

Interdisciplinary analysis of post-socialist societies

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Editorial:

Interdisciplinary Analysis of Post-socialist Societies

This issue of STSS is interdisciplinary, including articles from political economy, demography, youth sociology and political sociology. The articles observe different post-socialist societies: Slovenia, Estonia, Lithuania and Russia.

The first article (Veebel, Namm, & Tillmann, 2014) compares Estonian and Slovenian transition processes in 1991-2000 in order to test two conceptual models (shock therapy versus gradualism) of transition theory. Some authors have viewed Estonia and Slovenia as polar opposites among transition countries (see for example Feldmann, 2006; Buchen, 2007; Adam, Kristan, & Tomašič, 2009). Estonia is seen as an example representing the shock therapy model and Slovenia as representative of the gradualist model. The article takes John Marangos' models of transition as a point of departure. The comparison of Estonian and Slovenian transition models leads the authors to conclude that Marangos' models of shock therapy and gradualism have poor potential for correctly classifying the CEE countries' transitions. They argue that a combination of different theoretical models would be one possible solution to increasing the explanatory ability in practical cases.

The second article (Jasilioniene, Stankuniene, & Jasilionis, 2014) analyses ethnic fertility differences in Lithuania. The study based on census-linked fertility data, covering the entire population of Lithuania, and it also examines whether identified ethnical variation in fertility can be explained by differences in important compositional characteristics such as education, economic activity status, and urban-rural place of residence. The findings indicate that fertility among Lithuanians is higher than in the other ethnic groups, especially among Russians. Lower fertility in the Russian ethnic group is mainly explained by differences in the risk of having a second child. The authors also conclude that the observed differences cannot be fully explained by the 'social characteristics' hypothesis, suggesting the decisive role of compositional differences for ethnicity-specific differentials, such as possible disadvantages in education or income.

How adults use technology and how they manage their work and home life is often studied. On the other hand, the 'boundary theory' focuses on how people create, maintain and change mental boundaries as a means to simplify and classify the world around them (see Lamont & Molnár, 2002). The author of the following article (Persson, 2014) uses this theory to study the use of information and communication technologies among adolescents. The study is based on mixed methods: a web survey with structured, close-ended questions and focus group interviews show that pupils use ICT for leisure and school work to a great extent, both at school and at home. ICT enables pupils to study outside the school as well as engage in leisure activities within schools. The author argues that although shifting between mental domains (school and home) may have positive effects on pupils' learning, their problematic experiences of navigating between domains must be addressed.

The fourth article (Pierobon, 2014) analyses the relationship between political youth organisations, music and national identity in contemporary Russia. The analysis is based on the lyrics of four most representative political youth groups presented in St. Petersburg – the Youth Guard, the National Bolsheviks, the Movement Against Illegal Immigration, and Oborona. The article provides an insight into the different conceptualisations of Russianness produced by these organisations that emerges from their music. Music is seen as an important element pertaining to the construction of meanings and to complementing the ideological framework of political youth organisations. The author

detects convergences and divergences with regard to the national identity issue characterising youth organisations that position themselves differently in the Russian political spectrum. A significant divergence between registered and non-registered organisations came into view: in registered organisations, Russia tends to be described in positive terms, whereas the music of the selected oppositional groups emphasises many problems affecting the country.

The review of Norkus' book *On Baltic Slovenia and Adriatic Lithuania. A qualitative comparative analysis of patterns in post-communist transformation* praises the author for contribution to debates on the varieties of post-communist capitalism with noteworthy geographical ambition encompassing twenty-nine countries in Europe and Asia, as well for using qualitative comparative analysis. The book contributes to the discussion of gradualism versus shock therapy and in this way is connected with the first article of this issue.

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