SOCIAL DYNAMICS
IN THE POST-COVID AGE

INEQUALITIES, INTEGRATION, MIGRATION IN REGIONAL, URBAN AND RURAL CONTEXT

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Abstracts

Session 1
Social inequality and integration

Marianna Mrva *(Institute for Sociology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences)*

What drives the compliance with anti-pandemic measures? The role of concerns regarding the pandemic, trust in the government and trust in science during three stages of the Covid-19 in Slovakia

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the willingness to adopt restrictive measures, such as mask wearing, or to respect the ban on mass events and the recommendation to limit social contacts to a minimum, has been crucial for the management of the pandemic. According to the empirical literature (see e.g. BARGAIN - AMINJONOV 2020; HAN ET AL. 2021; LALOT ET AL. 2022; WYNEN ET AL. 2022), concerns about the pandemic, trust in political institutions and trust in scientific institutions play a key role in compliance with restrictions. The aim of this paper is to examine, to what extent are these factors related to the willingness to comply with anti-epidemic measures in Slovakia? The data I rely on are based on three waves of the representative online survey called "How are you, Slovakia?", which were conducted at different stages of the pandemic, including the period when Slovakia was leading the charts of mortality on Covid-19 per 100 000 inhabitants, as well as the period, when the numbers of the infected were on minimum. The case of Slovakia is interesting for several reasons. One of them is that the first wave of the epidemic started right after the parliamentary elections, when the newly elected government enjoyed great popularity. However, after many controversial steps regarding the management of the

pandemic, the government's support gradually began to decline. The decline stopped only after the resignation of the Prime Minister Igor Matovič and the Minister of Health, Marek Krajčí. But the public discourse regarding the pandemic wasn't shaped only by politicians. The representatives of the relevant scientific fields, including epidemiologists, virologists, but also social scientists, were present in the media more than ever before. Because of that we hypothesize that the confidence in science could shape the willingness to comply with restrictions too. The results of our regression analysis show that compliance with the measures was most strongly related to the feeling of being threatened by the virus. However, also trust in the government and trust in scientific institutions were significant determinants of compliance with anti-pandemic measures in all three waves of research. These results suggest that maintaining and ideally strengthening trust in government and scientific institutions may be fundamental to managing the COVID-19 pandemic. BARGAIN, O. - AMINJONOV, U., 2020: Trust and compliance to public health policies in times of COVID-19. In: Journal of Public Economics 192, p. 104316. HAN, Q. - ZHENG, B. - CRISTEA, M. - AGOSTINI, M. - BELANGER, J.J. - GUTZKOW, B. - KREIENKAMP, J., 2021: Trust in government regarding COVID-19 and its associations with preventive health behaviour and prosocial behaviour during the pandemic: A cross-sectional and longitudinal study. In: Psychological Medicine 1-11. LALOT, F. - HEERING, M.S. - RULLO, M. - TRAVAGLINO, G.A. - ABRAMS, D., 2022: The dangers of distrustful complacency: Low concern and low political trust combine to undermine compliance with governmental restrictions in the emerging Covid-19 pandemic. In: Group Processes and Intergroup Relations 25, (1), p. 106–121. WYNEN, J. - OP DE BEECK, S. - VERHOEST, K. - GLAVINA, M. - SIX, F. - VAN DAMME, P. - BEUTELS, P. - HENDRICKX, G. - PEPERMANS, K., 2022: Taking a COVID-19 Vaccine or Not? Do Trust in Government and Trust in Experts Help us to Understand Vaccination Intention? In: Administration and Society February.

Csilla Zsigmond *(Institute for Minority Studies - Centre for Social Sciences)*

'Vaccine-hesistant' and anti-vaccine people – fault lines and challenges

In this presentation, I will try to capture the different types of 'vaccine-hesistant' and anti-vaccine people, and explore their motivations and reasoning in more depth, drawing on the results of a pilot qualitative study targeting the unvaccinated. The research was conducted at Institute of Minority Studies Centre of Social Sciences in November-December 2021, using focus group discussions and interviews to explore opinions and behavioural patterns related to vaccination. In addition to views and opinions on vaccination and the epidemic, the main themes were media use and information; subjective health status/health situation (self and family); personal experiences, trust in the health system (GP, health system, information); views on vaccination in the immediate environment (family, close friends) and in the wider community (distant friends, colleagues, colleagues, etc.). Previous quantitative research carried out internationally and in Hungary has identified a number of demographic

characteristics (e.g. age, gender, education, etc.), perceptions related to Covid (e.g. personal exposure, risk perception, etc.), and explicitly vaccine-related factors (e.g. trust in institutions, trust in government, confidence in vaccine, etc.) that influence vaccination willingness/hesitation. Our main objective is to identify the main characteristics of vaccination refusal and hesitancy, which could (in theory) help public policymakers (which groups to target with which types of messages, etc.). At the same time, it also provides a picture of opinions on pandemics, disease management and vaccination campaigns, which could also support the effectiveness of communication and vaccination uptake (more generally, not only in the context of Covid). Our results can reveal the underlying motivations and arguments - distrust (of state institutions, of science, of the health system, etc.), the question of social responsibility, the role of social relationships, etc. - that can bring us closer to understanding the phenomenon of anti-vaccination.

Eszter Vit *(Corvinus University of Budapest - Doctoral School of Sociology and Communication Science ;Centre for Social Sciences - CSS RECENS)*

The Ability of Low- and High-SES Schools to Inhibit Learning Losses during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Educational institutions, teachers, and students faced unprecedented educational conditions during the school closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The successful implementation of digital learning might show a great variation by schools' resources and their students' backgrounds. The study examined the effects of the pandemic-induced digital distance learning on the ability of educational units with various student body compositions to inhibit learning losses. The analysis was based on the school sites' data from the National Assessment of Basic Competencies in Hungary measuring students' basic competencies in mathematics and reading in the sixth, eighth, and tenth grades. School sites and the various education/track types they might offer for each participating school grade were included as separate educational units in the analysis. Random-intercept multinomial regression models were applied to those educational units to investigate whether they experienced an increased probability of learning losses in the 2019-2021 period affected by the COVID-19 pandemic compared to the 2017-2019 period and whether the probability of significant learning losses was related to their SES composition. The results indicated that, in general, the average test scores of educational units were more likely to decrease during the COVID-19-affected two-year period than before and the average reading scores were more likely to be impacted than mathematics scores. Educational units with less advantaged student SES composition were more susceptible to a decrease in their average test scores, although the pandemic did not seem to have an additional negative effect on the educational units with the most disadvantaged SES composition. Educational units were more likely to compensate for the learning losses of sixth-graders in the COVID-19-affected period compared to eighth-

graders, while educational units teaching students in the tenth grade were less likely to improve their average scores during the period affected by the pandemic in addition to the general negative tendencies for the 2019-2021 period. Overall, the results indicated that the pandemic-induced extraordinary teaching conditions were harmful to students' learning in general and increased the gap between more and less advantaged educational units.

Fruzsina Albert – Beáta Dávid *(Institute for Sociology - Centre for Social Sciences; Semmelweis University)*

Changes of core discussion networks (CDNs) during the COVID-19 pandemic

We will present the data from the two most recent national representative surveys (2018 and 2021) on CDNs. These two cross-sectional snapshots can be used to formulate some hypotheses concerning the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on relationships, as CDNs are mainly composed of strong ties (including those with close family and friends). However, as the data are not panel data, changes cannot be examined at the individual level. The steady decline in the average number of kin contacts since 1999 and the parallel steady increase in the average number of non-kin confidants have stopped and reversed since 2018 - suspected to be related to the COVID-19 epidemic. The average of kin relationships has returned to the level recorded in 2015, while the average for non-kin relationships falls between the 2011 and 2015 figures. The data also show a somewhat confirmed trend of increasing loneliness. The phenomenon of relationship polarisation also emerges, as there is also a significant increase in the proportion of respondents who name the maximum 5 confidants. The change in the composition of CDNs also points to the re-emergence of family relationships. The number of partners mentioned increased in all groups defined by education, age and gender, except for those with a vocational qualification. The frequency of mentioning children as confidants has also increased in all socio-demographic groups surveyed, except for young people (under 40), who are unlikely to have a large number of relatively older children who can be mentioned as confidants. The decline in friends among confidants is more pronounced among women, the low educated and the elderly.

Boglárka Herke *(Institute for Sociology – Centre for Social Sciences)*

Women's Rights and Children's Happiness: Attitudes towards Single-Parent Families in Europe

Single-parent households represent a quite significant share of European households with dependent children. Consequently, studies often investigate related policies, the employment and socioeconomic status of single parents, or the well-being of single parents

and their children. Attitudes towards single-parent families are a less often analysed topic, despite the role of these attitudes in single parents' and their children's well-being and social integration. The presentation provides an overview of attitudes towards single-parent families in 35 European countries based on data from the European Values Study (2008). It investigates single-parent families' acceptance from a multidimensional perspective by analysing two attitude questions that approach the topic from different perspectives. One of these asks 'If a woman wants to have a child as a single parent, but she doesn't want to have a stable relationship with a man, do you approve or disapprove?', while the other asks 'If someone says a child needs a home with both a father and a mother to grow up happily, would you tend to agree or disagree?' The presentation investigates the coherence of these two attitudes across Europe and their individual and contextual determinants. The results show that the attitudes are more conservative but internationally more varied when people are asked about the happiness of children in single-parent families, and more liberal and less diverse when people are asked about the acceptance of voluntary single motherhood. These two attitudes do not even necessarily go hand in hand. In some countries, the attitudes are quite liberal regarding women's right to voluntary single motherhood, while those are quite conservative regarding the perceived happiness of children in single-parent families. Moreover, different factors explain these attitudes. While both of these are connected to views on gender equality, it is a more dominant predictor regarding opinions on women's right to voluntary single motherhood. Meanwhile, children's perceived happiness is also related to the perceived financial conditions of these families. These inconsistent attitudes highlight the importance of how single parenthood is framed. The public acceptance of single-parent families could vary whether the public discourse focuses on the right of women to have children alone or the perceived happiness of children (or the lack of it) in single-parent families. These results also suggest that improved financial conditions of single parents could facilitate the acceptance of this family type.

Alexandra Sipos *(Institute for Sociology – Centre for Social Sciences)*

The state of emergency and that of LGBT+ rights in Hungary

On 11 March 2020, the Hungarian government declared a state of emergency as all over Europe, containment measures were introduced in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In Hungary, the restrictive nature of these measures differed depending on the severity of each wave of the pandemic. Nevertheless, some may be considered fundamental human rights restrictions, for example, the restriction of the right to protest peacefully (Kovács, 2021). As for the state of LGBT+ rights in Hungary during the declared state of emergency, several legislations have been passed. The most notable one is the ninth amendment of the Fundamental Law of Hungary, especially that of Article L paragraph (1): "The mother shall be a woman, the father shall be a man." The Venice Commission scrutinized the ninth amendment adopted in December 2020 and other legislative

procedures related but not limited to "marriage and family, including sexual orientation, gender identity and the raising of children" (Venice Commission, 2021). These include the ban on legal gender recognition and the ministerial decree on the adoption process prioritizing married couples and making it more difficult for single persons. The paper presents the legislative measures taken in Hungary following the declaration of the state of emergency and especially focuses on fundamental human rights and LGBT+ rights. It furthermore reflects on the deterioration of LGBT+ rights concerning gender recognition and kinship recognition.

Zoltan Grunhut[1] - Akos Bodor[1] - David Erat[2] - Mark Hegedus[2] (*[1]Centre for Economics and Regional Studies; [2]University of Pécs)*

The relationship between trust and trust functions via the example of European societies

The paper examines the links between trust and certain trust functions, namely tolerance and soli-darity, proposed as a research problem originally by Piotr Sztompka in his monograph more than 20 years ago. To put this topic back on the agenda of trust research is important insofar it can contrib-ute to the better understanding of the notion of 'trust towards unknown others'. Certain theorists, like Beck, Coleman, Fukuyama, Giddens, Seligman, and Uslaner, believe that individual agents emotionally-morally relate themselves to people as such, and this psychologically relevant subjective relatedness towards unknown others drive their ideational framings and praxes in particular situations. So, this relatedness is not only about other people's perceived trustworthiness. It has deeper and more multilayered roots in one's personality. It works like a trust-disposition affects one's trusting abilities in given interactions. The largely forgotten approach of Sztompka helps to grasp and empirically identify this notion. The Polish theorist's rereading of trust offers a conceptual framework that interlinks the intensional components (or latent contents) of trust with their extensional dimensions (trust functions). So, in his understanding trust is not only a generative source to tolerance and solidarity, but actually it is inherently embodied in the latter social phenomena. Without 'trust towards unknown others' there is no tolerance and solidarity. And vice versa, if the extensional dimensions of tolerance and solidarity are too weak or largely missing, then there are problems also with the intensional components of trust, i.e. it is not 'towards unknown others' without any kinds of distinctions. The current paper, on the one hand, describes this reading of the concept of trust, while on the other hand, it presents a comparative statistical analysis of European societies (based on ESS data) whether trust, tolerance and solidarity are really linked together as intensional and extensional components.

Betty Chiyangwa *(University of Johannesburg)*

Second Generation Mozambican Migrant Youth's Identity and Sense of Belonging: The Case of Hluvukani village in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga – South Africa

This is a work-in-progress project, exploring the complexities surrounding second-generation Mozambican migrant youth in an attempt to construct their identity and sense of belonging in post-apartheid South Africa. The paper has four objectives; i. how second-generation Mozambican migrant youth living in South Africa negotiate and construct their own identities, ii. exploration of second-generation Mozambican migrant youth narratives regarding their sense of belonging in South Africa, iii. to understand ways in which social processes of identity and belonging influence second-generation Mozambican migrant youth experiences and future aspirations in South Africa lastly, to iv. examine how Sen's Capability approach is relevant in understanding second-generation Mozambican migrant youth identity and belonging in South Africa. This is a single case study informed by data from semi-structured interviews and narratives with youth aged 18-34 born and raised in South Africa to at least one former Mozambican refugee parent in SA. Drawing from Crenshaw's Intersectionality and Sen's Capability approaches, this study contributes to the existing body of knowledge on South to South migration through demonstrating how both approaches is operationalized towards understanding complex experiences and capabilities of a disadvantaged group. The subject of second-generation migrants is often under-researched in South African migration thus, their perspectives have been marginalised in research.

Márta Kiss[1], Katalin Rácz[2] *([1]Corvinus University of Budapest, CIAS; Centre for Social Sciences, Child Opportunities Research Group; [2]Institute of Agricultural Economics)*

Social cooperatives as tools for labour market (re)integration of disadvantaged people? Goals, implementation and challenges

Our exploratory research, we examine the operation of disadvantaged social cooperatives (typically located in rural areas) in Hungary, which have mostly been established in the last six to eight years, and whose basic and most important goal is to provide employment to disadvantaged citizens and to integrate them into the labour market, while they are required to strengthen their competitiveness on the market, which is one of the goals set by the grant system currently funding their operation. While focusing on the past operation of these social cooperatives, which are young under international standards, our research finds answers to what social and economic goals they pursue during their operation, how these goals are implemented, and what special challenges they are faced with when pursuing their declared goals, fulfilling indicators undertaken in return for central subsidies, and meeting the social expectation of maintaining economical and sustainable operation. The research followed the five-year period of operation of social cooperatives in Hungary (2017-2021),

using an online questionnaire and empirical interview fieldwork on social cooperatives for work integration, as well as time series variables from central databases.

Éva Perpék *(Centre for Social Sciences - Child Opportunities Research Group)*

Child poverty and social exclusion in Hungary and Europe

In recent decades, complex, multidimensional and integrated approach to (child) poverty and social exclusion has become more and more accepted. According to the multidimensional (child) poverty concept (Carrano, Ferrone 2020), while measuring welfare, beyond basic needs (income, consumption, expenditure, material deprivation) human rights and capabilities must be taken into account, too (Santos-Pais 1999; Sen 2005, 2007; Sen 1985, 1999; Nussbaum 2011). Likewise, numerous international conventions also represent this spirit. Such are the Europe 2020: European strategy for smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth, and the Europe 2030: The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan of the European Commission, or the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. The present paper examines poverty and social exclusion across Europe from different angles. The analysis includes all sub-dimensions of the indicator, i.e. at risk of poverty, severe material deprivation, and very low work intensity. The interconnections of the three sub-dimensions are examined as well. The analysis pays particular attention to the situation of children and households with children. The empirical basis of the paper is European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). According to the latest data from 2020, at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate among children under the age of 18 was slightly higher compared to the EU average for the entire population. Similarly, those living in households with dependent children were more at risk than those living in households without children. Previous analyses have also shown that single-parent households, large families, and young people are strongly affected; furthermore, social transfers play a significant role in the prevention of financial poverty. The research was supported by the "Professional Support for Integrated Programs to Combat Child Poverty (EFOP 1.4.1 -15)" project.

Joseph Aigbolosimon Famous *(Doctoral School of Sociology, Eötvös Loránd University)*

A survey on public perception of youth homelessness in Nigeria

A SURVEY ON PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN NIGERIA Study conducts an online survey of public perception on youth homelessness (including street children and young rough sleepers) in Nigeria. The survey focuses on youth homelessness in Lagos and Maiduguri thereby targets respondents from those regions. The data was collected via google form online questionnaires and analysed using SPSS 28. The online questionnaire was

administered on Facebook group, WhatsApp groups and personal social media accounts of people who had experience with street children and young rough sleepers in Lagos and Maiduguri either as professionals working with homeless youths in those regions or as individual member of the public in any of those regions. The technic of the sampling involved searching for key groups on social media in either of the studied regions using keywords including 'humanitarian', homeless youths, almajiri, street children and children right among others. Questionnaires were also assigned to individual with relevant experience and profession in line with the study. The data collection embraces Snowball principles whereby respondents recommend further potential respondents. The questionnaires were completed by a total of 70 respondents including males and females mostly from Lagos and Maiduguri, Nigeria. The result shows that youths become homeless in Lagos mostly because of extreme poverty, inadequate affordable housing and socio-economic empowerments or supports for the youths. It also shows almajiri education system, extreme poverty, high birth-rate, and displacements as the main reasons for youth homelessness in Maiduguri. Studies indicates that government policies play inadequate role in addressing youth homelessness in Nigeria however, some faith-based NGOs, Foundations, philanthropists, victims' relatives, and victims themselves are the key initiators of the re-integration patterns in the society.

Dorottya Sik - Andrea Rácz *(Eötvös Loránd University)*

Challenges and good practices in the child care and child protection system during the pandemic: in the grip of invisibility and indifference

Since COVID-19 changed the world, in Hungary the child care and child protection system had to face with quarantine periods multiple times during the first, second and third waves. The shut-downs of the health care, education and special care system caused great difficulties in many parts of the child care and child protection system. In the basic- and the specialized services like family shelters and children's homes needed to adapt quickly to the special circumstances with limited public policy guidelines and contradictory professional protocols. The goal of the roads of parenting model program (Rubeus Egyesület 2020, 2021, 2022) was to improve new best practices in the child protection system. During the pandemic in the model programs the progress of adapting to the quarantine life and new forms of social work in child protection was documented. The goal of this presentation is to demonstrate the challenges and difficulties the professional social workers had to face during the different waves and quarantine periods of the pandemic. The results show that very difficult to build innovations into a system which set up for fire-fighting, suffer for structural problems (Rácz 2016; Rácz-Sik 2020; Kopasz-Husz 2020), even though the adaptive capacity of social work is ready for quick solutions in the short term. This is partly because it has considerable experience in crisis management and crisis care. The development of using digital tools in order to keep contact with the clients, the advantages and disadvantages of it and other forms of cooperation and the long effect of this progress will be presented. The

main aspects of this model programs, the challenges and best practises of this pandemic crisis will be presented, also emphasize of the current professional questions and ethical dilemmas. Keywords: child welfare and child protection system, COVID-19 first, second and third waves, best practices, ethical dilemmas, professional challenges in social work.

Gabriella Nemes-Zámbó[1] - Karolina Balogh[2] *([1]University of Debrecen; [2]Institute for Sociology – Centre for Social Sciences)*

How successful is the social integration of children leaving child protection provision

Children under child protection provision are a specific group in terms of social inequalities. Lack of family background not only means deprivation from family, but also the cumulative disadvantages that led to placement into child protection provision. Their family is replaced by an institutional system whose task is to ensure the child's development and prepare them for independent life. Our research entitled "How successful is the social integration of children leaving child protection provision?" examined the social integration of children and young people under child protection provision. The aim of the research is to explore the outcome possibilities of children under child protection provision (children's home, residential care, foster care) and young people in aftercare (over 18 years) in connection with different dimensions of their upbringing in the child protection system. Interviews were conducted in all three NUTS 1 regions of the country, which were justified by the different economic and social backgrounds. The research is based on an exploratory qualitative methodology with semi-structured expert interviews. Expert sampling was used to select professionals who work in the field of child protection provision and have relevant professional experience in the field of residential care or foster care. In addition, a heterogeneous sample in terms of both the type of care and the type of work was an important criterion in the selection of the subjects, and therefore interviews were conducted with a wide range of experts (e.g. foster parents, childcare workers, psychologists, etc.). The interviews focused on the factors influencing social integration, therefore the topics included the birth families of children, the reasons of entering child care provision, and the possibilities of leaving child care and starting an independent life. The analysis will examine whether there are spatial differences, either between the capital city and the countryside or between the eastern and western parts of the country.

