Transnational Citizenship*.

Princeton:

Princeton University Press.

Barth, F. 1969. *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: the Social Organization of Cultural Difference*.

London:

Allyn and Unwin.

Beck, U and Grande. E. 2007. *Cosmopolitan Europe*. Polity Press.

Bernhard, Michael and Kubik, Jan. 2014. *Twenty years after Communism. The politics of memory and commemoration*. Oxford University Press.

Bloch, Maurice. 2004. "What goes without saying" in *Anthropology and the Cognitive knowledge*. Cambridge University Press.

Douglas, Mary. 1966. *Purity and danger. An analysis concept of pollution and taboo*. Routledge and Keeger Paul.

Gellner, E. 1983. *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Goll, Sebastian, Mlinaric, Martin and Gold Johannes (Ed.). 2016. *Minorities under attack. Othering and Right-Wing Extremism in Southeast European Societies*. Harrassowitz Verlag. Wiesbaden

Grandskova, Yulia. 2016. "Women's everyday life in Soviet Russia. Collecting stories, dealing with silences and exploring nostalgia" Ilic, Melanie and Leinarte, Dalia. *The Soviet Past in Post-Socialist present*.  
*Methodology, and Ethics in Russia, Baltic and Central Europe*. Routledge. Halbwachs, M. 1992. *On Collective Memory*. Univ of Chicago Press.

Hann, C.M (ed). 2001. *Postsocialism. Ideals, Ideologies and Practices in Eurasia*. Routledge.

Soler, E and Calvo (eds). 2016. *Transiciones culturales. Perspectivas desde Europa Central y del Este (Cultural transitions. Perspectives from Central and Eastern Europe)* Madrid: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)(chapters in English and in Spanish)