Graduate Conference of the Dept. of Sociology and Social Anthropology,
Central European University
(5-6 June, 2014, Budapest)

Venue:
Central European University, Nador street 9, Popper Room, Budapest;

**Day 1:**

Get together at 9:00

**Panel 1** (Sergiu Novac): 9:30 – 12:00

1) **Alexandre Pereira (King's Brazil Institute, King's College London)** - Comparative Study on the Implementation of Waste Management Policies in Brazil and India.

2) **Noemi Gonda (Central European University, Department of Environmental Sciences)** - Climate change scientific knowledge and the creation of new development subjects in rural Nicaragua.

3) **Marton Fabok (University of Liverpool, Dept. of Geography and Planning)** - Politicisation/depoliticisation of nuclear power in Hungary.

4) **Alexandra Oanca (Central European University, Dept. of Sociology and Social Anthropology)** - Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The Trajectory of the ECoC Policy and the Production and Translation of Knowledge and Expertise.

**Panel 2** (Victoria Fomina): 13:30 – 16:00

1) **Diana Szanto (University of Pecs, Dept. of Ethnology and Anthropology)** - Framing disability in post-conflict Sierra Leone. Competing visions of the city to come.

2) **Julio Da Cruz Paulos (ETH Zürich, Dept. of Architecture)** - Making Plans of the City and for the City with Zoning: Mapping planning controversies in the Mariahilf district (Vienna, AT).
3) **Galina Kopeliovich** (Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology) - Transformation and consolidation of traditional medical knowledge with the formal health system in the 21st century in Tuva.

4) **Maxim Demin** (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Faculty of Sociology) - Experts on the Struggle for Recognition: The Professionalization of Philosophy in Russia in the 19th Century.

17:00: Keynote Speech by Dr. Werner Krauß (Helmholtz Institute Geesthacht, Dept. of Coastal Research, Germany)

Title: ‘Beyond the climate trap: the role of social sciences in climate research’.

**Day 2:**

**Panel 3** (Eva Schwab): 9:30 – 12:00

1) **Mladen Petkovic** (Researcher, Urban Development Program NGO) - The Winner Takes It All: The Hidden Routes of Participatory Urbanism.

2) **Andrey Kuznetsov** (Volgograd State University, Faculty of Sociology) - Power Without Knowledge, Knowledge Without Power: Future of Post-Soviet Urban Transport (The Case of Marshrutkas in Volgograd).

3) **Alexandra Sindrestean** (University of Vienna, Dept. of Anthropology) - Global zones of dis/investment and strategic underdevelopment

4) **Davide Caselli** (University of Turin, Dept. of Sociology) – The Expert Construction of the ‘New Welfare’ – The Case of Social Enterprises in Italy.

13:30 – 15:00: Keynote Speech by Prof. Zsuzsa Gille, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

Abstracts of Keynotes and Participating Papers:

Dr. Werner Krauß (Helmholtz Institute Geesthacht, Dept. of Coastal Research, Germany): ‘Beyond the climate trap: the role of social sciences in climate research’.

We are caught in a climate trap: even though there is a broad consensus that human beings contribute to global warming, greenhouse gas emissions are still on the rise. Global climate summits fail, climate treaties turn out to be ineffective, and climate knowledge becomes ever more politicized.

Social sciences are increasingly asked to participate in climate research, in order to improve communication between science and politics / the public on the way towards low-carbon societies. In my presentation, I argue that social science research does not simply add a missing link; instead, ethnographic research changes our understanding of climate change. Based on my own research, I will discuss this at the examples of

- the production of scientific climate knowledge from the perspective of governmentality;
- new forms of climate communication in the ‘climate blogosphere’;
- and finally, the emergence of ‘climate landscapes’ at the German North Sea coast.

In doing so, I will suggest a methodologically and geo-politically diversified approach to the climate problematic that also implies a different understanding of global climate politics.

Prof. Zsuzsa Gille (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA): ‘The Materialization of Politics in the European Union: Lessons for the social sciences’.

In the last couple of decades, there has been a growing acknowledgement by humanities and social science scholars that materiality--nature, man-made objects, our bodies, and even more broadly, the way space is organized around us, and the concrete practices and technologies we employ in our everyday life--exerts some agency, rather than molding to human and social intentions. Most of the scholars associated with Actor Network Theory have argued in this vein, and their many fascinating case studies indeed demonstrate that what we think of as purely social is really better thought of as a particular socio-material assemblage—a network of human and nonhuman actors organized in a particular way. Others, dissatisfied with ANT's flat social topology, however are arguing for a more central focus on power and social inequalities.