Natalia Simonová *(Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences)*

Class inequalities in Visegrad countries and Austria: economic, cultural and social dimensions

This analysis focuses on evolution and comparison of the social stratification systems (in its vertical meaning) in 5 European countries: V4 and Austria. Using data from EU-SILC 2006 and 2015 named „Social/cultural participation and material deprivation" the authors will, besides the traditional variables used in social stratification research (level of education, type of occupation, number of employees etc.) take into account also cultural and social aspects of inequality. This new approach to analysing social structure and inequality has led to a revival of the sociology of social class (see Savage 2000; Bennet et al. 2010; Savage 2015 etc.). On difference from Great Britain, however, there is no such study analysing and comparing the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. This innovative 'cultural turn' in sociology, analysing also cultural dimensions of social inequalities, will be examined by latent class analysis. This method enables to prepare typology (society classes) based on set of indicators that are categorical. This technique is applied for this purpose in the last years. This technique also enables to compare social structure in different populations or in different time points by fixing parameters. We plan to make comparison in time (2006 and 2015) and across countries (V4 plus Austria).

Klára Nagy *(Solidarity Economy Center)*

Freedom within Frames. The perception of paradoxical freedom among workers in the food delivery sector in Budapest

The sudden boom of the food delivery platform companies partly stems from the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions in public spaces and human encounters. The COVID-19 pandemic profoundly shaped the social dynamics and inequalities of the world of labor. The paradox of criticizing and simultaneously embracing the food delivery sector as positive freedom is a central characteristic of the courier community in Hungary. My research carried out and defended in the framework of the CEU's Sociology and Social Anthropology MA program aims to answer this contradiction. By doing so, it explores not only how precarious working conditions emerge from the ethos of freedom and how the hegemonic discourse of labor market flexibilization supports this sense-making. I also ask how the cycling food delivery workers accept, normalize, and justify the precarious working conditions. To understand the food delivery workers' contradictory perceptions, I carried out participant observation by working as a bicycle courier in Budapest. Additionally, I conducted semi-structured interviews and discourse analysis of the couriers' closed Facebook groups. Food delivery work is part of the platform economy. The platform economy concept captures temporary, freelance, and flexible jobs organized via digital platforms. Hence the food

delivery workers, who deploy their labor power through platforms as individual entrepreneurs, generate little responsibility on the companies' part. Since the platform economy in Hungary is not regulated, the lack of labor protection policies attracts the major food delivery companies. The sense of freedom in bike delivery is a relational experience framed by local economic, social, and political powers. Since the couriers are promised to work under meritocratic and autonomously shapeable circumstances, food delivery companies accelerate the individualization of labor parallel to generating a sense of freedom. By approaching wage labor and reproductive labor in an entangled way, the research found that food delivery workers appreciate the flexible work schedule, which helps them organize their wage labor around their reproductive work, additional jobs, and leisure. The extent of overseeing their schedule depends on the workers' social and economic background and dependency on the platform. The ethos of entrepreneurship and bicycle subculture supports the workers to accept, justify, and normalize the precarious working conditions. Additionally, bike couriers compare their job to the other options in the Hungarian labor market, where delivery work appears to be relative freedom and less tangible exploitation.

Bálint Kronstein[1], Szabolcs Fabula[2], Judit Timár[1], Márton Berki[3]

([1]Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, ELKH – Eötvös Loránd Research Network; [2]Department of Economic and Social Geography, Faculty of Science and Informatics, University of Szeged; [3] Department of Social and Economic Geography, Faculty of Science, Eötvös Loránd University)

Exploring the nexus of uneven development and everyday life from a geographical perspective: a systematic literature review

Partly due to recent events, such as Covid19 pandemic, war in Ukraine, and rising inflation, inequalities are growing on a global scale, causing severe social conflicts. Therefore, cutting-edge approaches to theories that explain the emergence and persistence of these inequalities are becoming increasingly important. One such explanatory construct is the theory of uneven spatial development, which is in the focus of this presentation. The first main objective of this study is to better understand socio-spatial inequalities, by exploring the relationship between uneven development and oppressive social relations, such as class, disability, environmental injustice, ethnicity, and gender. The second objective is to further develop the theory of uneven development by interpreting the everyday spatial experiences of disadvantaged groups embedded in broader macro-level processes of uneven development. In particular, the following research questions are addressed. How are the theory of uneven development and the everyday spatial experiences of disadvantaged individuals and groups linked in the international literature? At what geographical scales and in what regions has the relationship between the theory of uneven development and the

everyday spatial experiences of disadvantaged individuals and groups been studied so far? Which social groups and oppressive relations are the focus of these studies? For data collection, a systematic review has been conducted on international academic literature, using the Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science databases to retrieve relevant papers. The articles included in the sample have been analysed using quantitative and qualitative techniques. The research results shed light on issues such as how scholars understand the concept of uneven development; which disadvantaged groups or oppressive relationships are involved in these studies; in general, what is the geographical scale of these studies; which geographical locations are covered in them . The presentation is based on the first results of the 'Marginalised Space Experience in the Context of Uneven Geographical Development' research project (No. 138713), which has been implemented with the support provided by the Ministry of Innovation and Technology of Hungary from the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund, financed under the K_21 funding scheme.

Borbála Bányai[1] – Lucia Csabai[1] – Zsuzsa Kondor[1] - Nóra Menich[2] – Katalin Tausz[3]

([1]Bárczi Gusztáv Faculty of Special Needs Education-Eötvös Loránd University; [2]Centre for Social Sciences - Child Opportunities Research Group; [3]Faculty of Social Sciences-Eötvös Lóránd University)

Inequalities in access to social support for people with disabilities in times of the COVID-19 pandemic – findings from a systematic review

The COVID-19 pandemic has influenced every level and group of society, including children and adults with disabilities, their families, local communities, social, health, educational services, etc. Every actor faced severe challenges and was urged to find new resources, coping mechanisms, and tools. While most research focuses on the epidemiological and economic aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the C19 research group (ELTE BGGYK, funded by the MTA POST-COVID Research Fund) intends to implement an intersectoral approach and address novel solutions emerging from the institutional, community, and interpersonal support networks of people with disabilities. The C19 research group examines the ecosystem of formal and informal services as a complex: (1) the accessibility of both public and specialized services and how they have promoted active community and social participation of people with disabilities; (2) innovative solutions and cooperation emerging between persons with disabilities and their families, local communities, and service systems during the pandemic. The presentation will outline the main trends emerging from a literature review. We conclude the first results of a systematic literature review aiming to investigate what kind of – formal and informal – social support people with disabilities and their families had during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. We searched two databases (Web of Science and Scopus) following the steps of the PRISMA method. We narrowed the research to peer-reviewed academic articles published between March 2020 and April 2022,

focusing on European states. People with disabilities are a vulnerable social group hit by several forms of intersectional inequalities, whose needs are often overlooked. In times of a global pandemic, the general difficulties experienced by the public can be more severe in their case. As the first findings show, both persons with disabilities and their caregivers face challenges regarding the accessibility of services and social participation, increased stress and anxiety, and adverse effects of social distancing and lockdowns. In our presentation, on the one hand, we highlight social inequalities the community of people with disabilities faces in times of a global pandemic in Europe; on the other hand, we wish to introduce different forms of community-level and social integration through formal and informal social support.

Eddy Bruno Eisen *(Charles University in Prague)*

Norms, Beliefs and Values in Social Integration Policy Process for Migrants Sustainable Integration and Equitable Development in post-COVID Age.

As the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has destroyed economic security and increased social disorder (e.g., inequalities) coupled with continuous international mobility in advanced democracies, policymakers have become under intense pressure with an occasioned crisis requiring a response to accomplish social integration. Several studies have revealed social integration as the process that promotes values, relations, and institutions, in which all people participate in social, economic, and political life based on the equality of rights and opportunity, social justice, dignity, and to make societies more equitable but the process also embody values and institutions that perpetuate unequal relations for the disadvantaged to access mainstream society. Investigating norms, beliefs, and values in the realm of integration-related policy processes under social integration to shape (African) migrant sustainable integration and equitable development in the post-Covid age is critical to understanding and interpreting the specific social norms, beliefs, and values that govern and administer inclusion in this research. Drawing on a document and scholastic text in Austria, Finland, Czechia, and Hungary. I analysed data collection from legislative Acts, official policy documents, and scholarly texts. Afterwards, I shall prepare a presentation about norms, beliefs, and values in the realms of integration-related policy processes under the social integration model to shape (African) migrant's sustainable integration and equitable development in the post-Covid age. I will briefly outline the process of document and content analysis I developed. Then, I will summarise and distinguish regulative norms for appropriate behaviour, political belief system, and social value regulative strategic tool that influences and target the selective entities' social cohesion governance to shape (African) migrant individual social integration process for sustainable and equitable development in Austria, Finland, Czech Republic, and Hungary post-Covid age. The outcome pointed to a move toward universal diversity management based on policy implementation effectiveness in neoliberal institutional and organisational agenda setting. It is relevant because the

neoliberal social and cultural diversity policy approach effectively playdown difference and emphasizes universal rights and individual responsibilities as a condition for inclusion, antagonism avoidance, the play down of marginalised group resistance, social and economic disparities adjustment, and morality in neoliberal democratic societies. Notwithstanding, it fails to acknowledge individual's lack of control over structural factors that may undermine immigrant and vulnerable people's social integration process beyond individual control and penalized belongings with solidarity, social cohesion, democratic values, and a just, fair, sustainable and equitable development society in times of complex post-COVID-19 pandemic crisis-related resilience-building community.

Jekatyerina Dunajeva *(Institute for Political Science - Centre for Social Sciences)*

University mentorship programs during and after the pandemic: Case study of educational inequalities faced by Hungarian Roma university students

To mitigate inequalities, promote integration and improve the chances of Roma students to suceed in higher education, several initiatives and institutions have been established in the recent decades across Europe. In Hungary, the most notable example is the so-called Roma szakkollégium network. This network, also referred to as Roma Student College, Roma Special College or Roma College of Advanced Studies, consists of various institutions around the country whose goal is to help Roma in higher education. In the spring of 2020, when educational institutions shut their doors across Europe due to Covid-19 pandemic, the most marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as the Roma, were hit the hardest. This study inquiries into how informal educational institutions, such as the Roma szakkollégium network, were able to adapt to the challenges associated with the pandemic, mobilize their resources and meet the needs of Roma university students, recognizing that Covid-19 amplified inequalities faced by Roma and other vulnerable students. The aim of this study is to examine how Roma student colleges and mentorship programs 1) were able to identify the specific needs of Roma university students during online education; 2) how they managed to adapt their strategies of mitigating inequalities; 3) importance and implications of Roma colleges for educational inequalities in the post-Covid era. To that end, the study first provides a short overview of Roma Student Colleges and mentorship programs in Hungary, and then presents findings generated from series of interviews with directors, managers and program organizers of Roma Colleges. This article is based on the research carried out under ERASMUS+ project "Navigating social worlds: toolbox for social inquiry" (2020-1-PL01-KA226-HE-096356). This study highlights the forms of support – academic, mentorship, psychological and other – that such institutions were able to provide, and how their role will remain critical in promoting educational equality in the post-pandemic era.

Sylwia Michalska *(Institute of Rural and Agriculture Development Polish Academy of Sciences)*

Social inequality in access to health care at the end of life – example of rural communes in Eastern Poland

Poland, especially pepherical rural areas of eastern Poland, are one of the most rapidly ageing regions in UE. Migrations of young people and ageing of population leads to vanishing services, like public transport, medical care, cultural life etc. We also observe important change in rural population social structure, which is created by three processes: depeasantisation, proletarianisation and gentrification. With decreasing number of farmers, traditional model of peasant family, multigenerational, where each member of family was playing a role and has its place is changing. We observe raising number of elderly, often lonely people, living in rural areas, which are deprived good services, medical and social care. Existing health and care system, addressed to elderly and chronically ill people is not working in rural areas, where density of population and mobility are lower and costs of care is so high, that there are often no operators to provide it. Even this situation is against the rights, described in polish Constitution the crisis of polish health system and dispersion of responsibility between many institutions is causing a serious danger to chronically ill or dependent people in rural areas. It was especially visible during Covid-19 first year, when online registration and phone consultations made contact with health and social care very difficult to older citizens. In the presentation I would like to describe the social innovation, implemented thanks to the European Program for Employment and Social Innovation ("EaSI") 2014-2020. based on home hospice, managed by NGO in 5 rural communes which provide medical and social care to elderly people in the countryside, reducing consequences of social inequalities and animating local community. This innovation proposes a new approach to the long-term care for terminally ill, old and dependent people, as well as the support for their caregivers, most often family members. The innovation is about creating a network of resources in rural areas that would help on many levels – from neighborhood help and informal groups to public sector organizations and NGOs. A key element of this innovation is the creation of a new position called Dependent Care Coordinator, which acts as a link between the patients' needs and the network activities. The mechanism operating in this way will satisfy the real health needs and will give the possibility of a flexible adaptation of care to the needs of patients.

Rafiazka Hilman *(Central European University)*

COVID Induces Inequality in Mobility Response Across Socioeconomic Classes

COVID outbreak emerges as an external shock that alters typical mobility configuration. Commencing from outside the system, its catastrophic impact may perpetuate individual

mobility that is already constrained by socioeconomic stratification. Existing literatures suggest that higher income is associated with larger mobility reduction, while mobility inflexibility and less social distancing are observable among low-income, raising disparity in mobility. Moreover, individual adaptation in response to the pandemic depends on the strength of the NPIs policies and the local severity, resulting in gradual recovery in visit patterns but remaining low person-to-person contacts. We aim to study the variability of how adjustment in mobility is made by individual and whether the response level to deal with the changing condition is dictated by their socioeconomic status. Mobility data is retrieved from CUEBIQ dataset, covering temporal transitions during pandemics namely Before Lockdown (BL), Lockdown (L), and Reopening (R). Bogota retains longest temporal observation until May 2021 with 55K people/25 million trajectories, followed by London (February 2021) comprising 200K people/115 million trajectories, Jakarta (December 2020) constituting 65K/26 million trajectories, and New York (July 2020) with 277K/30 million trajectories. We rely on income data from Central Bureau of Statistics at census tract (or unit of comparable size) to determine socioeconomic status of both people (based on home inference) and places. We refer to the stringency index on Oxford Covid-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT) dataset to identify the responsiveness of behavioral change by SES classes. The structure of empirical socioeconomic stratification in each city is visualized in a matrix form called Mobility Stratification Matrix $M_{i,j}$, composing visit probabilities of individuals in each class i to places located in various classes j. The difference in stratified mobility patterns between two consecutive periods (i.e. the difference of the corresponding $M_{i,j}$ matrices) is captured by Mobility Adjustment Matrix $S_{i,j}$ in the case of London. Green shades indicate more visits made in the first period, white blocks constitute equal visits, otherwise brown blocks appear. These results show that the first lockdown induced considerable increase in mobility segregation, but the attempt to loosening mobility restriction (BL-R) did not necessarily diminish isolation within own neighborhood (as previously induced by lockdown), indicating that recovery is not fully made.

Vyacheslav Bobkov - Elena Odintsova *(Scientific Center of Labour Economics at Plekhanov Russian University of Economics)*

Generational Differentiation of the Impact of Professional Skills in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies on Income from Employment

The report presents the results of a research aimed at identifying the level of proficiency in the use of ICT tools (ICT skill levels) among employed and unemployed and their generational groups (youth, middle and older generation) in Russia, as well as identifying the quality of employment and income depending on the level of ICT skills of employed and their generational groups. The author's classification of the ICT skills levels is presented and, on its basis, a quantitative identification of the ICT skills levels among the employed and unemployed is carried out. It was found that among the employed in Russia, 40.5% have the

ICT skills required for work, including 1.8% are distinguished by the presence of specialized skills corresponding to the third (highest) level, the remaining 59.5% have basic ICT skills. Among the unemployed, compared to the employed, the share of those with only basic ICT skills not related to professional activity (75.1%) is significantly higher, while the share of those with the third (highest) (0.9%) and second (24.0%) the level of ICT skills, on the contrary, is lower relative to the employed. Generational differences in the levels of ICT skills among employed and unemployed were revealed. Among the youth, the proportion of those who possess the highest ICT skills and have realized their labor potential is higher than for the employed as a whole and their other generational groups. Estimates of the distribution of employed and their generational groups according to the level of income from the main employment, determined on the basis of original system of social standards, depending on the level of ICT skills, are obtained. As a result of the research, it was revealed that a higher level of ICT skills increases the chances of realizing the existing labour potential. Meanwhile, as higher the level of ICT skills, the greater chances of "converting" them into higher incomes due to employment. It is shown that implementation of labour potential in the labour market with a higher level of ICT skills determines lower risks of reducing the quality of employment, and also increases the chances for employed people to ensure higher standards of material prosperity in their households.

Session 2
The role of elites in social integration

Katalin Füzér *(University of Pécs)*

Global social capitalist elites

The paper draws on an investigation of global social capital inequalities (Füzér et al 2020) and focuses on global elites, groups richest in bridging and linkink social capitals. The profile of these elite groups is strongly defined by class, providing grounds for interpreting their position as one of hegemony in a global comparative perspective.

Inequalities in social capital are accepted today as important aspects of social and economic prosperity. This analysis utilizes global comparative data from the International Social Survey Program and finds substantial variation in the three types of social capital across social classes, in a cross-country perspective as well as among two types of societies, 10 high-trust and 13 low-trust societies. Social capitals show significant correlation with economic and social prosperity outcomes as well. The authors find that in more prosperous countries there is an abundance of bridging and linking social capital, whereas people in economically and socially less prosperous societies rely more on bonding social capital. The authors also

present evidence on the class-related inequalities of social capitals: More advantageous class positions are associated with higher levels of bridging and linking social capital, whereas the lower classes hold higher levels of bonding social capital. Based on a multilevel analysis that brings together all of these aspects as well as a number of individual-level predictors, they conclude that their initial findings are reinforced with only minor exceptions.

István Benedek *(Institute for Political Science - Centre for Social Sciences)*

Populist polarization in Hungary during COVID-19 pandemic

The main questions of the lecture are how can we interpret the modus operandi of the Orbán regime established after 2010 and how the time period 2010–2022 can be structured? Brought the years of the pandemic any fundamental change in this respect? In order to answer these questions, I would like firstly present the theory populist electoral autocracy (PEA), then illustrate it with a concrete empirical case, namely the responses of Orbán-regime to the COVID-19 pandemic. In doing so, I first deal with the conceptualization of democracy and autocracy, developing a simple regime typology, then I extend the regime-level perspective with the phenomenon of polarizing populism, focusing on the relationship between populism and autocratization and examining the symbiosis between populism and electoral autocracies from a regime stability perspective, and outline the PEA model. In my opinion, populist polarization, which can be seen as an interrelated and parallel phenomenon of autocratization in Hungary became pervasive in the mid-2000s in the form of extreme polarization around the figures of Viktor Orbán and Ferenc Gyurcsány. In those years, Orbán's populism was the catalyst for the crisis of post-1989 liberal democracy and the fragile elite consensus protected by the 'soft guardrails' of mutual tolerance and institutional forbearance (self-restraint) (Levitsky-Ziblatt, 2018), on one hand, and the greatest beneficiary of these crisis, on the other hand. After coming to power, Orbán used populism with the help of state's resources as a quasi-democratic software and form of justification to dismantle liberal democracy and ensure the autocratic transition. During the establishment of electoral autocracy in 2014–2018, especially after the 2015 refugee crisis, the previously domestic-focused enemy images of populist discourse became internationalised, which helped to preserve the (now globalised) anti-establishment populist logic as incumbent. Since then, populism has functioned as an important tool of regime stability by creating and maintaining favourable political cleavages and identities with blind faith in the populist leader. After coming to power, the new political elite of the Orbán regime replaced the previous dominant liberal-technocratic consensus with a consensus on autocratization, accompanied by further intensification of populist polarization. The latter not only continued to remove significant areas from the scope of citizen control (like the liberal-technocratic politics between 1989 and 2010), but also sought to make the government and the emerging populist electoral autocratic regime de facto unaccountable and non-removable. The polarizing nature of populism's homophily-generating tribalism is

key to the disintegration of a shared perception of a common reality. Continuous electoral victories in manipulated circumstances and an effective use of populism provide the Orbán regime not only with quasi-democratic legitimacy, but also with renewed access to resources and thus with durable survival. In the last section of my lecture, I will present some empirical illustrations with the conclusion that although the corona virus crisis has created and continues to create major challenges for Orbán regime, it has successfully endogenised this crisis, and the original polarizing populist electoral authoritarian logic has remained intact during the pandemic.

