

# CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY OF POST-SOCIALISM

## *Ethnographic Accounts and Anthropological Theories in and of East-Central Europe*

Autumn 2013

Masaryk University in Brno

### 1. September 19, 2013 – Conceptual Foundations and Historical Overview

*What Is East-Central Europe? Political and Cultural Geographies* (Introductory Lecture, 14.00–15.30)

*East-Central Europe as an Area of Anthropological Studies* (Brief Lecture, 15.45–16.45)

*Discussion of Course Readings and Requirements* (16:45–17.15)

- + Hofer, Tamás (1968) Anthropologists and Native Ethnographers in Central European Villages: Comparative Notes on the Professional Personality of Two Disciplines. *Current Anthropology*, Vol. 9, No. 4. (Oct. 1968), 311–315. (ECE)
- + Halpern, Joel Martin and David A. Kideckel (1983) Anthropology of Eastern Europe. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 12. (1983), 377–402. (ECE)
- + Wolfe, Thomas C. (2000) Cultures and Communities in the Anthropology of Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 29 (2000), 195–216. (ECE, SU)
- + Arnason, Johann P. (2005) Introduction: Demarcating East-Central Europe. *European Journal of Social Theory*, Vol. 8, No. 4, 387–400. (ECE)

### 2. October 3, 2013 – From State Socialism to Post-Socialism: Theory and Practice (4 presentations)

*What Was Socialism? Historical Development and Economic Conceptualizations* (Lecture, 14.00–15.00)

*Political and Economic Theories of State Socialism* (Lecture and Discussion, 15.00–15.45)

*Practical Critique: Economic Reforms, Consumer Socialism, Second Economy* (Discussion, 16.00–17.15)

*Theories and Histories of the Transition: A Great Transformation or a Return to Europe?* (Lecture, 17.30–19.00)

- \* Burawoy, Michael and János Lukács (1985) Mythologies of Work: A Comparison of Firms in State Socialism and Advanced Capitalism. *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 50, No. 6 (Dec. 1985), 723–737. (HU)
- \* Sampson, Steven L. (1987) The Second Economy of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 493, The Informal Economy (Sep. 1987), 120–136.
- \* Lampland, Martha (1991) Pigs, Party Secretaries, and Private Lives in Hungary. *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 18, No. 3, Representations of Europe: Transforming State, Society, and Identity. (Aug. 1991), 459–479. (HU)
- \* Humphrey, Caroline (1991) 'Icebergs', Barter, and the Mafia in Provincial Russia. *Anthropology Today*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (Apr. 1991), 8–13. (RU)
- + Verdery, Katherine (1996) What Was Socialism, and Why Did It Fall? In *What Was Socialism, and What Comes Next?* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), 19–38. (ECE)
- + Burawoy, Michael and Katherine Verdery (1999) Introduction. In Michael Burawoy and Katherine Verdery, eds., *Uncertain Transition: Ethnographies of Change in the Postsocialist World* (Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield), 1–17. (ECE, SU)
- + Berdahl, Daphne (2000) Introduction: An Anthropology of Postsocialism. In Daphne Berdahl, Matti Bunzl and Martha Lampland, eds., *Altering States: Ethnographies of Transition in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1–13. (ECE, SU)

### 3. October 17, 2013 – Negotiating Capitalism in East-Central Europe (10 presentations)

*Wild East: Global Capitalism in East-Central Europe* (Lecture and Discussion, 14.30–16.00)

*Privatization, Consumerism, and the Discourse on Normality* (Discussion, 16.15–17.45)

- \* Konstantinov, Yulian, Gideon M. Kressel, and Trond Thuen (1998) Outclassed by Former Outcasts: Petty Trading in Varna. *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 25, No. 4. (Nov. 1998), 729–745. (BG)
- \* Fehérváry, Krisztina (2002) American Kitchens, Luxury Bathrooms, and the Search for a 'Normal' Life in Post-Socialist Hungary. *Ethnos*, Vol. 67, No. 3, 369–400. (HU)
- \* Dunn, Elizabeth (1999) Slick Salesmen and Simple People: Negotiated Capitalism in a Privatized Polish Firm. In Michael Burawoy and Katherine Verdery, eds., *Uncertain Transition: Ethnographies of Change in the Postsocialist World* (Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield), 125–150. (PL)
- \* Verdery, Katherine (1999) Fuzzy Property: Rights, Power and Identity in Transylvania's Decollectivization. In Michael Burawoy and Katherine Verdery, eds., *Uncertain Transition: Ethnographies of Change in the Postsocialist World* (Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield), 53–81. (RO)

Readings marked with a plus sign (+) are required readings for all students (9 readings).