In this talk, I will join this endeavor but I will also demonstrate how the achievements of the social sciences in conceptualizing power, inequalities, and transnational social relations can lead to theoretical and methodological innovations in the study of materiality. My research on food and environmental policy in postsocialism and the European Union will serve as illustrations. These case studies will exemplify a new way of exerting transnational political influence, a mode of power I call the materialization of politics.
Presenters:

**Alexandre Pereira** - *Comparative Study on the Implementation of Waste Management Policies in Brazil and India.*

My research provides a comparative analysis of national-level policy implementation on solid-waste management in India and Brazil. These two federal democracies have launched national plans on solid waste during the past decade, and both face obstacles at different stages of policy implementation. Comparing the sectorial policies and the historical processes of waste-policy implementation in these two countries provides a golden opportunity to explore the role of interest groups in the formation of public policy. A number of issues will be considered, including how policy influences changing definitions of democracy, the establishment of monopolies in public-service provision contracting, the impact of regulation on market competition, and the provision of support for the poor.

Waste is a topic hotly debated in Brazil; policy enacted in 2010 has opened a huge market for the waste management sector - so large that Brazil is hosting the world’s most important waste management business sector event this year. At the same time, the Presidential election also occurring this year means that many of the crucial policy targets are unlikely to be achieved. This is also a year of national elections in India. New amendments to waste rules were proposed recently by the Government, and were promptly rejected by the Karnataka Supreme Court. Meanwhile, the waste issue has gained new momentum in the national media through the television program Satyamev Jayate hosted by actor Aamir Khan and the daily notes in The Times of India on issues such as deviations within the public-private partnership schemes, incineration plants and the livelihood of waste-pickers.

My fieldwork, which is being carried out in both countries, employs comparative analysis to understand the influence of interested groups – for example private sector advisors, bureaucrats, civil society, and waste-picker organizations – on policy formulation.

**Noemi Gonda** - *Climate change scientific knowledge and the creation of new development subjects in rural Nicaragua.*

In the field of climate change, there is an important reliance on what is considered as scientific facts. The effects of these facts are created through discourses, that are themselves connected with specific systems of power and knowledge (Foucault 1975). For Michel Foucault, discourses contribute to producing the subjects they talk about and the subjects we can know something about (1975): in the field of climate change, new discursive visibilities related to climate vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities have thus emerged in the recent years, since the issue has become a major environmental concern worldwide.

This paper discusses how science focused climate change discourses and actions have the potential to locally modify power relations by legitimizing certain types of knowledge and creating new leaderships as well as new gendered and indigenized subjects for climate change interventions. Additionally, it examines how the dominant scientific discourse is being transformed and
occasionally challenged to give rise to counter-discourses. The paper explores the influence of climate change expert discourses in Nicaragua, one of the most climate change affected countries of the world according to the scientific assessment (ex.: Germanwatch 2013, ECLAC 2010).

The analysis is based on an ethnographic fieldwork that includes empirical observations, project document review, interviews and participant observation in a Nicaraguan rural community where the United Nations "Territorial Approach to Climate Change (TACC)" program that seeks to increase resilience to climate change impacts in partnership with local level governments and organizations is being implemented.

The paper shows that the climate change discourse is influencing rural development by shifting attention and efforts towards enhancing capacities to maintain agro-ecological systems while marginalizing social justice and human rights concerns.

Marton Fabok - Politicisation/depoliticisation of nuclear power in Hungary.

Is nuclear power a technological or a political object? This question has been in the centre of the recent controversies on nuclear power in Hungary. In the wake of the postsocialist transition nuclear power has been defined as an expert issue, aligned only with rather restricted controversies on risk and safety. Fukushima, however, triggered challenges to this technical discourse through mobilising issues of transparency, corruption and later the economy. More recently, following a bilateral agreement with Russia, nuclear new build became a central issue of the electoral campaign. The controversy is whether the new build project is a business investment or a materialization of the broken postsocialist regime, especially of the current Fidesz government.

The case fits into the literature on how politics is enacted through technologies (Barry 2001, 2013; Gille 2007; Jasanoff and Kim 2009). Following the postsocialist history of nuclear power, the case reveals the along with the technology, different arrangements of the social are enacted in terms of expertise, democracy, geopolitics, and political economy. Nuclear power did not simply become politicised issue in the electoral campaign, but there is rather a still ongoing complex transformation of the political through technological, where intervention is formed through diverse organizations, materialities.

Alexandra Oanca - Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The Trajectory of the European Capital of Culture Policy and the Production and Translation of Knowledge and Expertise.