Kristóf Nagy *(PhD Candidate, Central European University, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology)*

New Elite for a New Regime?

Despite the clearly stated ambition (Kucsera 2021), the Orbán-regime's attempt to build a new cultural elite is not as inquired as its endeavor to create a national capitalist class. This paper aims to bridge this gap by examining how the Hungarian Academy of Arts, the regime's cultural flagship institution manages the conflicts arising from the making of a new, simultaneously politicized, and meritocratic elite. My analysis aspires to contribute to the broader debates on the nature of the rising authoritarian orders (Gagyi - Slačálek 2020, Scheiring 2020, Trencsényi - Kovács 2019). For this purpose, I argue that the formation of new and renewed cultural elites should be scrutinized by embedding them into the regimes' political-economical dependencies and strategies. This paper relies on my one-and-a-half-year-long ethnographic fieldwork at the Hungarian Academy of Arts, conducted in the framework of my PhD project at the CEU. By entangling the takeaways of the macro-analysis of political economy with an ethnographic sensibility to the everyday forms of state and regime formation, I offer an understanding of the cultural elite's contradictory integration into the Orbán regime. By utilizing the concept of hegemony, I approach both the regime and its cultural outlets as power structures under making that is that by day actively shaped by structural forces and actors navigating among them. The placement of the lavishly subsidized Academy – fueled by a meritocratic creed and uniting the elite of right-wing cultural producers – into the focal point offers an angle to analyze the elites' role in social integration. While the structural conditions that force intellectuals to ally with regimes (Szelényi – Konrád 1979, Gramsci 2000) and the role of prestige in forming cultural elites (Kristóf 2015) are well-researched, I will focus on the internal dynamics of the intellectuals' hierarchical and conflictual integration into the Orbán-regime. In my presentation, I will show that while the re-integration of the cultural elite aims to produce a consensual sphere, it also creates conflicts in and around it. Through analyzing the Hungarian Academy of Arts' case, I will define three forms of hierarchical conflict zones created by the rising cultural elite of the regime: 1. I will show the external conflicts with cultural producers integrated into the formerly dominant liberal hegemony and its internal counterparts arising within the

institution because of the cooptation of its former opponents. 2. I show the inner conflicts arising from the meritocratic organization of the Academy that provides a generous annuity to its members while their non-academician rank-and-file colleagues should navigate among precarious conditions even if they sympathize with the regime. 3. I will demonstrate how conflicts arise from the paradox in which Academicians define themselves as the bearers of universal artistic values while their political allies approach them as the vehicle of a hegemonic project. By focusing on these types of frictions, I will demonstrate that the regime's ambition of creating a new cultural elite and its conflicts are embedded in the material conditions. Therefore, I will suggest a relational approach in which the inquiry of its elites and the political-economic analysis should mutually inform each other.

Ágnes Eitler *(Institute of Ethnography, Eötvös Loránd University; Institute of Ethnology, Research Centre for the Humanities Eötvös Loránd Research Network)*

Patterns of past, ties of trust in the present. Local elite and organizing locality in the Niraj Valley (Romania)

This study aims to present the outcomes of an ethnographic research conducted in a Transylvanian rural area, the Niraj Valley in summer 2020, 2021 and 2022. The research primarily intended to identify local actors who can be "addressed" concerning community issues and are mostly active at community events in a village with nearly 750 - mostly Hungarian in small proportion Roma - inhabitants. Investigating their biographies (family and social backgrounds, professional life-history etc.) and their embeddedness in local society has outlined a relatively small group of people who is simultaneously responsible for gaining extra-local financial sources and for organizing locality in its various aspects. This operation of "elite" functions and activities is strongly connected with the local church, more precisely with the local pastor who is regarded the "engine" of local initiations. As sociologist (e.g. Dénes Kiss) have revealed, religion as a subsystem was able to fill the gaps in different spheres of life where participation of the state decreased because of the general regression that accompanied the collapse of the communist regime in Romania. Ethnographers studied particular cases at the local level, analysed the possible realizations of this process and even warned about some drawbacks, as did István Kinda who highlighted its negative effects on the moral conditions and social relations of the communities. Nonetheless, this presentation follows the own trajectory of a local society. The system presented here emerged as a response to the numerous challenges caused by the political transformation after 1990, and still forms the basis of social integration. Focusing on the points of view and experiences of local actors, this analysis explains the factors that consolidate the primacy of the pastor and his circle as protagonists of the economic, social, and even cultural reproduction of a particular rural place. Personal narratives and opinions illustrate, what trust – as the main cohesive and operating force of the system – is built on and how it maintains roles within the local society.

Luca Kristóf *(Institute for Sociology – Centre for Social Sciences)*

A country too small for big science? - The transformation of the Hungarian scientific field

In my presentation, I will examine the discourses surrounding the transformation of the Hungarian scientific institutional system in the 2010s, identifying the arguments and narratives of the most important actors. The scientific field, although operating according to its own internal norms, is not independent of its social environment. Its relationship with the field of power is one of the most important determinants of the autonomy of the field (Bourdieu, 1983). In the case of political intervention, the logic of the political field can influence the achievement of structural positions, and thus easily erode the functioning of the internal norms of the field. The post-2010 authoritarian political turn in Hungary (Bozóki & Hegedűs, 2018; Kornai, 2015) has had its consequences for public policies. My previous research has shown that the cultural sphere has witnessed (1) an increasing culture war (2) political patronage and elite exchange (3) an increasing instrumentalisation of cultural policy (Kristóf 2017, 2018, 2021). In the second half of the 2010s, the scientific field was also affected by the political elite's desire to change existing cultural structures and redistribute resources. The government created a parallel network of research institutes in the humanities and, to a lesser extent, in the social sciences (VERITAS, RETÖRKI, MKI, KINCS, etc.), brought the funding of basic research and the network of research institutes of the MTA under government control, and forced Central European University to leave the country. A „model change" of higher education is currently underway, with the appointment of non-recallable political elites to university boards. Much of the elite replacement is justified by the instrumental narrative of the government, while a smaller part is justified by an ideological (anti-liberal) narrative. As a consequence, I hypothesise that the autonomy of the academic field is weakened. In my presentation, I would like to examine two attempts of institutional restructuring as a case study: the 2017 "Lex CEU" and the 2018 "Lex MTA". My research questions are: What were the most important narratives and argumentations in the context of the transformation of the academic institutional system? Is political instrumentalisation (arguing for economic or political utility) observable? What ideological frames are used by the actors in the discourse (culture war, anti-liberal arguments versus academic freedom)? A qualitative content analysis of the public discourse reveals that in both cases, instrumental and ideological arguments were used by both those in favour of and those against the governmental public policy measure. However, while in the case of the CEU there was a clear distinction between legal/administrative and ideological arguments, and instrumental motives were only marginally present, in the case of the MTA, there was a strong instrumental argumentation, both from political and academic actors, alongside the political/ideological discourse that was also clearly visible here. In the case of CEU, although clearly motivated by political intentions, governmental actors have always insisted on the legal argument. In the case of the MTA, however, the justification for a specific public policy measure was (also) embedded in a broader science policy discourse on the place and social

utility of different scientific disciplines. This argument, however, as I will show in my presentation, proved to be highly diffuse and contradictory, which contributed to the protracted conflict in the scientific field.

Session 3
Impacts of COVID-19 on migration issues in Europe

Igor Shichkin *(Scientific Center of Labour Economics, Basic Department under Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation «Human Resource Management» at Plekhanov Russian University of Economics)*

Labor Migration in Russia: Impacts of the COVID-19 Crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the global labor market, significantly reducing the dynamics of migration processes. In fact, Russia is the largest immigration country in the world along with United States, Germany and Saudi Arabia. In 2020, about 11 million foreign citizens and stateless persons were resided in Russia (7.5% of the total population). In 2020–2022 the pandemic crisis led to border closure and implementation of restrictive measures in Russia, all of which contributed to decrease or loss in migrants' wages, incomes and remittances, due to the loss of paid employment and closure of their private business, non-payment of wages, and worsening working and living conditions. Most despaired immigrants had to return to their countries of origin. The number of patents and work permits issued to foreign citizens decreased from 1.9 in 2019 up to 1.2 million in 2020. Thus, due to COVID-19 pandemic there has been a sharp reduction of immigration to Russia. Taking into account that work in Russia is the only one income of immigrant's households, there are many families were left without a livelihood and survived on personal subsidiary farms or increasing debt burdens. Some immigrants work in sectors mainly affected by the COVID-19 crisis (homework and hospitality), or are associated with increased health risks in connection with provision of services to population (health, education and social support). Migrant workers in healthcare and social services (mostly women) put their own health at real risk daily, since this area is most likely to contract the virus. Coronavirus infection in this category of workers makes it difficult for them to subsequently access medical care. For workers in the informal economy who are initially excluded from social security system, the pandemic crisis has intensified the struggle to secure a livelihood. Their illegal status, as well as discrimination and stigmatization, also hinder access to COVID-19 responses. These issues have highlighted the need to expand comprehensive social protection for migrant workers,

regardless of their status, especially during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. To this end, various short-term measures to support vulnerable groups of the population, including labor migrants, should be implemented. In 2021–2022, there is, an increase immigration to Russia, including the share of foreign citizens who entered the first migration registration for work. This is related with weakening of pandemic impact on national labor market which returned to pre-crisis indicators. The resumption of a large-scale influx of labor migrants into Russia requires selective state policy regarding the entry of foreign workers into national labor market.

Ralitsa Savova *(University of Pécs)*

Labor migration in the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic - opportunities and challenges

In the spring and summer of 2020, during the pandemic, and especially during the lockdown, anti-pandemic measures were imposed that limited people's personal and professional spheres. The possibilities of live contact with loved ones, relatives and friends were replaced by contact in online communication. Free time was spent not in cultural activities, but in front of the computer monitor. Travel abroad was almost impossible, and on the territory of the states limited. Even in some countries such as Bulgaria, in March 2020 checkpoints were built at the entrances and exits of regional cities, through which one passed after proving the urgency of the trip, and the mechanism by which the trips had to be certified was quite cumbersome. This situation limited the mobility of citizens, their opportunities to move and to work from one city to another on the territory of the country. Each Bulgarian citizen who had to enter or leave a regional city submitted a completed declaration to the authorities at each crossing point, and each employee and worker living in one regional city but working in another, for example, needed four copies declarations daily. Not only movement within but also movement between countries was restricted, as a result of which labor mobility within the EU was not guaranteed, which reflected on both employees and employers. Furthermore, when labor mobility within the EU was possible, there were many cases where, due to poor working conditions provided by employers, workers, especially seasonal workers, fell victim to the pandemic. These challenges increasingly require the provision of equal working conditions and equal pay between posted and local workers, employment contracts, housing rights, social security and above all health insurance for labor migrants working outside their homeland. Therefore, to the EU's highly beneficial asylum and migration policies, the main pillars of which are: reducing the incentives for illegal migration by tackling its root causes, improving the return process and breaking down smuggling and people-trafficking networks; saving human life and ensuring the security of external borders; providing more legal pathways for asylum seekers and more effective legal channels for legal migrants, greater emphasis should also be placed on policies to ensure labor migration

during a pandemic and ensure good working conditions, including medical care for the sick from COVID-19 seasonal workers.

Petra Péterfi – Bence Kucsera – András Torda *(Research Institute for National Strategy)*

"The [...] is always greener on the other side?" Trust, satisfaction and happiness in the Covid-19 period along and beyond borders in 5 CEE countries

Research on trust within and between different social groups, and on the happiness and satisfaction of individuals within a group is an integral part of the sociological and social science discourse. However, such researches rarely bring Hungarian and cross-border societies into the same focus, and even less so the differences along the border and non-border dichotomies. What is more, no such study has thus far been carried out regarding the relationship between the Covid-19 epidemic and individuals' feelings of confidence, happiness and satisfaction. With our descriptive research question, we seek to answer how the Covid-19 epidemic has affected social trust, happiness and satisfaction in the Central and Eastern European region. Due to the incertainties and overall fear, as well as the restrictions during the Covid-19 epidemic, peoples' lives were affected either temporarily or in a longer term. The epidemic had a significant effect on health care and on economic or social systems as well. Because of the actions carried out in order to forestall the epidemic (curfew, quarantine, visiting restrictions, distance education, home office), peoples' mental and physical health deteriorated, their social connections weakened, and with that their overall anxiety, loneliness and distress grew stronger. These all had an effect on peoples' happiness and overall satisfaction. Our study covers Hungary, Serbia, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine. The empirical basis of the research was a larger sample (involving more than 5000 people) of questionnaire data regarding several aspects of these regions' societies. Since our data collection was carried out in the first part of 2021, in order to compare our results with the data before the epidemic, we used the results of the European Social Survey (2018). Our results show that Covid-19 has had an impact on trust within and between societies, but while the direction of change is not clear for trust, there has been a typically negative shift concerning happiness and satisfaction; regardless of national boundaries.

Dóra Boelens *(Eötvös Loránd University)*

Broken Bridges – Changes in acculturation strategies of internatnal students and highly educated immigrants living in Hungary during the pandemic

This presentation focuses on the changes of acculturation strategies of international students and highly educated, working immigrants (N=30) during the pandemic. The acculturation strategies (Berry, 1997; Örkény-Székelyi, 2010; Csepeli-Örkény, 2017; Nguyen Luu, 2019) are defined by the network composition (Brandes et. al., 2008, 2010) and cultural adaptation (Berry, 1997; Csepeli-Örkény, 2017). Brandes et. al. (2008) separates four types of relationships (host, origin, fellow, transnationals) in immigrant networks based on their place of residence and cultural background, considering Berry's (1997) proposal of acculturation strategies. While the host relationships support the integrating and assimilating acculturation strategies, even though the fellow (migrants from the same origin) and transnational (migrants from third country) relationships can play an important role in providing help to cope with the acculturation stress (Berry – Sam, 2006), their dominance in the network also support the separating acculturation strategy. The dominance of the relationships who live outside of the host country (origin or international), however, can lead to marginalization and isolation. The analysis is longitudinal; data has been collected twice with a 1-year interval with mixed methods. The first time the interviews took place personally in Budapest, just before the first coronavirus case was registered in Hungary. One year later the same respondents have been interviewed again during the curfew, online. Results show that the respondents had mentioned in both years' numerous relationships (on average 19,6 and 19,1 alters) in their supportive network and the network size showed only a small decrease in the year of the pandemic: the average number of emotionally very close relationships did not change (10 and 10,3), the loss of alters was between the weaker, emotionally somewhat close (Wellman, 1979) relationships (9,6 and 8,7). Results of the network composition show, that the studied egocentric networks contained both year high rate (40% and 41%) of transnational relationships. The rate of the integrating host relationships decreased (from 22% to 17%) between the data collections, and in the same time the rate of relationships with the same etnocultural background (origin and fellow) increased (from 38% to 42%). By two-third of the respondents the indicators of the integrational processes showed a weakening tendency in their acculturation strategies and network composition, while the indicators of segregation and transmigrational orientation strengthened.

Keywords: acculturation, migration, egocentric networks, supportive network, qualitative research

Mariann Dömös *(University of Pécs)*

The Italian pandemic situation and its impacts on immigrant communities. Programs of Italian NGOs in the shadow of Covid-19

The emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic has initially hibernated the globalization and its fundamental phenomena such as migration. The epidemic that broke out in 2020 affected all aspects of the global political, economic and social systems and particularly concerned the vulnerable groups such as the immigrant communities. It influenced mobility, basic rights and living conditions of migrants, highlighted and reinforced structural inequalities and pre-existing vulnerabilities. The epidemic pointed out the importance of migrants at the international level (for example, in agriculture, healthcare or the logistics sector), but at the same time emphasized the fragility of interdependencies and the vulnerability of certain groups. Due to its historical and geopolitical location, Italy is a country which is strongly exposed to the migration pressure, and which has also been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic since February 2020. Although the migration flow to Europe initially decreased, the epidemic did not solve it, rather it only covered up the problems of previous years. The scene of the Italian NGOs - fed by many elements of the Italian political culture – has created varied initiatives to handle the problem of the immigration and the lacks of the state's migration policy. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, these organizations had to face new challenges, for example, among non-Italian citizens cases were diagnosed two to four weeks later on average, accessible of the health care was more difficult and, as a result, mortality was increasing, and in certain sectors of the economy has further increased and deepened the already existing inequalities. The presentation tries to overview the impacts of the pandemic on Italian immigrant communities through the lens of Italian NGOs. A very important goal of the author is to show and demonstrate the role of civic organizations in the Italian migration issue. In the presentation I would like to introduce some special initiatives such as the 'centro sociale' and the 'ecclesiastic-based' civic organizations and emphasize the unique world of these initiatives. The lecture analyses and tries to arrange them while presents their different types of services and its importance along with the integration and shows the new challenges and changes caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The research of the Italian civic initiatives is based on almost three years of empirical researches (such as interviews, field research), which was also the starting point of this special topic.

Attila Papp Z., Eszter Kovács, András Kováts *(Institute for Minority Studies - Centre for Social Sciences)*

COVID-19 and Hungarian migrants

The paper discusses the preliminary results of an online survey launched in August 2022. The survey is part of a sequel of online surveys targeting Hungarian migrants worldwide. The most recent survey reached 5000+ respondents. In addition to the questions concerning the migratory experience applied in previous surveys, this particular survey included questions about the effects of COVID-19 on the respondents' lives, the evaluation of home and host country pandemic crisis management, and on vaccination. In the analysis we first investigate how the effects of the pandemic, the acceptance of vaccination, and the evaluation of pandemic crisis management in the home and host countries correlate with socio-demographic variables (gender, age, education), the reasons for migration, the level of integration into host country, the density of transnational practices, and return migration plans. Second, with statistical models we aim to unfold the profiles of migrants with different COVID-19 experiences, Finally, we compare and contrast the integration patterns, transnational practices, return migration plans revealed by the 2022 survey with the previous, pre-pandemic survey's (2019) results.

Kata Szabo *(Eötvös Loránd University-Interdisciplinary Social Research Doctoral Programme)*

Return of the Calabrian Millennials during the COVID-19 pandemic

Migration has been an inherent part of humanity's life throughout our existence, however the reasons and patterns have been varying from time to time. In the past 10-15 years a group of young individuals have been leaving their homes in the periphery of their country to migrate to the center for better prospects – in search of education, workplace and better living standards. However, partially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a tendency for return migration from the larger cities to the smaller towns and villages where this youth still has their families and where they sought shelter in this period. We propose that this is a phenomenon that is pervading throughout Europe, for this reason we have chosen Calabria in Italy as sample location for our case studies where this situation can be well-observed. By doing so we would like to observe the mobility of the Millennials – those born in the 80s and 90s – who once had left their hometowns and now have returned there and attempt to settle down again. We will look at why and how these so-called 'Millennials' decided to come back, what their perception is on living 'outside', and what factors seem to be more tempting in their home regions. What are the challenges they are facing back home? What are their goals and hopes for their lives here? More specifically, the focus of

this study is investigate their identity structure in terms of individualism and collectivism as we believe that coming from a community that mostly promotes a collectivist attitude, these individuals showed individualistic character by moving away but now have to re-settle in an environment which is still mostly collectivist in their dealings. We would like to look at what cultural, economic, political, social differences of viewpoint there are compared to those who remained. What sort of tension is generated by these differences and how are they dealt with? In the home region are there any attempts made to increase the population by creating workplaces, and to improve the education system and re-incorporate the returned? Are these young individuals welcome to rejoin the community? By observing these aspects in the first period of their return after the COVID-19 pandemic, we are hoping to obtain significant information on this new migration pattern that can lead to a re-imagined way of re-settlement in the rural areas.

