

Preliminary communication

***Emerging Transnational Governmentality  
In South East Europe:  
Intermediaries and translation in interstitial spaces***

**MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP 3**

The Institute of Economics, Zagreb  
The South East European Research Centre of City College,  
Thessaloniki and the University of Sheffield, UK  
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Zagreb

Stubičke toplice, near Zagreb (Hotel Matija Gubec)  
Friday 28 – Sunday 30 April

This workshop aims to:

1. continue exploration of Multi-Level Governance in SEE utilising multi-disciplinary perspectives
2. focus specifically on Intermediaries and Translation as emerging forms of transnational governmentality in SEE, through theory and case examples
3. develop an innovative set of reflexive methodologies to capture key, under-researched aspects of transnational governmentality in SEE
4. develop ongoing proposals for bids for research funding and funding to develop a research network
5. plan the next steps of the research network including possible publications and a conference in May 2006.

## **Background**

---

A first inter-disciplinary research workshop on multi-level governance in South-Eastern Europe, organised by the Institute of Economics, Zagreb and SEERC, was held in Zagreb on 4 – 5 February 2005. A second workshop, funded by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung on ‘South-Eastern Europe, Governmentalities and the Politics of Scale’ was held in Stubičke toplice, near Zagreb on 11-12 November 2005. The focus of both workshops was on how to understand new forms of governmentalities emerging in South East Europe.

The second workshop concluded with a strong sense that South East Europe is an extremely rich space of ‘in-betweenness’, of emerging transnational governmentality, of international ‘development’ discourse, of EU influence, and of post-colonial geographies. Within this workshop, a group emerged committed to further work, networking and research proposal development on ‘Intermediaries and translation in interstitial spaces’ (IT IS).

## **This Workshop**

---

The proposed third workshop, again funded by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, takes further concerns and debates around transnational governmentality and in particular the role of policy consultants, experts, and ‘brokers’. These agents represent an important signifying practice for new forms of governmentalities; they are located in translocal, interstitial spaces; and their work requires critical scrutiny in terms of their political, cultural, social, and discursive role.

Crucial issues of changing governance, the uncritical importation of models, processes of ‘agencification’, and the use of sub-contracting, all point to the need for critical analyses and research. The workshop will explore ways of understanding this policy and practice space, where policy consultants and experts are seen not in an apolitical and uncritical sense of their provision of ‘technical’ knowledge, but instead in the sense of being intermediaries and interlocutors. The workshop brings together researchers and activist/practitioners interested in relationality, interstitiality and liminality, which is assumed to be reflexive of processes of new scalarities, spatialities, new forms of governmentalities, power and compliance, discursive practices, and knowledge systems.

The workshop is not seeking to find new certainties but, rather, through dialogue, is hoping to explore fluidities, transformations, new vocabularies, and unusual trajectories. The workshop focuses on theory, research and practice which seeks to investigate new and less obvious sites or fields of practices. The workshop allows for exchanges of views, of theories, of methods and of case studies, in a form conducive to future research networking. Whilst emphasising the need for research and knowledge about this relatively under-researched set of issues, the workshop will also explore issues relating to the democratic deficits of new policy spaces and the need for more democratic and accountable structures and processes.

## **Proposed Agenda**

---

### **FRIDAY 28 APRIL**

**Arrivals and transportation to Stubičke toplice**

**19.30**  
**Dinner**

### **SATURDAY 29 APRIL**

**09.00 – 09.30**

#### **INTRODUCTORY SESSION**

##### **Introductions and Welcome**

Paul Stubbs, Institute of Economics and SEERC

Mirko Hempel, Friedrich Ebert stiftung, Zagreb

Sandra Švaljek, Director, Institute of Economics, Zagreb

**09.30 – 11.00**

#### **PLENARY SESSION 1**

Chair: Paul Stubbs

##### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Mariella Pandolfi, University of Montreal, Canada

‘Mobile Sovereignties in South-Eastern Europe’ (provisional title)

**11.00 – 11.30**

**Coffee**

**11.30 – 13.30**

#### **PLENARY SESSION 2**

##### **Intermediaries and translators in specific contexts**

Chair: Siniša Zrinščak, University of Zagreb

Noemi Lendvai, University of Bristol and

Paul Stubbs, EIZG/SEERC

‘Intermediaries, translation and welfare reform in Central and South Eastern Europe’

Sanja Špoljar-Vržina, Institute Ivo Pilar, Zagreb  
title (to be confirmed)

Dimitrina Mihaylova, COMPAS, Oxford

‘Migration and Political subjectivities in SEE’ (to be confirmed)

Discussant: John Clarke, The Open University, UK

**13.30 – 16.00**

**Lunch**

**16.00 – 18.00**

**PLENARY SESSION 3**

**Development agencies in interstitial spaces**

Chair: Sanja Špoljar-Vržina, Ivo Pilar Institute, Zagreb

Ana Dević, University of Aarhus, Denmark

‘Away from Politics: “Transnationalism” in Western Aid to Kosovan Peace-building and Educational Development’

Nicole Lindstrom, Central European University, Budapest

‘International Organisations and Anti-trafficking in SEE’ (provisional title)

Despina Syrri, SEERC

Title to be confirmed

Discussant: Mariella Pandolfi

**20.00**

**Dinner in a nearby restaurant**

**SUNDAY 30 APRIL**

**09.30 – 11.00**

**PLENARY SESSION 4**

Chair: John Clarke

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Janine Wedel, George Mason University, USA

‘Transactors and development: theories, methods, cases’ (provisional title)

**11.00 – 11.30 Coffee**

**PLENARY SESSION 5 11.30 – 13.00**

**Case studies**

**13.00 – 15.00 Lunch**

**15.00 – 17.00**

**Small Group work on research questions**

**Plenary discussion**

**18.00 – 19.00**

**Closing Plenary**

Paul Stubbs, EIZG and SEERC

**MONDAY 1 MAY**

**Departures**

**Optional trip to Kumrovec**

**Optional work on research proposal**

Contact: Paul Stubbs email: [pstubbs@eizg.hr](mailto:pstubbs@eizg.hr)