This paper documents the evolution of systems of expertise and knowledge around the European Capital of Culture policy and its trajectory since its emergence in 1985. The first part of the paper analyzes the legislation, the legislative changes around the policy and the main hegemonic texts which function as framing points of the field of knowledge and expertise of the European Capital of Culture: the Myerscough report (1994), the Palmer report (2004) and the ATLAS and the Impacts08 reports. Through the case study of the Spanish competition for the European Capital of Culture 2016
Diana Szanto - Framing disability in post-conflict Sierra Leone. Competing visions of the city to come.

In this paper I will show how disability has become a highly contested political stake in post-conflict Sierra Leone, engaged in the process of liberal peace-building. The development program led by the government, under the strong control of international donor organisations, follows two independent, but intimately interconnected paths: democratisation based on notions of human rights and capitalist accumulation based on privatisation. In this context, people with disability constitute one of the identity groups whose mobilisation is regarded as a key factor for democratisation. At the same time, as disabled beggars, street dwellers and illegal squatters, people with disability are considered as hindrances to modernisation. Within and around Freetown, around a dozen self managed collective homes founded and run by polio victims, participating in the informal economy and the emerging disability movement, find themselves entangled in a dense network made of different actors - entrepreneurs of disability politics, NGO experts, police officers, local authorities and state cadres - competing for the definition of disability. Far from waiting passively for the outcomes of these debates, polio-homes are actively engaged in translation practices, which make it possible for them to reconcile the two facets of their collective identity and to participate - albeit in contradictory ways - in the shaping of the city. I argue that the ambiguous position of the polio homes in the network and their diverse translation exercises do not only come to shape the understanding of disability, but also inform debates about modernity, development, of the city to come.

Julio Da Cruz Paulos - Making Plans of the City and for the City with Zoning: Mapping planning controversies in the Mariahilf district (Vienna, AT).

Urban planning is confronted with the evolving complexity of the city. In planning theory the modernist ideal of comprehensive and rational planning based on functional zones has been substituted with the democratic ideal of collaborative and communicative planning based on participation. In planning practice, however, zoning remains the dominant epistemic basis to order the city and the primary tool to link technical knowledge to urban development. While zoning holds an important function in mediating private property and public interests, it also presents a distinct rationality of representing and intervening in the city. This paper investigates the rationality of zoning with the concept of planning culture based on epistemic cultures (Knorr-Cetina, 1999) and
political culture (Jasanoff, 2007) in Science and Technology Studies (STS). Accordingly, it investigates the performance of zoning in the planning network by referring to the notion of urban assemblage (Farias and Bender, 2010). With this conceptualization of the zoning code as a nonhuman actor in a planning network, the paper aims to explore how zoning participates in various modes of planning knowledge making, and how the zoning code participates in enacting a certain reality into being. This exploration proceeds by way of the findings of a workshop on mapping planning controversies organized by the authors for the students of the 4 Cities Urban Studies program at the University of Vienna (AT). In this one-day ethnographic exercise the rezonings in the Mariahilf district in Vienna were opened up to study how urban plans and space were drawn together, negotiated, and stabilized.

Galina Kopeliovich - *Transformation and consolidation of traditional medical knowledge with the formal health system in the 21st century in Tuva.*

Problem of prevention and health protection - is a current and traditional topic for Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, and some questions in this issue are related to religious studies, cultural studies, folklore. This is particularly evident while meeting with the situation in the Republic of Tuva, through the last three decades, a period that began with the so-called "perestroika" in our country, when there were significant changes in all spheres of life and culture of the Soviet people. Collapse of the country led to the destruction of the health system, lack of funds for development, what gave a strong impact on the periphery.

National-cultural and religious revival that emerged in the 80s and flourished next decade, has led to increase of traditional shamanism and neoshamanism, formation and spread through out different ways in Tuva and Russia in whole. Formation of traditional healing in and out of the country (legalized in Russia in 1993), the development of interest in the problems of traditional medicine and spiritual healing in the world, along with an active interest in the field of parapsychology and esoteric component of world cultures led to a powerful surge and development of specific subculture - psychic practitioners, traditional healers and doctors in our country.

The Republic of Tuva is a prime example of coexistence and interaction of various types of medicines. This is one of the regions of the Russian Federation, which, having its own ethnomedicine, experienced the strong influence of traditional medicine (Chinese and Tibetan), as well as Russian ethnomedicine, later - spread out from the center to the outskirts of the Russian traditional healing, which, according to researchers, is equated with its characteristics to traditional medicine.

Tuva has an multiethnic population. This is a major factor, which is explaining the abundance of various medical systems on its territory. The Republic of Tuva is a zone of an intercontact movement that leads to stratification in medical systems, leeching and healing practices. The situation, which is prevailing in Tuva, is not exclusive and a unique one, but it is specific. Such a synthesis of wellness techniques we can meet in other regions of the Russian Federation. However, a multifaceted Tuvan material allows us to identify and comprehensively analyze the vast majority of problems - sometimes acute and urgent that take place in our country in the case of prevention and recovery of the population.