Gábor Mozga – Márton Péti *(Research Institute for National Strategy)*

The impact of the COVID pandemic on the international mobility of Hungarian minorities in Hungary's neighbouring countries

Emigration has a significant impact on the demographic decline of the Hungarian minorities living in Hungary and in the neighboring countries. In the XXI. century, based on the technological and infrastructural development, migration have new kinds of patterns and functions in different geographical locations. In recent years, more and more individuals and families have multiple geographical identities. These groups regularly commute with the purpose of employment or study between Hungary, its neighboring countries, and the European economic centrums. The global epidemiological situation caused an unexpected change, as restrictions fundamentally affected the labor situation, especially for groups commuting across state borders. The study examines these new cross-border trends after the COVID pandemic among the most populated Hungarian communities living in the following regions: Transylvania (RO), South-Slovakia, North-Serbia and Transcarpathia (UA). The research also covers how these patterns might change in the future. In connection with the future mobility characteristics, it also examines the individual groups, for example emotional aspects and the role of family ties and homesickness. The results show that the pandemic and the lockdowns had serious impact on commuters, especially the Transcarpathian Hungarian minorities (UA) who suffered the greatest decline, while the groups from Hungary proved to be the most resistant.

Keywords: Hungarian minorities, multilocality, mobility, COVID pandemic

Roman Smirnov *(Ben Gurion University of the Negev)*

Pandemic-related changes of individual migrant strategies of international PhD-students

Relevance. The pandemic of COVID-19 became the most significant phenomenon of the 21st century, the deep consequences of which (not only medical but also social, economic, and others) just have yet to be evaluated. In the context of the pandemic, along with other areas, science and education were hit hard due to the transfer of teaching and all scientific events to the online format, the temporary closure of research centers and archives (due to which many scholars lost their jobs), and due to the break of international scientific ties. In the new conditions among young scientists, the most vulnerable group was international PhD-students, because their plans for the future and migrant strategies were directly related to the capabilities of academic employment, personal connections with scientists, and personal participation in scientific events. Due to the pandemic, all this became impossible, and students were forced to adapt their migration strategies and approaches to career planning to new difficult conditions. Research goal. The goal of the research is (on the example of the international PhD-students in Austria and Germany) to analyze transformations of the individual migrant strategies of the international PhD-students as well as their perceptions and feelings about prospects for scientific work and new pandemic-related work conditions. Methodology and method. The object of the research is the social group of international PhD-students in Austria and Germany, whose PhD-studies began no later than October 2019 and ended no earlier than May 2020. The method of the research is the qualitative interview, which is conducted using digital and internet technologies (online interview). The recruitment method is snowball sampling. The number of interviews is 20. Results. Two types of migration strategies of PhD-students were identified: (1) full integration, when a young scientist connects his future career with the country in which he is studying; (2) partial integration when a young scientist plans an early stage of a career in the country of studying (for gaining experience) but sees his/her future in the country of origin. 4 types of transformation in the individual migration strategies of international PhD-students, which do not depend on the previously chosen migration strategy, were found: 1) Zero flexibility. Despite COVID restrictions (such as distance learning, transport and social restrictions), PhD-students leave their migration strategies unchanged and stay in the country of study. 2) Partial flexibility. PhD-student returns to the country of origin but plans to continue integration into the international scientific community in the future. 3) Deep transformation. PhD-student returns to the country of origin, changes their migration strategy deeply, and plans to continue their carrier only in the country of origin. 4) Self-exclusion. PhD-student returns to the country of origin and stops their scientific work because of a feeling of disappointment, lack of prospects, and depreciation of their work. Regardless of migration strategy and academic background, for PhD-students the pandemic

is associated with strong negative emotions and is a deep trauma that 1) threatened the future and 2) devalued previous efforts in scientific work and integration.

Mihaela Mocanu - Anca-Diana Bibiri *(Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, Institute for Interdisciplinary Research, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, Romania)*

The Mobility Intentions of Romanian Students during the Covid Era

The Mobility Intentions of Romanian Students during the Coronavirus Era Mihaela Mocanu Anca-Diana Bibiri Department of Social Sciences and Humanities Institute of Interdisciplinary Research 'Alexandru Ioan Cuza' University of Iași, Romania mocanu.mihaela@uaic.ro; mihaelamocanuiași@yahoo.com anca.bibiri@uaic.ro; anca.bibiri@gmail.com In the time of COVID-19, travel distance between home and host country matters a great deal to international students' financial cost, safety and security. As a result, families' decision to invest in study abroad has to take into the consideration of financial cost, the risk of infection and forced quarantine associated international travel. This might reshape the pattern of international student mobility in the wake of the COVID-19, with the routes of flow changing from cross-continental movement to circulation within their regions of birth (Pan 2020). The immediate impact of COVID-19 on international student mobility in the 2019/2020 academic year has been immense since the pandemic effectively brought international travel to a stop (Farnell et al. 2021). The physical mobility of students was stopped due to these travel restrictions, but also closed campus areas and buildings and closure of other related places with university students (Martel 2020). COVID-19 has resulted in cancellations and delays to numerous mobility schemes, although most universities (85%) offered alternative arrangements in the form of 'virtual mobility' via emergency remote teaching (Farnell et al. 2021).This paper aims understanding the dynamics of migration under the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, by analyzing the migration intention and the COVID-19-driven changes. Romanian migration is generally closely related to the search for a workplace, and the main destinations of Romanian citizens were countries with important linguistic ties. As Romania is a Latin country, a significant number of citizens preferred destinations such as Italy, Spain, France or Belgium, while others opted for Holland and Germany. Using the case study of Romanians in Spain, Marcu (2020) highlighted how the COVID-19 crisis presents both challenges and opportunities when it comes to human mobility and sustainability. How does this pandemic crisis affect the circulation of Romanians? How have Romanians moved in an EU with locked-down borders? In the specific case of Romanians with a high degree of mobility, the lockdown period was a crisis suffered by the whole community – among which Erasmus students who had to return (Marcu 2020). Selected References Farnell, T., Skledar Matijević, A., Šćukanec Schmidt, N. (2021). 'The impact of COVID-19 on higher education: a review of emerging evidence', NESET report, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. doi: 10.2766/069216. Marcu, S. (2021). Towards Sustainable Mobility? The Influence of the COVID-19 Pandemic on

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Zsuzsanna Árendás *(Institute for Sociology – Centre for Social Sciences)*

Conceptualizing student mobilities in the context of COVID-19: A global study abroad program, as an opportunity, or a (re)production of youth vulnerabilities?

The proposed paper is conceived on the crossroads of youth mobility studies and educational mobility research. Its main goal is to alter the opportunity-centered approach of most student mobility studies and introduce a perspective, which takes account of youth precarities and tries to understand processes of youth vulnerabilization in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. The paper is based on ethnographic interviews with students conducted in Hungary, in a country known for its anti-immigration political stance, and accordingly, lack of top-down integration measures. Yet, this same county has introduced a seemingly generous HE scholarship program called Stipendium Hungaricum in 2013, inviting non-EU citizens from the Global South to study in Hungary, and according the mission statement, „to internationalize Hungarian higher education", expecting these young people to "contribute to Hungary's image and recognition abroad." Whereas this scholarship scheme could easily pass as a textbook case of global student opportunities, and thus to be understood in the context of conventional youth mobility- study opportunity literature, our empirical data point to the vulnerabilities within this larger framework: they speak about layers of precarities, various forms of exclusion, and further vulnerabilization of young people with individual histories of pre-existing socio-economic difficulties. COVID-19 pandemic has put an additional, important layer of vulnerabilities, when immobilizing students from the very onset of the pandemic.

Ann-Mari Sätre *(Uppsala University)*

Adaption of civic organisations in Russia to increasing control

This paper is about how Russian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) work and adapt to societal changes. The Russian State has launched a contradictory policy on NGOs including legislation on 'foreign agents,' which means that NGOs are both welcomed to contribute to solving social problems and increasingly controlled. This has caused problems for many NGOs which have, however, proved flexibility to survive. This paper takes institutional economics as its theoretical framework and includes an orientation towards agency. The analytical framework is based on Douglass North's categorization of four main kinds of institutions that influence how a society develops: legal rules, organizational forms, enforcement and behavioural norms. While formal rules can be changed by political decisions, informal rules such as behavioural norms are rooted in society and are not so quickly changed. This paper focuses on the survival of the norm that women are responsible for the organization of social welfare. One aspect of this norm is that women's agency is often realized through NGOs. However, the conservative wave is reflected in an NGO policy in Russia that has been framed to conform with 'traditional values' – values that have become a tool for social control. The most relevant part of the data used for this research comprises 50 qualitative interviews with NGOs conducted in five regions during 2011–2021.

Luca Sára Bródy *(Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Institute for Regional Studies)*

Civil society mobilisation and the crisis of local governments in Hungary: forming unlikely alliances

During the past years in Hungary, several critical organisations and movements have emerged and took on a role in tackling various forms of inequality, from addressing housing problems to seeking municipalist ideals in strengthening participatory mechanisms. The results of the October 2019 local municipal elections provided an opportunity for grassroots initiatives to get more involved in public affairs and forge new alliances with local governments. The current political-economic context of Hungary suggests a peculiar timing for such cooperations. Systemic changes left civil society organisations with a gradually shrinking civic space through maintaining high political dependence, limiting their ability to influence decision-making processes. On the other hand, local governments experience a similar loss of power induced by the centralisation efforts of the 2010s that accelerated in

general after the local elections and particularly in the aftermath of the pandemic outbreak in spring 2020. Shrinking municipal and civic space served as an impetus for new types of urban activism. Civil society organisations manoeuvred over this period to promote democratic and transparent mechanisms that carry the potential of larger structural changes. As oppositional forces took power, newly elected leaders promised a more progressive policy environment, rebuilding trust towards civil society organisations. Nevertheless, new municipalist promises have been greeted with varying civil society tactics that include targeting increased recognition among residents and focusing on local embeddedness instead of relying on large donors and funds. Three case studies are employed to present different forms of a bottom-linked approach between civil society actors and local governments. The empirical study wishes to highlight how these conflictive relationships face and overcome barriers of citizen participation in Hungary. The three cases represent distinct civic strategies: in the first example, the Municipality of Budapest opens decision-making platforms and create new channels for participatory mechanisms for civic groups that have been actively politicising urban issues in the past decade. In the second case, the political becoming of a civic platform is introduced in the 8th district of Budapest, and the problems they encounter after entering institutional politics. In the last example, in the face of the pandemic, the complicated bargains of a network of local activists in Pécs are presented during their attempts to set collaboration with the local government on a more stable footing. Furthermore, the presentation serves as an addition to current debates over CEE civil society development, countering the common misconception about the weakness of civic action. Lastly, findings describe the effects of the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in terms of mobilisation, and suggest that instead of an awaited civic boom, the deepening of existing alliances is occurring.

Aleksandra Samonek *(Jagiellonian University, UCLouvain)*

Ukraine's civil society between the full-scale war and the path to EU accession

In this paper I will discuss how the Ukrainian civil society and political institutions are likely to respond to pro-Ukraine accession attitudes on the side of the EU, given the pre-reinvasion data on support for European values, as well as the path towards integration which Ukraine was on before February 24, 2022. As far as support for EU accession is concerned, data collected by Buhbe showed that the share of people who do not want their country to integrate (either with the EU or the Eurasian Economic Union) has increased from 7.2 per cent in 2014 to 25.4 per cent in 2017. Moreover, Sengul (2021) pointed out that despite its pro-integration course, Ukraine has abstained from ratifying the Istanbul Convention, showing that despite its prima facie commitment to European values, Ukraine fails to implement laws which diffuse gender norms, even when it comes to basic tenets of protecting women's safety and women's rights. Sengul (p. 65) identified three main elements of this integration failure. First, not enough conditionality on the side of the EU. In

other words, Sengul suggested that the integration came too easy for Ukraine, providing a disincentive to disrupt existing social inequalities. Second, no alternative incentives were created, which was reflected in the Ukrainian Euroskeptics arguments that as a result of integration, "Ukraine has acquired an imitation democracy that is ill-suited for Ukrainian society" (Buhbe, 2017, p. 3). Third, no Convention ratification project funding was allocated to Ukraine, despite a growing body of evidence that social commitment to EU values depends on the availability of European funding for CSOs (cf. Meyer, 2020). Furthermore, both the Euroskeptics and the pro-EU CSOs point out to similar problems with European integration at the state-level in Ukraine. For one, respondents in two independent studies (Buhbe, 2017; Donges et al., 2020) observed that the political will to go beyond the legally required formal involvement of citizens in participatory governance is weak among high-level decision makers, creating a fertile ground for the wide-spread corruption in the country administration and government. Finally, the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine will have an impact on post-war involvement of citizens in governance, though its effects are yet unknown. Literature Buhbe, M. (editor, 2017). How Ukrainians Perceive European Values? Main Results of an Empirical Survey. Friedrich Ebert Foundation Report. Donges, L., Stolpe, F., Sperfeld, F., & Kovac, S. (2020). Civic space for participation in climate policies in Colombia, Georgia and Ukraine. Independent Institute for Environmental Issues. Berlin, 3. Meyer, M., Moder, C., Neumayr, M., & Vandor, P. (2020). Civil society and its institutional context in CEE. Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations, 31(4), 811-827. Sengul, S. (2021). Gendering Europeanization in the Eastern Neighbourhood: Case Study of the Failed Istanbul Convention Ratification in Ukraine. Master Thesis, CIFE Institut européen.

Gerő Márton *(Institute for Sociology - Centre for Social Sciences)*

Crisis and mobilization: The influence of enemy images on political participation during the pandemic

In this presentation, I will examine the relationsip between the discourse of enemy images and threats. dufing the Covid-19 pandemic. Although political sociology emphasize the role of individual resources among factors influencing political participation, social movement research is increasingly focusing on the imprtance of framing and cognitive processes of mobilization. In the Hungarian case the increasingly polarized media discourse explains why it is important to include framing in the anaylsis. The crisis, however an externala nd unexpected shock might changes the discourse, on the one hand, and change patterns of moilization on the other. Lockdown measures might have influenced political participation, while the emphasis on helath care issues might give way to bridge the cleveages, polarization sharpened. This question is explored based on a set of four nationaly representative survey datasets collected by the Centre for Social Sciences.

Dániel Mikecz[1] - Márton Gerő[2] (*[1]Institute for Political Science - Centre for Social Sciences; [2]Institute for Sociology – Centre for Social Sciences*)

Anti-vaccination, anti-science movements and attitudes during the coronavirus epidemic

In our paper, we wish to present a research project, which aims to assess the resonance of COVID-19 related anti-vaccination, anti-lockdown and anti-science mobilization frames. Vaccine refusal and vaccine uncertainty can be due to a variety of factors. Of these, the relationship between populism, conspiracy theories and vaccine uncertainty are of particular importance to us. On the one hand, there is intense debate about the extent to which populist political actors, such as governments and political parties, benefit from the coronavirus epidemic (see Bobba & Hubé 2021), and on the other hand, it seems clear that there is a strong link between susceptibility to populism, conspiracy theories and vaccine aversion (Goldberg & Richey, 2020; Stecula & Pickup, 2021). However, these factors are also part of a more general trend: anti-expert and distrust of state institutions is a general phenomenon that underpins populist discourse and plagues modern societies (Brubaker, 2021). Paradoxically, the success of scientific institutions and policies in the face of epidemics can amplify distrust of these institutions, since if the measures are successful, the previously 'promised' apocalyptic consequences are not achieved (Brubaker, 2021). This raises the question of the extent to which anti-vaccinationist attitudes can be conflated with anti-science and skepticism about similar issues in which scientific reasoning plays a significant role. These opinion leaders, the opportunities presented by social media and the anti-vaccine movements that emerge from them play a significant role in the anti-vaccine, vaccine uncertainty and the conflation theories of the coronavirus (Smith & Graham, 2019; Ball, 2020; Burki, 2020; DiRusso & Stansberry, 2022). This role does not necessarily involve outright denial of or calls for vaccination, but more importantly the dissemination of conspiracy theories and the perpetuation of discourses around it (see DiRusso & Stansberry, 2022). As a result of this public perception, political actors may also feel less committed to the scientific position on the epidemic, further eroding trust in the scientific establishment. The project wishes to answer the research questions by applying a mixed method approach that is conducting large sample survey, focus group and social media listening.

Piotr Kocyba (*TU Chemnitz; IFiS PAN*)

Closeness and Distance in Qualitative Research on Corona Activists

This article discusses the author's reflections on empathy in the context of fieldwork on activists mobilizing for protests against Corona measures in Poland. While the role and impact of an empathic approach on data collection and interpretation have been controversial since the "erklären-verstehen controversy," it still can be understood very differently, reaching from sympathy or compassion to the ability to put oneself in someone

else's shoes. Against the backdrop of the case study, the paper focuses on openness and curiosity towards our interviewees' emotions and experiences - despite our ideological or socio-cultural embedding differences. An underpinning theme of the discussion is how the research context shapes the researcher-research subject relationship and the research process - and how the conditions for interpretative social research and the use of empathy have changed over time.

Mauro Conti *(University of Calabria)*

Researching Transnational Agrarian Movements from within

The paper contributes to the methodological challenges in the research of social movement and civil society, specifically on how do we examine the relationship between institutionalized civil society as Transnational Agrarian Movements and institutions in the global governance of agriculture. During the '90s, the TAMs advocating for food sovereignty emerged as a new international actor creating a space for discussion and negotiation within FAO and other UN Food Agencies to confront neoliberal policies on agriculture promoted in the World Trade Organization (WTO) after the Uruguay Round (1986). So, the Rome-based food agencies of the United Nations represent a strategic space to understand the Transnational Agrarian Movement (TAMs) (Edelman, Borras 2016) perspective and strategy in the space of global governance. In particular, FAO is playing a central role in re-establishing the centrality of governments in the definition of agriculture policies and norms and each FAO process must be considered as a contested arena for different actors with different political priorities. Due to this particular field analysis, which relies on personal trust and informal conversations, the use of interviews (structured or semi-structured) was not useful to capture the political dynamics of a space of negotiations based on confidentiality and personal relationships. Any kind of interview would have shifted the conversation toward a formal relationship outside of the political process, thus affecting both the analysis and the research out-comes. The applied method has been therefore the one of observant participation: since the author I has been serving as Coordinator of the IPC Secretariat, working on a daily base within FAO, both in formal meetings; informal conversations with FAO officers, government delegations, Civil Society Organizations and representatives of the Private Sector. The observant participation approach allows grasping the point of view of social actors, which any other methodology would create bias in researching within such a delicate space of negotiation. In this context, the observer's effort and the task have to be separated from the object of study, so as to develop an analysis of occurrences and going beyond the mere description of these. Due to the backstage analysis demanded by this investigation, research can be conducted only by an insider and situated position. In this sense, the author assumes Weber's discussion of avalutativeness, as interpreted by Pietro Rossi (1957): given that the possibility of taking a position in front of values through a choice qualifies the situation of man in the world and that the reference to

personal values is inevitable, the first step of the researcher is to make explicit the personal point of view on the world, so to avoid 'value judgement' and be able to undertake a method that is scientifically based, in order to gather "factual judgments". Moreover, the authors also refer to scholar activism from within, based in social movements and their political project (Borras 2016), which lays out the preconditions to pursue both academic work and the political activism that aims to change the status quo without losing the intellectual rigour and honesty (Meyer 2005)required by academia. Scholar activists aim to change food policies and enrich the analysis of the movements informing their strategies through serious intellectual engagement. Hale (2006) points out how possible conflicts between academic and activist work could create contradictions, but also that these conflicts produce new insight and knowledge that challenge and transform conventional academic wisdom, transforming research methods, reframing the process in order to prioritize research questions, and employing and disseminating the results beyond the academic circle.

Session 5
Human ecology – crosscutting themes: healthy and environmentally sound food production and climate change, protection of the environment, energy and water resources

Iva Pires *(Universidade Nova de Lisboa - NOVA FCSH, Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences (CICS.NOVA))*

Sixty years of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the challenges ahead to create a healthy food system for people and planet

Launched in 1962, the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP) was the first EEC common policy. CAP was created at a time of a particular challenge related to the population growth and the need to provide affordable food for EU citizens. By providing financial support the aim was to improve agricultural productivity and, at the same time, to ensure a fair standard of living for farmers. In 2022 it celebrates its 60th anniversary but the circumstances are significantly different from the ones in which this policy was put in place. Farming involves significant risks because it is highly dependent on the weather conditions and events like harvest catastrophes. These risks are intensifying due to climate changes that are happening faster than expected and that have consequences on food production. Besides that, also economic risks are relevant as farming has become a capital-intensive activity. Additionally, there are unexpected events like the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected all segments of the FSC with consequences not yet foreseeable and, more recently, the Russia-Ukraine (two

main cereals producers) war that is creating uncertainty of the near future. Moreover, a growing world population, predicted to reach between 8.5 billion and 10 billion people until 2050, will demand more food which will put increasing pressure on scarce resources such as water and land or expensive ones such as energy and technology. In the productivist model, which has prevailed until now, food is an economic commodity produced through intensification and use of many inputs, prioritising quantity over quality with consequences for the environment and human health. A transition towards an environmental and climate friendly farming practices, focused on quality instead of quantity at the same time improving the resilience of the FSC and helping the stakeholders in coping with instabilities and uncertainty is of crucial importance. The European Union (EU) is committed to accelerate that transition to build more sustainable food systems. Besides the revised Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), where 40% of the budget will be climate-relevant supporting famers to adopt environment and climate friendly farming practices and standards, also the Farm to Fork strategy, which is part of the Green Deal, the Commission's strategy to implement the United Nation's 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), aims at enabling and accelerating the transition to a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system. The aim is to review these policies and strategies to discuss their potential to create a healthy food system for people and planet.