- \* Berdahl, Daphne (2001) "Go, Trabi, Go!": Reflections on a Car and Its Symbolization over Time. *Anthropology and Humanism*, Vol. 25, No. 2, 131–141. (D)
- \* Galbraith, Marysia H. (2003) 'We Just Want To Live Normally': Intersecting Discourses of Public, Private, Poland, and the West. *Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Europe*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2–13. (PL)
- \* Harper, Krista (2005) "Wild Capitalism" and "Ecocolonialism": A Tale of Two Rivers. *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 107, No. 2. (Jun. 2005), 221–233. (HU)
- \* Patico, Jennifer (2005) To Be Happy in a Mercedes: Tropes of Value and Ambivalent Visions of Marketization. *American Ethnologist*, vol. 32, no. 3 (Aug. 2005), 479–496. (RU)
- \* Friedman, Jack R. (2007) Shame and the Experience of Ambivalence on the Margins of the Global: Pathologizing the Past and Present in Romania's Industrial Wastelands. *Ethos*, Vol.35, No.2, 235–264. (RO)
- \* Kalb, Don (2009) Conversations with a Polish Populist: Tracing Hidden Histories of Globalization, Class, and Dispossession in Postsocialism (and Beyond). *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 36, No. 2 (May 2009), 207–223. (P)

#### 4. November 7, 2013 – Politics of Memory and Identity in a Post-Socialist Context (11 presentations)

*Trajectories of Social and Cultural Change after 1989* (Lecture, 18.00–19.00)

*History and Identity in the Post-Socialist Context* (Lecture and Discussion, 14.30–15.50)

*Forms of Nationalism in East-Central Europe* (Lecture, 16.05–17.25)

- \* Gal, Susan (1991) Bartók's Funeral: Representations of Europe in Hungarian Political Rhetoric. *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 18, No. 3, Representations of Europe: Transforming State, Society, and Identity (Aug. 1991), 440–458. (HU)
- \* Borneman, John (1993) Uniting the German Nation: Law, Narrative, and Historicity. *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 20, No. 2 (May 1993), 288–311. (D)
- \* Holy, Ladislav (1994) Metaphors of the Natural and the Artificial in Czech Political Discourse. *Man*, New Series, Vol. 29, No. 4 (Dec. 1994), 809–829. (CZ)
- + Brubaker, Rogers (1996) National Minorities, Nationalizing States, and External National Homelands in the New Europe. In *Nationalism Reframed: Nationhood and the National Question in the New Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 55–76.
- \* Hayden, Robert M. (1996) Imagined Communities and Real Victims: Self-Determination and Ethnic Cleansing in Yugoslavia. *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 23, No. 4 (Nov. 1996), 783–801. (YU)
- \* White, Jenny B. (1997) Turks in the New Germany. *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 99, No. 4 (Winter 1997), 754–769. (D)
- \* Hann, Chris (1998) Postsocialist Nationalism: Rediscovering the Past in Southeast Poland. *Slavic Review*, Vol. 57, No. 4 (Winter 1998), 840–863. (PL)
- \* Kugelmass, Jack, Annamaria Orla-Bukowska (1998) "If You Build it They Will Come": Recreating an Historic Jewish District in Post-Communist Kraków. *City and Society*, vol. 10, no. 1 (June 1998), 315–353. (PL)
- \* Lemon, Alaina (2002) Without a 'Concept'? Race as Discursive Practice. *Slavic Review*, Vol. 61, No. 1 (Spring 2002), 54–61. (RU)
- \* Galbraith, Marysia H. (2004) Between East and West: Geographic Metaphors of Identity in Poland. *Ethos*, Vol. 32, No. 1 (Spring 2004), 51–81. (PL)
- \* James, Jason (2006) Undoing Trauma: Reconstructing the Church of Our Lady in Dresden. *Ethos*, vol. 34, no. 2 (June 2006), 244–272. (D)
- \* Kotnik, Vlado (2007) Sport, Landscape, and National Identity: Representations of an Idealized Vision of Nationhood in Slovenian Skiing Telecasts. *JSAE*, Vol. 7, No. 2, 19–35. (SL)

#### 5. November 21, 2013 – Conclusion and Discussion of Field Observations (4 presentations)

*Gender and Generation: Enduring Traditions of Exclusion* (Lecture and Discussion, 14.00–15.30)

*Discussion of the Students' Fieldwork Observations* (Discussion, 15:45–17:15)

- \* Haney, Lynne (1999) 'But We Are Still Mothers': Gender, the State, and the Construction of Need in Postsocialist Hungary. In Michael Burawoy and Katherine Verdery, eds., *Uncertain Transition: Ethnographies of Change in the Postsocialist World*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 151–187. (HU)
- \* Mishtal, Joanna Z. (2009) Matters of 'Conscience': The Politics of Reproductive Healthcare in Poland. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, vol. 23, no. 2 (June 2009), 161–183. (PL)
- \* Parla, Ayse (2009) Remembering across the Border: Postsocialist Nostalgia among the Turkish Immigrants from Bulgaria. *American Ethnologist*, vol. 36, no. 4 (Nov. 2009), 750–767. (BG)
- \* Ilieva, Poly (2010) Bulgaria at the Cross-Roads of Post-Socialism and EU Membership: Generational Dimensions to European Integration. *JSAE*, vol. 10, no. 2 (Fall–Winter 2010), 18–28. (BG)

Readings marked with an asterisk (\*) may be chosen for class presentation (29 readings).