Ruta Śpiewak *(Polish Academy of Science)*

Toward's new model of food system based on examples of Alternative Food Networks

While the industrial food system (IFS) positions food as a commodity that may be exploited for private profit while feeding a widely distributed populous, Alternative Food Networks (AFNs) can be considered as a form of collective action aiming to change the dominant food system and reconceive food as a public good, or commons. The common feature of these diversified arrangements of food distribution is that they reconnect consumers and food producers more directly than in the mainstream system, thereby creating both economic links and social bonds that constitute new social and organizational practices (Grivinis 2017, Goszczynski 2021). Referring to empirical research and the methodology of institutional analysis of Elinor Ostrom, I would like to refer to the question if Alternative Food Networks operating in specific condition of Central and Eastern Europe, create a response to the weaknesses of dominant food system, through change of food paradigm from perceiving food as commodity to food as a commons. Based on in-depth research of 6 different AFNs in Poland, I will analyze whether, both at the level of goals and practices, alternative food networks carry out activities aimed at transforming the food system, or whether they are a kind of way of satisfying the needs and taming the fears of the middle class. I will also take into account the issue of how the specific context of Central and Eastern Europe affects the shape and dimensions of these networks.

Dénes Kiss *(Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work)*

The last days of a gardening culture? Actors and processes in the agriculture of Aranyosszék

Radical changes have been taking place in Romania's agriculture since the collapse of communism and after joining the European Union. As a result of reprivatization and deindustrialization, a significant re-peasantization took place in a first wave, but over time, the modernization of agriculture, like in other European countries, resulted in the reduction of the agricultural population and the liquidation of small farms. This process was further enhanced by the agricultural and food policy following EU accession, causing a further rapid decrease in the number of small farms. In my presentation, I present these processes based on semi-structured interviews conducted with farmers in Aranyoszék, a small region with a specific horticultural tradition. In my research, I looked for the answer to the question of how the commodity-producing small farms of this sub-region were transformed amid the changed socio-economic conditions. According to our results, despite the fact that these small farms experienced a significant boom in the 1990s, most of them have ceased to exist today. Producers explain their fall into crisis for several reasons. First of all, they mention their inability to compete with the influx of cheap goods after joining the EU, as well as the simultaneous change in shopping culture. Securing the workforce required for intensive vegetable cultivation also proved to be an insurmountable obstacle, which became a problem with the intensification of international labor migration. And finally, the decline in the social desirability of the way of life associated with growing vegetables also had a negative effect on the survival of these farms. Even in the case of successful farms, the children of farmers did not take on a lifestyle that closely followed the changes in the weather and assumed a constant presence. Thus, nowadays, small horticultural farms have become actors of secondary importance in the region's agriculture, their place has been taken over by large mechanized plants specializing in grain production.

Federico Maria Jelo di Lentini *(University of Catania)*

Comparative socio-legal analysis of the food waste phenomenon during the Covid-19 pandemic and the environmental unsustainability of personal protective equipment consumption

This paper has the ambitious aim of analyzing, from a sociological point of view, the phenomenon of consumption, and in particular its degeneration resulting in waste, to further confirm, even in the socio-legal context of contemporary Western societies, its environmental unsustainability. The consumption of primary resources, as a transversal sociological phenomenon born in the pre-industrial era, tends to degenerate into waste which, in the Western socio-economic context of the last decade, does not appear to have

decreased despite the regulatory interventions aimed at combating it. As evidenced by the existence of the phenomenon of potlatch, a widespread practice for centuries in the indigenous communities of North America, waste is a phenomenon that characterizes ontologically the very nature of Man, who is induced, regardless of the social context, to consume excessively, driven by determinant unconscious stimuli, thus degrading inexorably the surrounding ecosystem. However, recent researches show the existence of a growing collective consciousness of greater sensitivity towards the protection of ecosystem resources and, in a holistic perspective, towards the protection of nature. Human beings seem to be able to lighten the weight of their ecological footprint, counteracting the instincts that would otherwise push them towards an ever-increasing spiral of conspicuous consumption. Considering the current historical period, characterized by the Covid-19 pandemic, the results of the research conducted by the University of Bologna during the first lockdown period in Italy (March-May 2020) are significant and bode well for the future. In fact, the results of the so-called Italy Case show that in Italy, in the period of time considered, despite the fact that a higher quantity of food was purchased than the average of the previous years, the quantity of food waste produced was lower. This change in social habits occurred independently of the regulatory constraints on food saving already in place for years in Italy (reference is made here to the broad regulatory framework prepared by the Legislature for the purpose of reducing food waste, whose pillars are represented by laws n.155/2003 and n.166/2016). Restrictions due to Covid-19 have generated changes in food purchasing, preparation and disposal behaviors, which have been reflected in the lower quantities of wasted food. From a comparative perspective, it is significant to note that several international studies have revealed that such a change in food consumption habits has been recorded in other nations around the world (U.S., Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Slovenia, etc.). These studies suggest that the common circumstances created by the pandemic induced populations from different socio-cultural and national backgrounds to operate a similar decrease in food waste (with differences in magnitude depending on the social, cultural and economic contexts considered). Although many of the effects of social distancing measures have been shown to be detrimental on an individual and collective level (reducing sociality and negatively impacting the mental and physical health of individuals), it is interesting to note that profound and sudden changes in some behaviors and habits have nevertheless resulted in positive effects: this is the case with food waste reduction. It would be important to preserve these more positive behavioral changes as the social restrictions due to virus containment and the other situational elements advocated here as drivers of increased attention to food waste disappear. However, regulatory measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 have nonetheless found a way to negatively impact the environmental sustainability of individual consumer habits. In fact, to counter the spread of the virus, Personal Protective Equipment (face masks, plastic or latex gloves, disposable overalls and gowns for healthcare workers, etc.) are used, most of which contain plastic or other plastic-derived materials. It has been estimated that 129 billion face masks are used globally each month (3 million per minute) most of which are disposable face masks composed of plastic

microfibers. Recent publications have reported how the unprecedented increase in their production and, subsequently, their often inappropriate disposal threaten to cause a new form of environmental contamination. This widespread use of PPE results in the production of millions of tons of plastic waste, whose disposal into the environment, over such a short period of time, generates an interaction with wildlife that can induce potentially significant eco-toxic effects. Results from numerous research studies around the world have revealed that there is a huge amount of waste from personal protective equipment, disposed of in terrestrial and marine environments, which will contribute to micro-plastic pollution. There is an urgent need to recognize this potential environmental threat and to regulate its management at a national and supranational level. The phenomenon of consumption, and more precisely the theme of the waste of bioclimatic resources in an exceptional era such as that one characterized by the Covid-19 pandemic, needs not only to acquire greater social awareness, but also to become the subject of further sociological studies aimed at investigating what are the social stimuli that favor (or discourage) certain forms of consumption, and what are the impacts that these consumptions have on the global ecosystem. The issue must be addressed from a multidisciplinary perspective, considering together sociological, economic and legal aspects.

Maria Joao Horta Parreira *(Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences (CICS.NOVA), Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (NOVA FCSH), The Centre for Natural Resources, Environment and Society (CERNAS), Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra)*

Zero waste and human ecology: a critical thinking based on a social innovation perspective

This critical analysis aims to look for insights prospecting one question through a social innovation lens, considering social innovations as key human actions with an important transforming power to deal with the Anthropocene reality, threats and risks caused by the pandemic COVID-19 and other emergent challenges. We explore the following question "Why does zero waste movement may be interpreted as a form of social innovation?" giving some European examples, aligned with stages of hierarchical pyramid for food waste (e.g., prevention, human reuse) and levels of food-supply chain (e.g., agricultural production, processing, retail). Our purpose is to look for exploratory answers for that question, throughout a literature review, since we need to deepen understanding of interdependences between social innovation transformative potential to deal with ecological issues and to practice cutting-edge research and transformative social-ecological innovations for sustainability. Zero waste is interpreted as a form of social innovation within three meanings: as a "social mechanism of innovation", as a "social responsibility of innovation" and as "innovation of society". We identify the following common five key elements we consider convergent to both domains: "social need", "innovative aspect", "implementation and execution", "improvement", and "relationships and collaborations". We also identify in

literature the "prevention paradox" due to conflicts between what is advocated as a priority and the real practices that until now are much more concentrated on waste management than on its prevention. We highlight the CEASE (Communities, Engagement, Actions, Shareability, Ecosystems) Design Thinking approach which, according to its creators, is a mean to foster co-participatory system thinking initiatives to deal with food waste threats in a consumer-based field. In addition, we interpret human ecology academic commitments as transformative catalysts to address collective learning processes and to practice integrative empirical research on the connections between social innovation, food waste, food security and healthy food.

Keywords: design thinking, food waste, human ecology, social innovation, zero waste

Federico Cuomo *(University of Turin)*

How to ensure a long-term perspective for Nature-based Solutions? The case of proGIreg Living Lab in Turin

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are cost-effective actions or infrastructures based on natural processes capable of generating social, health, economic and environmental benefits for urban communities. NbS are increasingly being planned and developed by engaging citizens in Urban Living Labs (ULLs), co-production spaces where local governments, private companies and academies empower citizens to experiment with innovative solutions able to tackle complex problems of contemporary society. However, at the end of ULLs, many local governments struggle to find policy devices that might guarantee long-term maintenance and opportunities of replicability to NbS. Grounding on the case of study of proGIreg Living Lab in Turin, this paper suggests three main policy-tools that can be used by local governments to keep maintaining, developing and replicating NbS beyond the timeframe imposed by temporary ULLs.

Ana Stojilovska *(Institute for Political Science - Centre for Social Sciences)*

Unpacking the energy poverty-climate change nexus: an integrative literature review

Climate change affects all aspects of human life, but particularly impacts those vulnerable to energy poverty (also known as fuel poverty), a situation in which households cannot attain sufficient levels of energy services. We address the lack of research about the energy poverty and climate change nexus through an integrative review pulling from a diversity of disciplines and geographies, building on the discussions developed during two participatory workshops in November 2021. This integrative literature review 1) identifies and discusses the relevant topics existing at the intersection of climate change and energy poverty literature, 2) explores the direct and indirect ways in which energy poverty would be

affected by climate change and climate policies, and vice versa, and 3) identifies gaps and stresses areas for further research, drawing out the significance for social policy scholars. From preliminary work, we have identified that climate change would deteriorate the state of energy poverty in multiple ways. For instance, climate change affects regions with more extreme climates, enhancing the uneven distribution of energy poverty. Rapidly increasing temperatures in some regions would shift energy needs, from heating to cooling, increasing the summer energy consumption. The need to stay cool in summer emphasises the importance of good building quality and the availability of social housing as strategies for tackling energy poverty and climate change. Vulnerable groups' needs and experiences of energy and climate vulnerability comprise an important focus on the climate change-energy poverty nexus. These vulnerable populations will be severely affected by climate change consequences, including a wide range of adverse health and economic impacts. However, in an attempt to cope with energy poverty, the use of solid fuels by vulnerable groups adds to carbon emissions deteriorating the climate change situation. Various climate policies could increase energy prices, putting the energy vulnerable at additional risk and increasing the number of those affected by energy poverty. More frequent natural disasters and extreme weather conditions impact vulnerable populations of the Global South more heavily, affecting energy security and energy access. The intersection of energy justice with climate change is not widely understood. Considering energy poverty as a matter of energy and social injustice brings potential synergies, but also strong tensions between aligning climate, economic and other policies. The dominance of techno-economic approaches to understanding energy poverty silences or ignores social differences and differing needs, thus creating an opportunity for social policy to become a driving force in fairly tackling climate change. Climate change will likely create new geographies of energy poverty making the existing vulnerable spaces and populations more vulnerable. However, investments in low-carbon transitions to mitigate climate change have the potential to co-tackle energy poverty. Future research should explore the dynamics between energy and climate vulnerability, how climate change adds to the needs of the vulnerable groups, how energy poverty policies account for climate change impacts, the cohesion potential between energy, climate, and social policies, and should challenge the assumptions about the intersections between climate change and energy poverty, particularly in relation to energy and climate justice.

Pekka Salmi *(Natural Resources Institute Finland)*

Turbulent times in small-scale fisheries – reinventing the benefits of local fish production?

This paper focuses on the Finnish small-scale fisheries, which struggle to survive in spite of growing demand for local and environmentally-friendly produced food. This paradox is connected with wider post- and neo-productivist transformations in the society where other user groups and interests – such as recreation and conservation – have become dominant.

Especially the protected and increased populations of seals and cormorants have induced serious problems for the fishing livelihood along the Baltic Sea coast. Small-scale fisheries have become marginalized within the "blue growth" policies, which emphasize larger scale production like aquaculture. Fishers also face hard times in coping with science-based governance systems within fisheries and environmental administration. However, lately the EU-funded Fisheries Local Action Group system has given new hope for the fishing livelihood, because of their local projects that support fishing livelihood. Crises in food production, severe environmental threats, COVID-19 pandemic and implications of the war in Ukraine affect consumer behaviour and policies and may lead to reinvention of the benefits and opportunities for small-scale food production in fisheries. Parallel to the social, cultural and economic benefits of the livelihood, many aspects speak in favour of environmental benefits. Many fishers harvest the so-called low value fish species and supply these to the market. This helps removing nutrients from the waters and fighting against eutrophication. The climate impact of fish captured by small-scale fishers is small compared with other animal production. These benefits have become acknowledged but have not notably affected fisheries or environmental policies that hinder the opportunities for small-scale fisheries. The latest transformations, COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, seem to have increased the demand for local fish products and may reinforce the pressures for changing the policies. Emphasis has also become refocused towards securing the self-sufficient use of national fish resources and food supply during a crisis such as war.

Leo Granberg *(University of Helsinki)*

Comparing Global food crisis 2008 and Ukrainian food crisis 2022

Relation between rural and urban society has been for centuries fundamentally dependant on agriculture, its transformations and its critical phases, causing hunger times, facilitating social 1obilization and political processes. This paper is discussing about the features and effects of this dependence in the present time, during the two latest global food crises. The 'Global Food Crises' in 2008 emerged with rapidly increasing grain prices, followed by urban protests around the developing world as well as new strategies for food producers and importing countries. The newer, still ongoing contemporary crises was caused by Russian War against Ukraine, which takes place between two of worlds largest contributors to food export to world markets. The war gave speed to already increasing production costs, damaged preconditions of Ukrainian agricultural production, cut off its trade routes, and caused hinders to Russian grain and fertilisers to reach world markets, as well.

Karl Bruckmeier[1] - Boldizsár Megyesi[2] (*[1]NOVA-University of Lisbon, Portugal and South Bohemian University, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic; [2]Institute for Sociology-Centre for Social Sciences)*

The future of agriculture and food production – interconnected themes: food production, climate change, protection of the environment, energy and water resources

The changing conditions of food production under the influence of global social and environmental change and crises show new knowledge problems which in the scientific and political discourses about sustainability. New forms of knowledge production and integration need to be learned and applied in the future sustainability process – inter-and transdisciplinary knowledge practices. Problems in food production have more and more connected causes: climate change, pollution of air, water and soils through industry and agriculture, increasing scarcity of natural resources such as energy and water resources, and inefficiency of food related policies to deal with complex and connected problems. We discuss the a series of problems and questions connected with food production described in the programme of the working group. For healthy and environmentally sound food production come new risks and threats with global environmental change, pandemics, violent conflicts and wars. Inter- and transdisciplinary approaches are required to integrate knowledge from different social and natural scientific disciplines, as in human or social ecology and sustainability science, where the relationships between humans, society and environment are analysed at the level of systems (coupled social and ecological systems) and the level of collective action in policy and governance processes. Much more and connected problems need to be dealt with in future. The big global problems cannot be solved separately, or on the basis of specialized research only. Present social, political, economic, environmental, food and health problems and crises are connected and reinforce each other in unexpected ways; their solution requires efficient interdisciplinary knowledge integration, and approaches in the policy and governance that allow to deal with the complexity by connecting and applying more knowledge to deal with the "polycrisis" (Edgar Morin). How to deal with interconnected problems and crises can and needs to be learned in the transformation of social and ecosystems towards sustainability. Presently happens such learning through interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on system transformation, but the use of integrated knowledge in policy and governance processes is limited and much less advanced. Thirty years of international sustainability policy brought hardly improvements in terms of solutions. The approach followed by the UN and the EU is: to set goals (from which many are programmed for continued economic growth and intensifying resource use) and let the processes of goal achievement to the different governmental and other institutions dealing with sustainability; this is is not efficient and sufficient. Among the deficits count especially the unwillingness or incapacity to change established power relations in political and economic systems that are programmed for exponential growth, but also insufficient and selective use of knowledge in the policy practices. The new learning

in the sustainability process requires closer cooperation of science, policy and civil society in the governance processes at all levels. Taking up the questions in the programme of the working group, we discuss and show in exemplary forms, how the social and environmental problems connect; which knowledge is required for solutions of the connected problems; how the cooperation between science, policy and civil society can be organized; and finally the limits of knowledge and the risks to be dealt with in the policy and governance processes. Food production is a key for future sustainable development. We show with examples (including such from the other presentations) how the nexus between food production, climate change, ecosystem health, energy and water resources develops in unexpected new forms in recent years. The intensifying crises through war, pandemics, environmental turbulences (rapid deterioration of the global ecosystem), and increasing shortage of natural resources enforce in national and international policy and governance processes to learn what has not been learned in the 50 years since the "Limits to growth"-report of the Club of Rome: how deeply connected social and ecological processes and systems are; that old knowledge on which policy regulations and interventions are built is quickly outdating and causes much of the inefficiency of present policies; also scientific knowledge in specialized forms is outdating and incapable of dealing with the "polycrisis". The abstract systems perspective that prevails also in the newest report of the Club of Rome does not analyse the social and ecological system problems sufficiently. It has become clear in the past years, that sustainability is no longer a process achieved through positive changes, successful governance and joint learning only; it includes changes of social, political and economic systems that are enforced through environmental catastrophes. To develop new models for dealing with these catastrophes requires inter- and transdisciplinary knowledge production and integration for the governance processes. We discuss such models developing in present inter- and transdisciplinary research mentioned above (human, social ecology, sustainability science, transformation research).

Gusztáv Nemes[1] - Kyra Tomay[2] - Judit Sulyok[3] - Éva Orbán[2]

(*[1]Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Budapest - Department of Sociology; [2]University of Pécs; [3]University of Pannonia*)

Second is the new first? - Conversion of second homes into primary ones

Second home tourism has a long tradition in various cultures (Back & Marjavaara, 2017), although the economic and social trends of the last decades and then the COVID-19 pandemic situation resulted in significant changes in the patterns of use of second homes. The growing role of nature in life (Louv, 2010) and the demand for natural, clean, open space amongst members of urban societies is attracting many temporary visitors to rural areas with nice landscapes and natural environments. Second homes have a significant impact on destinations, contributing to the (re-)development of rural areas. As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for green areas and private spaces increased, and the media reported about urban dwellers 'escaping' to rural areas (Smith, Phillips, Culora, & Kinton, 2021; Åberg & Tondelli, 2021). Social distancing restrictions (the home office, distance learning, etc.) enabled others as well as digital nomads to choose a rural – thus safer – environment for their escape. This posed a significant challenge to local infrastructure and services in terms of the need to support the requirements of second home owners and maintain public services for the whole local community. Studies have pointed out that the pandemic-related situation, together with the desire for rural space, may strengthen trends that have been occurring since the 2008 economic crisis; namely, an increase in the volume of second homes, which aggravates rural gentrification (Smith et al, 2021). Our presentation addresses second home tourism during the COVID-19 pandemic. The research focuses on the following issues: how tourism to the selected rural areas changed during COVID-19; how second home owners' perceptions about settling down in rural areas changed; and how these trends affected the stakeholders of such destinations (among them service providers). We intend to explore issues, recent trends, and future scenarios in rural- and second home tourism started or reinforced by COVID-19, including the increasing demand for small-scale 'hidden' rural tourism destinations; the potential for (and consequences of) the transformation of whole areas into holiday/second home villages; the strengthening of rural gentrification, involving turning second homes into permanent dwellings, enabled by teleworking and distance education; and alongside this, skyrocketing real estate prices that are pushing natives out from their homeland. After the crisis, will rural life return to its pre-COVID rhythm, or can a renaissance of rural destinations can be expected, creating new life

and resources and blending rural and urban cultures to make a viable basis for local prosperity? The results identify new trends and a strengthening of ongoing tendencies in gentrification. References Åberg, H. E., & Tondelli, S. (2021). Escape to the Country: A Reaction-Driven Rural Renaissance on a Swedish Island Post COVID-19. Sustainability, 13 (22). 12895. https://doi.org/10.3390/su132212895 Back, A., & Marjavaara, R. (2017). Mapping an invisible population: the uneven geography of second-home tourism. Tourism Geographies, 19(4), 595-611. https://doi.org/10.1080/14616688.2017.1331260 Louv, R. (2010). Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder, London, England: Atlantic Books Smith, D. P., Phillips, M., Culora, A., & Kinton, C. (2021). The mobilities and immobilities of rural gentrification: Staying put or moving on? Population, Space and Place, 27(7), e2496.

Matteo Lupoli - Tommaso Rimondi *(University of Bologna, Department of Sociology and Business Law)*

Sustainable tourism in the inner areas during the pandemic period. The case of the apennine near Bologna

At the time we are writing, tourism industry has restarted thanks to many technical solutions functional to recovery. However, we believe that it may have partially changed from the pre-pandemic scenario, both in quantitative and qualitative aspects. Capitalist crises are crucial for understanding the production of the touristic space (Murray et al., 2017). The outbreak of the pandemic has shown the risks of tourism monocultures in urban and seaside contexts, but at the same time this process may have produced a partial reorientation of tourism flows toward new destinations or experiences. We believe that two trends may have found more space: on the one hand, the 'sustainable tourism' rhetoric, often gathered under the name of eco-tourism, has found new applications; on the other hand, there has been an acceleration in the attempt to colonize rural and mountainous areas. With the potential decline of urban tourism and mass tourism destinations, there is likely to be a deepening of the tourist commodification of housing in rural areas close to metropolitan areas. The goal of this paper is to present the results of a research that starts from various questions: has the pandemic produced a reorientation of tourism flows in the direction of inner areas? And if this has happened, what kind of tourism has been developed? Were the communities on those territories prepared for such innovation? To answer these questions, we analyzed statistical data from the surveys conducted by the National Institute of Statistics (Istat). We analyzed the numbers of tourist arrivals and the presences at hotel and non-hotel facilities (formally recognized) for 2020 and the previous 5 years in all the municipalities of the Province of Bologna. Once this was done, we found some municipalities in the rural areas close to the city where the number of tourists grown during the pandemic period. Then we conducted some in-depth interviews with key testimonies. We identified four main issues for the discussion, allowing us to bring out some common points in the administrators'

narratives. We asked: - whether there was any correspondence between the increase in arrivals we noted and what they had perceived from their direct experience; - how they explained this phenomenon (in case they had noticed it); - whether functional investments in tourism development had been made prior to the period analyzed; - whether the trend was confirmed in 2021, and what they expect for the future. The research we conducted has several limitations arising from the choice of the research object and from the methodology used. However, we believe that some indications have emerged from the analysis of the data and the testimonies collected, and that these fit into broad and important debates that are going through civil society even before the scientific community, such as the one concerning the socio-economic effects of the pandemic or the one concerning the possibility of developing ecotourism routes in rural areas.

Gergely Horzsa *(Institute for Sociology – Centre for Social Sciences)*

Place attachment in three Hungarian microregions with different economic background after COVID-19 – Preliminary results of a survey

In a recent series of fieldwork, in the summer and autumn of 2022, we investigated 3 Hungarian micro region centre towns along with villages in their vicinity. By applying both quantitative and qualitative methodologies (survey questionnaires as well as stakeholder interviews), our research team's purpose was to identify how the meaning of locality is constructed through perceptions of wellbeing, life opportunity structures and cultural elements of the rural idyll and image. Based on the conducted 750 survey questionnaires, this lecture aims to explore the construction of urban-rural images and cultural elements of the local image along with their interaction with elements of place attachment. The term 'place attachment' is used to describe a phenomenon consisting of several (various) cultural factors that act contrary to 'push' and 'pull' effects of migration. Although place attachment mostly appear in the literature in the form of attitudes and psychological concerns, and thus, its construction might be grasped well by the employment of qualitative tools, the concept appears in papers based on surveys as well. Preliminary results of our survey suggest that as an effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, a higher level of satisfaction is present among rural dwellers regarding their place of living: almost 75% of respondents claimed they were happier living there since the pandemic outbreak. Furthermore, a higher level of general attachment to the locality significantly correlates with the additional "effect" of the pandemic, which correlation on the other hand differs in the three microregions visited. These results, complemented with further outcomes of the survey analyses, suggest a reformulation of the meaning of rural as well.

Bernadett Csurgó *(Institute for Sociology – Centre for Social Sciences)*

The role of place attachment and empathy in local producers' perspectives and behaviours toward sustainability in Hungary

The paper present a case study local producers with membership of a consumer-producer community in a small town in Hungary to present the role of place attachment and empathy in perspectives and behaviours toward sustainability. Land use is strongly diversified in Hungary: many regions are characterised by intensive land concentration and powerful landlords, while in some regions small farms are overrepresented. The presented study are represent micro-regions local producers have important role in local agriculture and society. Several study confirm that small scale farmers are more committed to both ecologically and culturally sustainable initiatives. The paper apply the concepts of empathy and place attachment as analytical tools to seek to understand the farmers' perspectives and related behaviours toward sustainability. The paper based on the analysis of 11 interviews conducted with small scale farmers in a small town in Hungary in 2021. Persons of interviews were farmers who are members of a local producer-consumers community. The case study research focused on farming methods, attitudes, and perceptions about sustainability (including ecological, economic, social, and cultural ones), innovation capacity, and attachment to place, local identity and future visions. We have analysed the narratives of farmers with Atlas ti. qualitative text analysis software. Our analysis focus on the representation and narratives of empathy and place attachment in the context of sustainability. Our results show that various dimensions of sustainability are appearing in farmers' narratives and becoming increasingly important in their approaches and behaviours. Our results confirm the empathy-sustainability relationship, and demonstrate the mediating and facilitating roles of place attachment toward sustainable perspectives and behaviours.

Giovanni Tocci *(University of Calabria)*

Tourism and Small Villages. Slow paths and development perspectives

Small village tourism is a rapidly growing type of tourism. Initially defined as "minor tourism" (Dall'Ara and Morandi, 2010), This form has acquired increasing importance in recent years, establishing itself as a specific tourist product. It is driven by the interest of visitors to discover places other than traditional destinations and above all characterized by local products and foods. In the last two years, under the pressure of the health emergency, Italian small villages have been among the most demanded tourist destinations, as they are considered places to enjoy opportunities and wider spaces, and where it is possible combining need for freedom with greater security. Thus, smart working, social distancing and restricted movements have produced a rediscovery of the outdoor meant as "other" place (Marra and Ruspini, 2011), not only as a holiday destination, but also as a different

choice of life to enjoy greater wellbeing. From this point of view, small villages can be an extraordinary opportunity for Italy, since they are places capable of generating alternative growth models which focus on communities and territories, on the intertwining of innovation and tradition, on new knowledges and local "skills", on food and wine and typicality. This factors can represent the concrete levers to a new development phase for tourism in Italy. Italian Ministry of Culture proposal, relating to tourism planning in post Covid, fits into this context. A proposal that, as part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP), allocates over one and a half billion euros to improving small villages attractiveness and enhancing the rural landscape. In this framework, the study looks at the small villages and fragile areas panorama distributed in a large part of the Italian territory. The paper examines some case studies. It analyzes the cultural and social regeneration projects of some small historic villages financed by the RRP. In detail, the paper investigates the positive experiences through a survey of the actions and projects tourism-based, focusing on slow tourism paths and practices implemented at the local level. Based on these experiences, the goal is to identify models and virtuous paths for the enhancement of territories and the regeneration of places.

Melanie Kay Smith *(Metropolitan University)*

Urban Green Spaces and Resident Wellbeing: A Case Study of Budapest's City Park

This presentation will explore the relationship between urban green spaces (UGS) and resident wellbeing. Green spaces in the centre of urban environments are often mixed-use spaces and motivations for usage may differ, especially if they are also visited by tourists. A systematic review of UGS literature highlights some of the most important themes that are emerging from this field of enquiry, especially the environmental, physical, psychological and social benefits of developing and using UGS. However, it seems that a specific scale to measure the wellbeing benefits of UGS for local residents and tourists alike does not yet exist. A case study is presented of the Budapest City Park (Városliget) in Hungary which is currently one of the largest urban green space developments in Europe. This is a mixed-use space in the city centre which has been recently re-landscaped to provide facilities for local residents as well as new cultural attractions which appeal to tourists. Preliminary research has been undertaken on development aims, intended function and usage by local residents. Future research will aim to collect data on the wellbeing benefits of the park for local residents and tourists alike. Although the project has been politically controversial, it could argued that the development company has taken international principles of creative and sustainable park management into consideration and consulted relevant resident groups. Several features of the Park are already being used extensively and appear to be popular. Future research will determine how successful this has really been with regard to positive benefits that contribute to resident wellbeing.

Olt Gergely - Adrienne Csizmady *(Institute for Sociology – Centre for Social Sciences)*

Top down or bottom up? – Placemaking, consumption and sustainability in post-socialist Budapest

Place making efforts assume that by relying on the local cultural heritage and the local community, consumption and local economy can be supported in a sustainable way that also strengthens the locals sense of belonging. In our long term ethnographic research in a dense and central urban setting these assumptions were strongly challenged by our findings. In this paper we theorise why in this case conflicts, abandonment and realisation of short term business interests were observed instead of the assumed strong and thriving communities that also create their own economic base. First we present how top down initiatives of urban rehabilitation and nurturing of cultural heritage failed in our field. Urban rehabilitation was hijacked by corruption during the privatisation process, while the issue of cultural heritage was only used to sugar coat boosting consumption and spending of EU funds on superficial aesthetical interventions. Then we present how both unplanned bottom up entrepreneurialism and the local reactions to the externalities caused by it were taken to the extreme, that was even worsened by the COVID crisis. The unplanned and uncertain situation of local hospitality entrepreneurs made them think compromises mean their loss of livelihood, while the differences between the size and types of venues caused also ruptures within this stakeholder group, while non-profit cultural activities were neglected. Meanwhile the disadvantaged and for long time silenced residents decided to establish their own political representation, only to find, that gaining political position and solving a problem are two different things. The COVID crisis first put hold this bitter conflict, but after two years it is clear that only the most profit oriented and least culturally active establishments survived. In short, we found that neither top down, nor bottom up actions took notice of the multiplicity of interests among locals and local activities, and therefore the goal of sustainable consumption is even further away than ever. We claim that the type of governmentality and the political institutions determined by the post-socialist transformation played a crucial role in how the events turned into this sad direction. Lack of trust between stakeholders and towards the state apparatus made compromises and long term planning unrealistic. The centralised national level political power is not interested in solving these conflicts until they remain local, and political activism stops at the borders of the settlement or the neighbourhood.

Songling Chang[1] - Melanie Kay Smith[2] *([1]Corvinus University; [2]Metropolitan University)*

Smart Cities and Resident Quality of Life

This presentation will explore the relationship between smart cities and resident quality of life. Six popular dimensions of smart cities have been identified as smart economy, smart mobility, a smart environment, smart people, smart living and smart governance (Giffinger et al., 2010). It has been suggested that the smart city concept is a new trend which can help to address the challenges of urban development, such as its environment, economy, transport and governance, as well as quality of life of people and their way of living (Muvuna et al., 2020). Myeong et al. (2022) suggest that the focus of smart cities is switching from infrastructure supply-oriented to improving citizens' quality of life and sustainability. However, previous research has been slow to focus on local resident quality of life. A recent systematic review of smart cities literature from 2011-2020 (Myeong, Park and Lee, 2022) suggests that it is necessary to conduct human-level research on smart cities as only 8.1% of analysed articles focus on humans rather than smart technologies. Results are presented from the authors' own systematic review that was undertaken between 2020 - 2022 (June 20th) using the keywords "smart city" and "quality of life". This review includes 40 valid papers It seems that several authors have already emphasized quality of life in their definitions of smart cities (e.g., D'Aniello et al, 2020; Barletta et al., 2020). Zhu et al. (2022) argue that happy urban living needs to be based on both 'livability' (e.g., ecology, economy, society, culture) as well as a person's 'life-ability' (e.g., health, education and art of living). The emphasis should be on citizen-centric approaches to smart urban development, but one of the remaining challenges is how to measure and monitor resident quality of life in smart cities. This presentation also reflects on the types of indicators and tools that might be used to collect future data on this complex phenomenon.

Gábor Vasárus *(Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Institute for Regional Studies)*

Examples of territorial injustice and segregation on the fringes of Hungarian rural centers

Spatial processes are differentiated below the settlement level, rural inclusions are formed in addition to rapidly urbanizing spaces in the urban fringes of the rural centres of Hungary. The effect of the sprawl has a significant impact on the traditional rural landscape and leads to environmental and social sustainability challenges. Outmigration from the city centre to the rural municipalities of the agglomeration ring is already a thoroughly studied topic. However, less attention is given to migration processes not crossing municipal borders. In this research we examined how segregation appears in the discourse of the local population and decision-makers, and some legal reasons that contribute to the persistence of

segregation in case of Győr, Szeged and Zalaegerszeg. Based on the survey, in addition to ethnic segregation, there is a significant separation due to income differences, and people living there suffer serious disadvantages due to the geographical isolation of the outskirts. After the financial crisis that unfolded in 2008, a large proportion of households belonging to the precariat flowed to these areas, mostly those displaced from the city. Due to the distorted nature of social capitals there and the practice of "turning a blind eye" to social problems also contributed to the formation of new segregated neighbourhoods.

Agnieszka Jaszczak[1] - Ewelina Pochodyła[1] - Katarina Kristianova[2] - Juraj Illes[2]

([1]University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn; [2]Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava)

Urban Design Interventions in the Context of the Use of Public Space in Cittaslow Towns

The Cittaslow movement was created in 1999. Its goal is to resist globalization and homogenization of cities by promoting cultural diversity, protecting the environment, promoting traditional local products, and striving to improve the quality of life. Cities that want to become a member of the network need to have a population under 50,000 (Jaszczak at all. 2020) The development of Cittaslow towns is based on an idea that stands in opposition to the development of large agglomerations, also in the spatial context. The paper presents examples of interventions in the public space of small towns in Warmia and Mazury (Poland). In recent years, due to revitalization activities, many towns have attempted to renew spaces such as squares, historical centers, facilities, and areas of unique cultural and historical importance, as well as parks and recreational areas. Interestingly, on a European scale, the renewal of space and facilities resulted from the Supralocal Revitalization Program (SLRP), developed and coherent for Cittaslow towns in the Warmia and Mazury region. This program is probably the only bottom-up collective program on a European scale. During the pandemic and in the post-Covid era, the use of these spaces by residents and tourists has acquired a new meaning and dimension. The difficult period of isolation and the inability to use public places, including parks and squares, led to the need to redefine the principles of spatial planning and a new look at, for example, the direction of community integration. Ultimately, the paper refers to selected projects for revitalizing green areas, i.e., those areas of the most significant importance for recreation, rest, and well-being, especially in the post-Covid period.

Marius Daraškevičius *(Vilnius Academy of Arts)*

Opening the Panemunė Castle Museum in (post)-Covid era: involving communities in identity creation

The end of the restoration works of Panemunė Castle (Lithuania) in 2021 meant that the museum opened its doors in (post)-Covid times. The castle was built by a Hungarian nobleman in 1604–1610 and was later ruled by prominent Lithuanian families, but the rise of nationalism in the 19th century meant that the manors during the 20th century was identified with Polish culture and was therefore ignored. After Lithuania regained its independence in 1991, interest in the heritage of manors began to grow. This was also determined by intensive scientific research, revived manor ensembles, which become new cultural centers in the regions, in a way changing the Soviet cultural centers and becoming an arena for local communities. During (post)-Covid, domestic tourism has grown significantly, manor houses and castles located in the natural environment became more attractive than ever for local travellers coming from the city, therefore the opening of the castle-museum at this time became a special stimulus for generating the flow of visitors from the city. The main aim of this report is to present a case study and to reveal how a nationally important heritage object in Lithuania – Panemunė Castle – by involving local and artistic communities can contribute to the well-being of the community in the (post)-Covid era. This report also aims to reveal the placemaking of Panemunė Castle as a place, including rural tourism, local identity, community building, cultural heritage and the use of local resources. Involvement of the Panemunė Castle neighbourhood community in the creation of a museum exhibition, organizing fairs, concerts, Christmas dinner, finally accepting refugees from Ukraine – all this is made possible by actively involving locals. This case, closely related to tourism and sustainable development, including economic, social, ecological and cultural aspects, led to the successful launch of the Panemunė Castle museum in the (post)-Covid era.

Juraj Illes[1] - Katarina Kristianova[1] - Agnieszka Jaszczak[2] - Ewelina Pochodyła[2]

([1]Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava; [2]University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn)

The heritage of former mill race corridors – potential for placemaking and urban regeneration strategies

In the past, mill races, as artificial water channels, were a characteristic element and an integral part of the urban structure of many cities and small towns. When they lost their economic importance, they were mostly buried or rerouted into pipes underground. Although we can find mill race channels in their original form only in a few cases, their

fragments or spatial corridors have often been preserved in the urban structure. Still, they represent urban, landscape-architectural, and cultural-historical values, which can contribute to urban regeneration strategies. The revitalization, new use, and presentation of the historical trace of former mill race corridors can significantly contribute to the quality of public spaces, health, and well-being. The corridors of mill races represent a local spatial potential for forming green and blue infrastructure systems, with emphasis placed on environmental and ecological aspects, issues of rainwater retention, and issues of adaptation of urban spaces to the adverse consequences of climate change. At the same time, the corridors of former mill races represent historical cultural heritage, and the presentation and interpretation of their values, even those that have disappeared, can significantly contribute to increasing the quality and attractiveness of the city's public spaces for residents and tourists. How beneficial the phenomenon of mill races can be for cities in terms of placemaking is best documented by some examples of the implementation of revitalization projects and the creation of urban greenways, cycling routes, or recreational trails. Our research examines the possibility of using the corridors of former city roads and the potential of interpreting their historical traces in selected cities in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Using the historical maps, the corridors of the former mill races were identified, and then a survey of their current condition was carried out. Based on this survey, various possibilities of contemporary use of the corridors of the former mill races and possibilities of interpreting the tangible and intangible values of their cultural heritage were analyzed, beneficial for increasing the quality of life in the city, so crucial in the post-Covid era.

Alexander Morell *(Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)*

In the creation of the Swedish national identity, the alpine region of the traditional lands of the Sámi people, Sápmi, has often been portrayed as a pristine natural environment. Today, the image of the region as a wilderness is maintained by representations from the tourism industry and social media. The Sámi culture is in fact significant for maintaining the landscape's biodiversity through its sustainable, customary use of biological resources. However, its traces in the fells are often subtle, and can easily be missed by visitors. This entails a risk of confirming the image of an untouched nature, and a loss of potential in communicating its identity. In 2021 the Swedish Government granted the Sámi Parliament its mission to act as the thematical focal point for the broad societal implementation of article 8j and 10c of the Convention on Biological Diversity. These articles deal with local and indigenous traditional knowledge and customary use, tied to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. In this mission, the Sámi Parliament is co-operating closely with the SLU Swedish Biodiversity Centre (CBM). This presentation is an attempt to, through a landscape design, shed light on the cultural heritage within the landscape surrounding the Sámi village of Nikkaluokta in northern Sápmi. Here it will be presented as an example of how traditional indigenous knowledge, in accordance with article 8j of the CBD, can be implemented within the field of landscape architecture and placemaking. The

aim is to bridge the gap between the perception of the fells as a wilderness and that of a cultural landscape and affirm Nikkaluokta's local identity within the context of tourism. The primary question is: How can the cultural landscape surrounding Nikkaluokta be communicated through a design of the Nikkaluokta tourist centre's outdoor environment? The term landscape narrative is based on the fact that landscapes are filled with stories. Here, stories from Nikkaluokta's landscape - with a focus on its cultural aspects - have been compiled with the help of local knowledge-bearers into a landscape narrative. This has then guided the design process. In conclusion, it is found that there is great potential to pique the interest for the cultural heritage of Nikkaluokta amongst visitors. By doing so, the local identity can be affirmed, and a more sustainable form of tourism encouraged. In this way, tourists can begin to learn to read the Sámi culture within the landscape and its significance for biodiversity, allowing it to take a greater part in their perception of the region.

Session 7
From de-peasentisation to pathways of rural innovation and regeneration

Leo Granberg *(University of Helsinki)*

Rural transformation in changing Europe

Ten years after the fall of the Berlin Wall a group of social scientists came together to analyse the processes of peasantisation and de-peasantisation in Europe. We were trying, no less than to understand the historical character of these processes: the role of large rural population and peasant movements in varying circumstances around the industrial core of Europe, as well as the heritage of the peasantry in the time after socialism. The book Europe's Green Ring by Imre Kovách, Hilary Tovey and the speaker, together with 18 other colleagues, was an outcome of two seminars and a long collaboration. In this presentation I will describe the idea of the book and some of its results, and in particular make an attempt to characterize some of the new major challenges in society and their consequences. What was the reason for our effort in making the book? Above all, we wanted to understand the historical role of peasantry in our societies instead of just describing history as movement from traditional to modern, from agricultural to industrial society. There was a need to understand local features in rural villages and peripheries as a part of the larger society in transformation. We could see that a century ago, in many European countries an agrarian reform was a strong dream of the rural population. Such a dream became realized, indeed,

in many countries but was also often turned to forced collectivisation. It was obvious that the social and political position of peasants varied much in different countries and even from one region to another. Peasantry was a political power and welfare states as well as socialist regimes had to take into consideration this power. Coming to our present time, the peasantry is more or less disappeared. Peasants have got old in their villages and their descendants have partly moved to cities, partly stayed in villages and experienced a transformation to family farmers or entrepreneurs. Some became tourists in their homeland, others rurban residents. Thus, the pathways of depeasantisation have been quite varying in Europe and naturally the new rural activities in present societies also vary in relation to the existing context of each country and region. What then is taking place in the European countryside today? It is deeply changed at least by three major factors after our book was published in 2001. First, European Union's enlargement to the previous socialist countries; second, climate change related politics; and third, the global food crises. The presentation analyses in which way rural transformation in Europe is dependent on these factors. As to the rural policy, it argues that becoming aware of the threats and opportunities hided in these changes is necessary to move out from the present, more or less blind transformations, to a positive development policy.

Willem Korthals Altes *(TU Delft)*

Rural regeneration and green societal transformation

The process of de-peasantisation has not only resulted in change of the social fabric of rural areas, but has also contributed to social practices of land use that do not fit with current challenges, relating to climate change, biodiversity, use of resources and results in issues of healthy living. Within the EU context, these challenges have been addressed by the Green Deal, which aims to transformation of living and working in the EU towards meeting the challenges indicated above. The current paper reviews the outcomes of the HORIZON 2020 project 'RURALIZATION The opening of rural areas to renew rural generations, jobs and farms' and discusses whether the perspective of a ruralisation of rural areas can go hand in hand with meeting the Green Deals targets.

Jesus Oliva[1] - Luis Camarero[2] *([1]Public University of Navarra (Spain); [2]National Distance Education University (Spain))*

Social change, rural futures, the Green Ring Revisited

European rural areas face different transitions derived from de-agrarianisation and de-peasantisation. Its resources, activities, economies, and social structure are changing. In addition, the meanings of rurality are being redefined, and more diverse social groups populate the rural. Increasing labour mobility, developing post-productive economies, demographic composition and residential relocation are key trends determining their future. At the beginning of the 90´s decade, one out of every ten employed persons in Spain worked

in agriculture. Today, this figure has dropped by half. In the 1990s, there were two family farmers for every agricultural employee. This ratio is today the reverse: there are two wage earners for every family farmer. At the beginning of the 1990s, almost one out of every three inhabitants in rural municipalities worked in agriculture; two decades later, less than half of them did. Today, only 8% of rural people work in the agricultural sector. Current agriculture has little to do with the activity that directed and organized rural life. It is no longer a family activity. The modernization and integration process of agricultural activity into global value chains has definitively separated the agrarian world from rural life. But not only agriculture has changed, but the villages have also changed. They have oriented their activities towards new lines of environmental management and protection, highlighting their tourist resources and the development of artisanal foodstuffs. The European commitment to rural multifunctionality establishes a new framework for rural-urban relations and redefines rural life. The paper addresses social change in rural Spain, where accessibility, mobility and hybridisation with urban and global processes shape villages and small towns, becoming key factors defining opportunities and inequalities. In the "new rurality" - less agrarian, and more hybrid - rural areas have quietly developed a system of life-based on mobility. More than half of those who live in rural areas work outside of them. Rural areas have also become more cosmopolitan, welcoming families from other places and bringing new life projects. The next generation of rural people is very diverse: one-fifth of those who are children and teens are of foreign origin. Mobility has been a response to the restricted public policies that, under the mantra of efficiency, consider the provision of public services in terms of costs and are situated far from the welfare principle to maximize the population served. And so, rural dwellers, increasingly dependent on mobility, see operators withdraw while they experience a bitter feeling of being second-class citizens. The other main change, immigration, has been veiled. Its importance as subjects and actors in the development is still not recognized. Cultural diversity opens up an enormous opportunity. It is especially relevant to the innovation and post-productive development of rural areas.

György Mikle *(Institute of History, ELKH Research Centre for the Humanities)*

Changing and continuous patterns of integration in a rural context: past and present of manorial villages

The paper focuses on the transformation of manorial settlements in the second half of the 20th and beginning of the 21th century in the northern part of Transdanubia, Hungary. Manorial villages are rural localities with special social and economic history: conditions of local society (agricultural servants) as well as patterns of economic production and consumption were driven by large estates up until the state socialist period at these settlements. Throughout the second half of the 20th century, state farms and co-operative farms were organised at manors. Population at manorial settlements diminished – most intensely throughout the 1970s – but a number of continuities could be observed compared

to the pre-WWII period. State socialist agricultural companies were key actors managing not only economic production but also housing and public infrastructure. After the privatisation starting in the 1990s, successor companies and new land owners are no longer maintaining public infrastructure and the number of local workplaces fell; the role of inhabitants and local governments became dominant in influencing local processes. From the 2000s onwards, a significant level of differentiation can be observed not only between different manors but also between different households at the same locality. The aim of the paper is to better understand the recent processes observable at these settlements by highlighting the role of local social and economic history. Local-scale phenomena are interpreted from the viewpoint of broader structural transitions; the changing role of the state is analysed in the light of global political-economic transformations. The presentation shows the role of different actors in affecting the ways of social integration, and attempts to emphasize the special characteristics of manorial settlements compared to other rural localities. It is shown how and why the key elements of social integration have changed in the long term: for instance, the changing local labour market, ways to access the healthcare system and education, households' role in economic production and consumption, changing patterns and motivations leading migration is analysed.

Nicole Mathieu *(CNRS UMR Ladyss)*

From De-peasantisation to rural regeneration in Europe: reflecting this conptualisation through the French words and from the mid half of the 20th century until the Covid and Ukrainian war moment

Social Dynamics interrelated with Spatial Recompositing is the long-term title of the laboratory in which the French CNRS team was involved In H 2020 Ruralization project. It is first because its theoretical background is to qualify and to model the interrelations between social facts like "inequalities" (social exclusion) "integration" and the increasing current problem of immigrants dying in Mediterranean and Manche seas, and "spatial" or "territorial" facts dealing with the "regional" "urban" and "rural" categories but also and more and more dealing with men/natures relations, climate change and ecological crisis We can state that its main scientific challenge relevantly fit with the Centre for Social Sciences conference' call. But other reasons explain our interest for answering the proposed questions. First it is because our Rural/Urban Relations Dynamic Observatory (4 pages translated by Henry Buller, Mathieu, 2017) pinpointed the "moment" and "period" of this evolution. Our hypothesis is that some critical Events originate a "turn" in the social representations of Rural and Urban concepts and consequently on policies, individual and collective acting and practices. As in France' case we periodize decennia from 1950th until 2010-2020 (cf. Tables) it is obvious that decennia 2020 will be marked by the "Covid age" and the Ukrainian war initiating a time of uncertainty in which understanding rurality and urbanity socio-ecological key dynamics and rural urban relation new processes will be difficult. Second, we pay an important attention to the words and concepts used in the different spheres (political, scientific and civil society) to qualify these evolutions in each

period. For instance, why, the term of "campagnes" (countryside?) was replaced in French social sciences and territorial policies by "espaces ruraux" (rural spaces?) or why the term of "paysan" (peasant) disappeared in the rural social science and was replaced by "entreprise Agricole" (agriculture manager), or also why there are distinct even opposite definitions behind the "rural" concept. And it is the last reason: our team is hardly committed in building together a European Rural Knowledge for a relevant renewal of agriculture, food, environmental and territorial EU policy taking in account is national historical, cultural diversity. L'Europe et ses campagnes (Jollivet Eizner, 1996), Le Territoire entre l'Europe et l'Etat-Nation (Ali AIT AbdelMalek, 2006) and of course CNRS' participation in the RURBAN Project (Mathieu, De Lafond, 2006/2017) are among our publications attesting this commitment. Each of them enhanced the importance of the words chosen, their meaning in the chosen language confronted with their eventual translation in other languages, the evolution of their meaning along the decennia, their quality as a cognitive concept or a concept-action etc. That is why each emerging or new concept like for instance "regeneration" or "regenerative" applied as well for cities than for "rural areas raised our interest as well as the expression Ruralization concept opposed to that of Urbanization as a new process to be instructed. Our communication will first comment the French conceptualisation rural trajectories from de-peasantisation to rural regeneration and then will propose the main new results and knowledge on the pathways of rural regeneration brought through our field case-study investigations especially in WP5.

Mieke Meurs *(American University, Washington DC)*

Is Capitalism Finally Triumphant in Bulgarian Agriculture?

While in 1946, Bulgaria was a land of small, mainly poor and poorly equipped, producers known for fruit and vegetable gardening, by 1989 the countryside was dominated by extremely large, often highly mechanized, agricultural enterprises (averaging over 21,000 ha) (Lampe, 1986; Meurs, 2001). Alongside these mega-farms, the majority of the rural population continued to engage in small-scale production for own use on individual plots. The post-1989 land reforms, which returned land to the 1946 era owners or their descendants (in its actual 1946 plots) appeared to return Bulgarian agriculture to an earlier era. But the land reform also created the potential for a radical reworking of land holding and productive structure. There were significant debates among scholars and policy makers about the ways that the new land holders might develop farms (capitalist, of course) (Swinnen, 2018). Indeed, by 1994 a diversity of forms of production had begun to emerge. New owners had placed about 67% of land into new cooperatives of land owners (averaging about 600 ha), while the remaining farms averaging of about 1 ha or, less often, was agglomerated by new private farmers renting in small plots to form significantly larger enterprises, eventually to be called corporate farms (Meurs, 2001). Farming in the new context of international prices and global competition proved difficult, however, and over

the next decade many farms failed. While the pattern of ownership remained quite similar, the amount of used agricultural land fell by an astounding 55% from 1987 to 2003 (Bulgarian Agricultural Census, 2003). The 2003 Bulgarian Integrated Household Survey revealed that only a very small share of smallholders was actively engaged in commercial production, although many did produce for own use (Meurs and Bogushev, 2009). Many other smallholders left land fallow but held onto the land-- as a form of insurance, due to family ties, or because land prices were too low to offset the many complications involved in selling (Meurs, 2016). The expected transformation of Bulgarian agriculture had stalled. The results of the 2020 Agricultural Census tell quite a different story, however. Utilized agricultural area has returned to 94% of the 1989 level, while the number of agricultural holdings fell by 80%, as many of the small private farms fell were absorbed into larger, corporate holdings. The share of agricultural holdings under 2 ha fell from 90% to 55%, while the share of farms over 50 ha increased from under 1% of holdings to 9% (Ministry of Agriculture, 2021). In this paper, I examine the nature of this apparent capitalist transformation of Bulgarian agriculture—its uneven effect across regions, impact on productive structure and, drawing on rich municipal and regional data from the Bulgarian National Institute of Statistics, the associated changes in local incomes, employment, and social infrastructure. Finally, I describe associated changes in the relationship of Bulgarian agriculture to Bulgarian food consumption. I draw on recently published case studies to highlight some important emerging alternatives to the corporate farm and consider their potential future role in the Bulgarian countryside.

Francesca Uleri *(Free university of Bozen-Bolzano)*

Deagrarianization and reagrarianization in inner areas: young farmers and back-to-the-land mechanisms in the Mediterranean peripheralized countryside

Despite perpetuate dynamics of marginalization-peripheralization which have characterized the nuanced profile of the Italian Inner Areas, currently, it is possible to individuate in these territories marked by significant processes of deagrarianization and depeasantization, a parallel trend of return to the land. This (re)discovered attraction for the "art of farming" in the "difficult countryside" reflects the emergence of a new demand for stability addressed to these territorial contexts by new generations of farmers who aspire to start with a newly emerging entrepreneurial idea or in some cases, to continue a previous family tradition. The presence and coexistence of deagrarianization and reagrarianization movements within Inner Areas implies the adoption of keys to understanding their evolution that take into account both processes that generate the so-called "voids" (e.g. demographic decline, erosion of territorial capital, etc.) and processes of territorial resistance and renaissance. This contribution focuses on the mechanisms that characterize a young farmers' back-to-the-land process by individuating the motivational aspects that determine the choices for starting an agricultural business for the first time or taking over an existing farm. Moreover,

it defines the role that young farmers have in triggering a process of territorial regeneration and eco-social transformation in Inner Areas. In doing so, the analysis develops through the identification of the sub-processes of innovation and social construction of the quality of the products and services provided by the new generations of farmers in Liguria and Sardinia. The activity of new farmers contributes to make emerge inner areas not as passive perceivers of macro-economic dynamics, rather as active and dynamic social spaces within which territorial uniqueness regains value in new business strategies, also influencing social representation of quality. Furthermore, with the activation of specific innovation strategies, farms diversify their functions thus contributing to reshape the profile of the territory and significantly determine its capacity to connect with the "outside". Resultantly the new agrarization process appears as a pivotal element of a broad process of territorial regeneration and reconnection with urban areas.

János Ádám Fritz *(Independent researcher)*

The search for a way forward in pre-1945 german and hungarian rural societies after the fall of the „agrarian state" idea

Although in the eastern provinces of Germany – and partly in Hungary – the "de-peasantisation" had already begun in the early stages of the "industrial state", these areas later on were more the outer transition zone of the "Green Ring" – the distinctive agricultural peripheries of the continent. In the authoritarian regimes of central Europe between the two wars, a return to the "agrarian state" was long considered. The turning point came with the armaments of the 1930s. To what extent did the "space of experience" and the "horizon of expectation" at that time foreshadow the models that were later implemented?

Vera Majerova *(Czech University of Life Sciences Prague)*

The Czech countryside in the present and in the coming decades

A typical feature of the Czech countryside and agriculture is the geographical diversity and diversity of settlement structures in rural areas. In many Czech regions, agriculture has historically not been the primary source of livelihood for rural residents. Socialist large-scale agriculture, to some extent, united the employment of the rural population. However, privatization and the subsequent economic transformation contributed to the differentiation of life conditions in rural areas. The current rural development strategy is based on the fundamental thesis that "each region has its specifics and regional policy creates accurate instruments for them", including respecting the principles of sustainable development and the limits of the environment. The contribution uses the working group's findings and

materials that prepare the Czech rural development strategy and deal with evaluating its effectiveness.

Paweł Starosta *(Institute of Sociology University of Lodz, Poland)*

Processes of disseminating innovation and the social structure of the Polish countryside after the transformation

The subject of the analysis is to present the relationship between the diffusion of social, technical and political innovation processes and the basic elements of the social structure of rural areas in Poland after socio-political transformation. The aim of the presentation is therefore an attempt to answer the question which of the elements of the social structure of rural society in Poland was most involved in the dissemination of various types of innovations and whether the dissemination of innovations was coherent or inconsistent for particular elements of the social structure. According to Rogers' general proposal, "An innovation is an idea, practice or object that is perceived as new by individual or other unit of adoption" (Rogers 2003: 12). In our approach, we will analyze the introduction into social circulation of three types of innovations in rural areas in Poland. The first is technical and structural innovations related to the implementation of new technological processes and transformations of the agrarian structure in the Polish countryside. The second is political innovation related to the establishing of new political organizations and protest actions of a political nature by various social entities. Finally, the third type will be social innovations which boil down to introducing new forms of cooperation in order to improve the satisfaction of social and cultural needs of the rural population. The analysis of attempts to implement the selected types of innovations will allow to estimate the scope of the process of departing from the dominant socio-cultural category of peasantry in the social structure of the Polish countryside. Taking into account the structural dimension, we will focus on the role of the following social categories in the dissemination of three types of innovation; owners of large farms with a usable area of more than 15 hectares, other owners of farms using farms smaller than 15 hectares, citizens employed outside agriculture and not owning land with an area of more than 0.5 hectares. Hypothetically, we assume that the most pro-innovative social category will be owners of large farms of over 15 hectares. The empirical basis for the presentation of the main trends related to the answer to the formulated problem question will be a review of the results of research carried out by Polish sociologists and economists in the years 1992-2018. Paweł Starosta Instytute of Sociology University of Lodz, Poland pawel.starosta@uni.lodz.pl Processes of disseminating innovation and the social structure of the Polish countryside after the transformation. (Abstract) The subject of the analysis is to present the relationship between the diffusion of social, technical and political innovation processes and the basic elements of the social structure of rural areas in Poland after socio-political transformation. The aim of the presentation is therefore an attempt to answer the question which of the elements of the social structure of rural society

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Paweł Starosta Instytute of Sociology University of Lodz, Poland pawel.starosta@uni.lodz.pl Processes of disseminating innovation and the social structure of the Polish countryside after the transformation.

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Lehel Peti *(Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities)*

Migration and social transformation of two Pentecostal Roma communities from rural Moldavia (Romania)

The paper analyzes the social impact of the migration practices of two Moldavian Pentecostal Roma communities. The economic survival of one of the Roma community is for the most part based on migration primarily to Western and Northern European countries for the purpose of begging (begging migration). Another segment of the community migrates to Western European countries with the purpose of longer term migration/settling down (mostly United Kingdom, France and Germany). The migration of the other Roma community from the same microregion concentrates exclusively on Western Europe and while many of them succeeded to settle down in the Western European countries, some of them has invested their incomes in agriculture and started local farms. The paper aims to present the modernization trajectory of Roma communities in Moldavia that have gained significant financial resources compared to the Romanian community as a result of migration. How does a part of one Roma community from Romania turn from poor Roma into farmers? What will be the relationship of the Roma from Moldavia settling abroad for the long term with the villages where they started large-scale construction? I will show the importance of the religious capital in the organizing of migration and I will argue that an important function of Pentecostal conversion is to present the positive social transformations that have taken place in the wake of migration as the "readiness/ability to modernize" and a willingness to integrate themselves into the larger society.

Grzegorz Foryś *(Pedagogical University of Cracow/ Institute of Political Sciences and Administration)*

Organizational and cultural aspects of de-peasantisation of farmer's protests in Poland

The presentation will analyse two threads of farmers' protests, organizational and cultural, which show the ongoing process of de-peasantisation of farmers protests in Poland. In organizational terms, it means remodeling the organizational aspect of peasant's and farmer's protests in the long term from organizations in the form of political parties, through trade unions in the period of state socialism, up to producers' organizations in contemporary Poland. It must be added, however, that they key factor responsible for these changes in the organizational background of the peasantry was changes within those social groups themselves: firstly, the empowerment of peasantry in the inter-war period, professionalization of farmers in the time of state socialism, and the marketization of their activity after 1989. The second thread of the analysis concerns the cultural aspect of farmers protests, which also shows the process of de-peasantisation. As a result, the following conclusions have been made: Firstly, the farmers in the course of their contestation refer to three fundamental frameworks: national, religious and peasants'; secondly, a complementary element are the frameworks developed on the basis of relationships between protesters and institutional, social, and economic environment; thirdly, the dynamics of the changes of frames in subsequent periods was focused on the elimination by the contestants of the frames that alluded to the dimension of religious-patriotic and peasants' ethos; fourthly, the master frame, which referred to national symbols, retained historical continuity and the frame referring to the current position of this social category started to play an increasing role; fifthly, on this basis, the dynamics of the frameworks used by the farmers is reflected in the economic and mental changes relevant to this social category.

Katalin Kovács - Monika Mária Váradi *(Centre for Economic and Regional Studies)*

Adaptation abilities of fruit growing farms, sustainability issues and broader social impacts in a peripheral rural context. (Case study, Tolna-hills, South-Transdanubia, Hungary)

The presentation is based on ongoing research that aims at exploring the impact of climate change in the most intensive sectors of farming and assessing farmers' perceptions, explanations and willingness / ability to adapt. The project, supported by the NKFIH (132975), intends to draw broader conclusions from the research results as well in relation to the current stage of agricultural / rural transformation in Hungary. First results of field research conducted on one of the four research sites during the last year will be presented by the authors. It is a typical (inner) peripheral area of Southern Transdanubia with

outstanding importance of fruit-growing (Tolna hills). Apricot is the most vulnerable fruit to spring frost; therefore, apricot farms have been heavily pressed here by climate change. Moreover, farm operators have been struggling with an increasing shortage of employable labour as well. Under these dual challenges, farmers have either already started to invest in new breeds, technologies (mechanisation), irrigation and various defence methods or are preparing to opt for such investments. Their adaptation abilities, however, are heavily dependent on their socio-economic status: the still many 'smallholders', monocultural operators on 1-3 hectares of orchard, do not have the possibility to switch between breeds with different degrees of vulnerability and profitability as do the owners of larger farms. The selection process among fruit growers that has already progressed in the last two decades therefore will accelerate: the weight of bigger farms will increase at the expense of declining smaller farms. What predictions can be made about the cumulative effect of farm concentration and adaptation efforts of fruit growers on the impoverished villages of the area? Will the new, diversified orchards be sustainable? Will mutual interdependence of the remaining local labour and that of fruit growing entrepreneurs stop depopulation and pauperisation? Will a pathway to socio-economic regeneration be opened in this (inner) peripheral spatial context? The presentation intends to reflect upon the WG's Call text with discussing these problem-areas of the case study.

Levente Szilágyi *(RCH Institute of Ethnology)*

The role of agricultural associations in the Swabian Villages in Satu Mare in the agrarian transformation from the regime change to the present

Several authors see different economic performances of different ethnic groups in economic anthropological case studies as a consequence of particular values and the related community norms. According to them the ability to the economic adaptation of certain ethnic groups is greatly influenced by the collective cognitive sets of the group members, their views on work, norms regarding agriculture, money, etc. These analyses consider ethnicity a form of social capital. Some other recent approaches in economic anthropology see ethnicity as an entity that is constantly redefined in the competition for economic resources, power, or different social licenses. Agricultural associations played an important role at the beginning of agrarian transformation after the regime change in Romania. The successor organizations of the socialist collective farms, now established voluntarily, were able to counteract the impoverishment caused by re-peasantization or forced peasantization processes during the long transitional period, while at the same time exploiting their monopoly position to prevent the emergence of individual and family farmers. The risk-averse, self-reliant economic model of the associations is reminiscent of the peasant, self-sufficient farm organization. The associations can thus be seen as a very specific form of post-socialist post-peasant production systems.

Camille Robert-Boeuf - Nicole Chambron *(CNRS, UMR LADYSS)*

Territorial Food Projects in France: a tool for rural innovation and regeneration?

In 2020, the latest French national agricultural censuses show the drastic decline and ageing of the farming population. At the same time, the re-territorialisation of agriculture has been developing, particularly around large cities, with the rise of AMAPs (Association pour le Maintien d'une Agriculture Paysanne in French) for example. In 2014, the French state created a policy to support local farming, farmers' renewal and local food supply chains: the Territorial Food Projects (TFP), illustrating the rise of the food thematic, at the expense of agriculture in french national and local policies. TFPs aim to adopt a cross-cutting perspective and to integrate urban-rural relationships' issues. They support territorialized food systems and short food supply chains. They are, first, structured at municipal or regional level, second, based on a shared diagnosis of agriculture and food in the territory between the stakeholders concerned; third on a quality objective in terms of ethics, environment, health, nutrition, etc., and, fourth, on its interconnectedness. This local management allows concerted action between political stakeholders and local food production system actors, thus enable them to produce a coordinated food and agricultural policy at local level. In 2020, local food supply chains have really taken off with the covid-19 pandemic and TFPs have emerged as key policies to meet France's agricultural challenges and fight de-peasantisation. In the framework of the European H2020 project Ruralization, the CNRS team analysed the impact of TFPs on the local development of rural areas. Indeed, this new policy, deeply bottom up and favouring action at the local level, raises questions: what type of agriculture does it encourage? Does it meet farmers' needs? Does it meet the needs of the inhabitants? Does it make food accessible to all? What interactions between urban and rural actors does it promote? And more broadly what kind of local society does it create? Based on several local case studies and reports, the aim of this paper is to understand dynamics and impacts of TFPs on rural regeneration, on farmers' installation and on agricultural land's preservation.

Maura Farrell - Aisling Murtagh *(National University of Ireland Galway)*

Irish Organics: Pathway to Innovation and Generational Renewal

The family farm has been the pillar of rural society for decades, stabilizing rural economies and strengthening social and cultural traditions. Nonetheless, family farm numbers across Europe are declining as farmers endeavour to overcome issues of climate change, viability, farm structural change and intergenerational farm succession. Issues around farm viability and a lack of innovative agricultural practices play a key role in succession decisions, preventing older farmers from passing on the farm, and younger farmers from taking up the mantle. A multifunctional farming environment, however, increasingly encourages family farms to embrace diversity and look towards innovative and sustainable practices. Across

the European Union, organic farming has always been a strong diversification option, and although, historically, its progress was limited within an Irish context, its popularity is growing. To examine the impact of organic farm diversification on issues facing the Irish farm family, this paper draws on a qualitative case study with a group of Irish organic farmers engaged in the Maximising Organic Production System (MOPS) EIP-AGRI Project. The case study was constructed using a phased approach where each stage shaped the next. This started with a desk-based analysis, then moving on to semi-structured interviews and a focus group, which were then consolidated with a final feedback session. Data gathering occurred in mid to late 2020. Research results reveal the uptake of innovative practices not only improve farm viability, but also encourage the next generation of young farmers to commit to the family farm and consider farming long-term.

Enikő Veress *(Association Kolozsvár Társaság, Cluj-Napoca)*

(Re)invention of the rural landscape: ecological aspects of the urban sprawl in the metropolitan area of Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár, Transylvania

As the topic of this conference has pointed out, social scientists have a great responsability in interpreting the social and economical processes that have occured in the last few years, especially during the pandemic. And of course it has also a great weight, as they should attribute these transformations as being a result (or at least influenced) of the Covid-19 pandemic. It has been stated in several occasions that we are in the post-Covid era.... But are we indeed? Can we really say that we are back in a „new normality" and from now onwards the social and economical transformation as a whole will not be influenced anymore by the ongoing pandemics?. When writing this abstract I cannot be sure that at the moment of the Conference we will not suffer again a lockdown and will not be able to partcipate but online.. Hopefully this will not be the case. In Romania during the last decades the rural/and/or/urban has been many times described as being contradictory, the rural being ascribed to backwardness, traditionalism (in the negative assertion of the concept). Even if the post1989 period has induced a series of socio-economical and political transformations we might say that there has been a slowdown in rural innovation. While observing the transformations in the Romanian rural area one thing we can state for sure that unfortunately there has been an increase in the social/economical polarisation and as a result social and economical marginalisation will persevere. In this paper still I intend to be optimistic and present a good practice as a possible path of (re)creating the „green and pleasant land" that has been pointed out by Howard Newby as the main strength of the rural.... But this success story calls out mostly for the villages situated in the urban peripheria... During 2021-22 an empirical research has been carried out as an OTKA project on the topic of ecological aspects of the urban sprawl in the metropolitan area of Cluj/Kolozsvár. In the Romanian sample three villages were chosen based on their distance

from Cluj and the level of traditionality (Aiton/Ajton, Baciu/Kisbács and Chinteni/Kajántó). During the research it became obvious that the „green" areas have been reevaluated in the choice of those who have moved out during the last 20 years from the city to these villages. As the local actors have told during the interviews we have carried out with them that during the pandemic many families have moved out and established themselves a second home... So there has been a longing for the „pure and green" natural environment in the choice of the urban settlers and this attribute can also become a point of strengths for the marginal areas that can develop strategies of economical regeneration after modernising their infrastructure.

Letizia Bindi[1] - Angelo Salento[2] - Angelo Belliggiano[1] *([1]Università degli Studi del Molise; [2]Università degli Studi del Salento)*

Back Home. Peasant regeneration and new agro-food companies for rural innovation in the inlands of Molise and Puglia

The Italian territorial cohesion policy called National Strategy for Inner Areas has stimulated a widespread reflection on the consequences of the de-peasantisation of peripheral areas, especially but not exclusively the central-southern Apennines. This process is linked both to the exodus towards the large cities of the North, which guarantee better opportunities and services (De Rubertis et al., 2022), and to the productivist approach of the Common Agricultural Policy, which hinders peasant reorganisation (Belliggiano et al., 2020). This contribution presents three different cases of new entrants in agriculture in two areas involved in the National Strategy for Inner Areas, one in Molise and one in Apulia, both characterized by long-term demographic decrease. The cases we have chosen – the first two from Molise, the third from Apulia – present some aspects of specific interest on the transformation of the rural world and the regeneration of fragile areas undergoing depopulation. The first case – La via dei contrabbandieri – is an example of rural regeneration based on the values and principles of 'going back home' (restanza). It was born from the union of three small oil producers who use traditional production methods on family-owned land. It is a regeneration project guided by traditional production methods and an innovative idea of a short supply chain, in synergy with tourism enhancement processes. The second case – Cantina Herrero – concerns a winery. The location has nothing to do with family heritage, but is functional to the company's objectives. It is an experience closely linked to the territorial context, and is contributing to the recovery of a rural identity. The protagonists of this story have built a 'return home' trajectory after periods of training outside the region and abroad. The business project has a strong impact on local communities because it includes actions of social innovation, integration of migrants and disadvantaged groups, and regeneration of small villages in a small southern region. The third case – Casa delle Agriculture – is a highly articulated neo-farming project, based on the

reuse of small decommissioned farmland, collected on loan for use by a group of young people without production tools. Again, the protagonists have study and work experience in other regions and in large cities, and have consciously chosen to return to their country of origin by developing an innovative project. Today, Casa delle Agriculture is a laboratory of rural regeneration, which produces high-quality food, social inclusion projects and culturally-based rural regeneration, has founded a 'Community Mill' and developed supply chain pacts that make it possible to organize the supply of neo-farming food on a larger scale. The three cases allow us to articulate a reflection on different levels: 1. An analysis of the socio-biographical trajectories of the protagonists: family relationships and the transmission of habitus, training, professional trajectories, the capacity to aspire; 2. The relationship with local communities and administrative institutions, and the negotiation of conditions for inhabiting places; 3. The relationship between local regeneration stories and broader movements for environmental and social sustainability.

Mauro Conti - Silvia Sivini - Annamaria Vitale *(University of Calabria)*

Italian trends in Ruralization: integrated and innovative approach to rural development enhancing local resources

The research is based on three case studies on new entrants and successors in agriculture and new comers in rural areas (December 2020 – July 2021) as part of the EU Ruralization project (GA 817642) aiming at understanding drivers of rural regeneration. A desk analysis of secondary data was carried out. Sixty semi-structured in -depth interviews, a focus group and three restitution meetings were conducted online with key informants and actors selected by the snowball method. The three case studies have a different territorial dimension and involve different actors: a) the case of new entrants concerns the territory of the municipality for Castel del Giudice with the local administration as central actor, but a strong mechanism of participation for the local community with the financial support of local entrepreneurs and CSOs b) the new entrants of Casa delle Agriculture have a strong presence in a fraction of a municipality in southern Salento, but the practice involves different farmers and initiatives all over the territory of Salento, with connections in other Regions; c) the case of successors in difference Provinces of Sicily involves standing alone farms and farms that are in connections with local initiatives (e.g. River Simeto Pact) or farmer organizations and networks (e.g Simenza, Coldiretti, AIAB). Despite the different territorial dimension and a very different kind of actors, it is possible to identify some drivers to respond to the common trend of abandonment of rural areas and progressive decay of agriculture activities, including the high level of dependency on surrounding urban centres for jobs and services, as education for young and health services for the the elderly. Indeed, all the practices are designing different pathways of rural regeneration based on the enhancement of local resources and territorials assets, starting with recovering uncultivated land, returning to traditional crop varieties and native breeds, maintaining agriculture

biodiversity through an agroecological or organic production model. The practices focus on building a local food system as initial step to transform the elements of weaknesses and marginality of a territory into an opportunity through a strategy of territorial marketing based on short supply chain forms, circular economy and the protection of the environment, health and biodiversity (e.g., abolition of plastics and pesticides), new services (educational farms, recreational activities, social agriculture, renewable energy production, agro-welfare, rural tourism), and a participatory approach with the local actors. The result is a a more integrated and innovative approach to rural development based on territorial marketing enhancing local resources not yet capitalized yet creating a competitive advantage for local communities. These outcomes are in line with a neo-endogenous development approach, recognizing local resources as a starting point for development, but with a consciousness that development is also depending by non-local forces, as infrastructural and public services development or policy regulation for agriculture and commercialization that are defined by national and European funding or political actors(Gkartzios and Lowe, 2019).

Davide Donatiello - Valentina Moiso *(Department of Cultures, Politics and Society - University of Turin)*

Value of imaginaries and distribution of value in the Moscato Bianco wine chain

The paper takes into consideration a wine-growing area of southern Piedmont (North-Western Italy). The territorial context is that of Moscato Bianco, a grape at the basis of some among the most important Italian DOCG (Denomination of Controlled and Guaranteed Origin) wines in terms of quantities exported. The Moscato Bianco grape is transformed into the "Asti" white wine, a DOCG including the sub-denominations "Asti Spumante" (sweet sparkling wine), "Moscato d'Asti" (sweet wine) and since 2016 "Asti Secco" (dry sparkling wine). DOCG certification requires that the entire production originates in the declared territory and implies a series of controls entrusted to the "Consorzio per la tutela dell'Asti" ("Consortium for the Protection of Asti wines", www.astidocg.it). The denomination makes the wine production de-territorialisation impossible, which however opens up to flows and processes on a global scale at the beginning and at the end of agri-food chain cycle: on the one hand, it intercepts flows of immigrants - seasonal and not - that are employed on site as labor; on the other hand, the sale of the final product (wine) takes place largely thanks to exports. This territory is also open to pathways of rural innovation and regeneration, as displayed by UNESCO heritage site recognition obtained in 2014 ("Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato"). In this perspective, the DOCG on the one hand defines the authenticity and distinction of this particular agri-food chain; on the other hand, as commercial quality certification, DOCG exposes actors in the Moscato chain (especially farmers) to pressures and constraints external to the territory. DOCG in this last sense is a brand feeding on imaginaries connected to local typicality and which creates high value - in economic terms - along the transnational space of multiple commercial networks.

Imaginaries re-proposed in many projects for the innovative promotion of food and wine tourism and in some initiatives aimed at making wine tasting and purchase "experiential". Art is not excluded from this sort of rural development, as shown by the presence in the vineyards of works from artists of the calibre of Emanuele Luzzati and Ugo Nespolo, or by the most recent Chris Bangle "Large benches", installations placed since 2010 in strategic points of the hilly landscape. Imaginaries to which the labels of the bottles signed by artists or the traditional cellars renovated by renowned architects also allude. The paper aims at disentangle the interconnection among different ongoing processes, also in light of the changes triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic: the economic integration of foreign labor in the Moscato Bianco viticulture and agri-food chain; the quality turn in production of local typical wines; the construction/reinvention of a selective and exclusive representation of territory as driver to promote local development and to make this rural context more touristic appealing. The analysis is the result of a research activity the two authors have been carrying out for eight year and it is based on a multi-method case study including participant observation experiences, discursive in-depth interviews and document analysis of institutional sources.

Stefánia Toma *(Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities)*

Rural Revival? International returnees' aspirations and well-being in Romania

In my presentation I discuss the results of a recent national-level survey and local fieldworks that focused (among other topics) on the motivations and future plans of international returnees to Romania. Some of these returnees left behind a rapid and stressful urban living (both at home and abroad) and decided to move instead in more or less remote rural areas. All of them have ideas on what does rural and village life means. For some of them this process is a kind of return to the values of the grandparents, others just want to escape from the urban pollution. These processes led to local transformations in rural areas and the re-composition of local labor in some cases, while there is still observable the shrinkage and depopulation of certain rural areas, on one hand. On the other hand, both the administrative and descriptive borders between the rural and the urban started to become blurred. These aspects underline again the difficulty of interpreting certain processes in terms of the urban-rural dichotomy. But exactly this dichotomy shapes the local social relations. In this presentation I would like to address this complexity.

Georgi Boykov *(Rilski Center for Scientific Research)*

Deurbanization during Pandemic – Temporal Phenomenon or Permanent Process?

We can safely assume, that usually among the pulling factors, the desire to connect and socialize played crucial role for the rise and prosperity of the cities, as they offer great

opportunities concentrating population, capital, social activities, culture, etc. The role of the cities in the traditional societies was even more important, as transportation and communication were very slow and time-consuming process back then. Over time, the cities were given image of a place of endless opportunities and beacon of enlightenment. With the rapid industrialization and urbanization during the last two centuries, founded on and driven by intensive extraction and use of the planet's natural resources, above all – the fossil fuels, we entered the era of the "Affluent Society". The aim to increase rapidly the urban population was justified by exploiting the image of the cities even further, as the urban lifestyle was advertised as progressive, while the rural space and rural way of life was stigmatized as regressive. But the cities became victims of their own success – trapped between the ever continual expansion and overpopulation, suffering of traffic, pollution, noise, etc. and adequately meeting citizen's demands. Facing such reality and dissatisfied by the illusion of the cities as "shining beacon", some of the urban dwellers choose to migrate out of the cities to the rural areas. Though Deurbanization as a process is not new, but witnessed throughout the history, there are certain differences in the contemporary process. For one, the technological advancement reached levels, which gives every individual opportunity to travel fast, work and connect from a distance. This made the necessity to stay in the cities, because of work or social connections obsolete. But more important are the motives behind the Contemporary Deurbanization: it turns out, that the migrants are seeking a more balanced way of life, between family and work, society and nature. From a study with in-depth interviews conducted in Bulgaria, we can confirm that Deurbanization is an ongoing process and far before the Pandemic, but it turns out that such event accelerated it to greater levels. And this is not temporary phenomenon, it is an ongoing process that most likely will continue to accelerate in the future as well.

Maria Fonte *(American University of Rome)*

De-peasantization, re-peasantization and the re re-generation of rural places in the Mediterranean Italy

Sociologists and geographers speak today of a 'planetary urbanization' that seems to erode rural spaces and cultures. Since 2007 more than half population lives in cities and towns; the percentage has grown to 55% in 2018 and is prospected to grow up to about 68% by 2050 (UN World Urbanization Prospects 2018). In this new urbanised world, what is the future of rural places? The corollary of planetary urbanization is rural depopulation. Do we have to think of the countryside as places where the people are disappearing from, places reclaimed for re-wilding, designated to be a human-free natural reserve as E.O. Wilson imagined and proposed in Half Planet? Is there any place in this scenario for 'farmers'? What about the trend toward re-peasantization, about which there is so much talking in recent years? Urban or Rural are too broad categories, though, each concealing differentiated social spaces. Looking at a Mediterranean context, we can delineate a scenario where rural places can be

revitalized in a post-carbon society, where 'rural' still matter and not only as a 'resource base', 'food basket', or 'beautiful landscape' in the service of urban consumers. They matter because they can support sustainable lifestyles, enable social spaces where people can inhabit and interact while building a territorial identity. In this scenario agriculture, food, farmers still have a place. Drawing from experiences of the South of Italy we will reflect on the new sustainable configuration of rural places in the 'urban age', as well as on the emergence of new territorial identities, new objective and strategies for farmers, as they aim at controlling their resource base, diversify their production and markets, build networks beyond the limits of an artificial division between urban and rural.

Maria Halamska - Dominika Zwęglińska-Gałecka *(Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development of the Polish Academy of Sciences)*

Depeasantisation versus gentrification. Rural Poland between 1990 and 2015

Until the late 1980s Poland had an anachronistic socio-professional structure, which was due to the abandonment of collectivization. Farmers, owners of farms, made up almost ¼ of Poland's population and they clearly dominated the countryside, making up about half of its population. The post-communist transformation, which coincided with the transition to the post-industrial phase, initiated major changes in this structure: a large decrease in the share of farmers in the structure (depezantization), an increase in the share of workers (proletarianization) and a large increase in the share of the middle class (gentrification). During the period under review (1990-2015), the share of farmers in the structure fell from 46% to 26%, workers increased from 41% to 45%, the middle class from 13% to 28%. Depezantization and gentrification draw attention by their dynamics. These processes will be analyzed in the period 1992-2015, which will show the variation of the dynamics of their course over time and their results in space (metropolitan areas - periphery). The analysis is based on the databases of the Polish General Social Survey (for 1992) and the Social Diagnosis (2015), conducted on very large representative (also for rural areas) samples.