Maxim Demin - *Experts on the Struggle for Recognition: The Professionalization of Philosophy in Russia in the 19th Century.*
Philosophical problems were frequently at the center of public debate in Russia in the 19th century. They are discussed both in literature (Fyodor Dostoevsky, Leo Tolstoy) and in political journalism (Nikolay Chernyshevsky, Mikhail Bakunin). At the same time, university philosophers often seemed to be outside this discussion. In contrast to Western and Central Europe, where the development of public spaces occurred alongside the prevailing academic communities, in case of Russia we can speak of a reverse trend. Professional philosophers employed at Russian universities had to prove the benefit of their knowledge and of their qualified expertise.

The object of this paper is to give a history of the professionalization of the Russian philosophical community in the second half of the 19th century. The goal of my presentation is to analyze the effects correlated with the inclusion of a new expert community in public debates. I propose to identify strategies of the legitimization of professional philosophy in Russian universities of that period. The philosophical community in Russia of the 1860s experienced a legitimacy deficit both within the university community and by public intellectuals who saw academic philosophers as advisers on official ideology. Consequently, the Russian philosophical community tried to complicate its own structure and to raise the prestige of its knowledge in the eyes of society. In the last third of the 19th century, university philosophers managed to create professional associations with the support of academics from other disciplines and a complex system of academic journals. By the beginning of the 1880s, Russian academic philosophy acquired a retractable status at the university and in society, in that it was developed as a well-organized and institutionalized system of professional philosophy with specific research agendas and methodology.

Mladen Petkovic - The Winner Takes It All: The Hidden Routes of Participatory Urbanism.

In July 2013, a publication called "Guide for Participation in Urban Development Planning" was presented to the public and professional circles in Serbia. The "Guide" was received with official approval, latent anxiety and positive surprise concerning yet another transitional novelty. It is the first publication of its kind in the Balkans, which not only describes and systematizes public participation methods, but also provides examples of their local implementation and suggests their insertion into the formal procedures of spatial and urban planning in Serbia. The testing of the methods relied heavily on the work of local experts and actors, but would not have been possible without the financial support of German partners (GIZ), nor would the production of the Guide have been complete without relying on the Western literature.

Public participation, therefore, seems an "advanced technology" imported into Serbian post-socialist society. In addition to the economic changes, in the matter of urban planning mechanisms also, it looks like there is a distinct emancipatory direction from ignorance to knowledge and from authoritarian-socialist to civil-capitalist society, respectively. Along that line, the Guide for Participation can be interpreted as a sophisticated, market-oriented tuning tool. However, this simplistic, yet domesticated view of the dynamics between the West and post-socialist countries can be challenged, by pointing to the participatory dimension of decision-making processes in former Yugoslavia.

Still, the fact that in Serbian professional circles this Guide is not seen as a revival or upgrade, but rather as a novelty may seem curious. One explanation lies, for sure, in the fact that participation
cannot be recognized as such if it is not properly branded. The socialist stigma and a self-deprecating attitude fit the interest of a victorious (capitalist) ideology, which has the power to claim certain mechanisms and values such as direct democracy as its own, exclusive good. Therefore, the Guide, with its local expertise under the umbrella of Western prestige, acts as a perfect indicator of collective amnesia under the ideological pressure. At the same time, its production serves as a mirror to a long-existing dialogue and shows how participatory urbanism traveled back and forth from East to West.


The paper concerns relations between power, knowledge, and expertise in the politics of mobilities (Cresswell, 2010) within the network of marshrutkas (fixed-route taxis) in post-Soviet Volgograd. Our ongoing research draws on: 1) interviews with public officials and persons concerned with public transportation issues, 2) participant observation of the Committee on Transportation of the City Council, and 3) analysis of documents and secondary data on urban transport. Public experts emerged in Modern politics when the substance and the scope of issues emerging in industrial relations became so diverse and specialized that traditional political institutions had neither authority nor means to handle them. This contributed to the Modern power/knowledge nexus. Recent literature on democratization of expertise suggests that every trade and profession contributes to the composition of the common social world (Latour, 2004) and that recognition of indigenous knowledge as expertise creates a possibility for a policy dialog (Bijker, 2006; Mol, 2008). Such dialog on the future of post-Soviet urban transportation is in the nascent stage, and the case of marshrutkas in Volgograd shows a peculiar dissociation of the power/knowledge nexus.

Marshrutkas that originally emerged as grassroots initiatives by individual entrepreneurs in the deregulated environment of the early 1990s were overlooked by authorities for a long time; the sociotechnical arrangement of marshrutkas has a higher level of indeterminacy compared to traditional public transport. Therefore, drivers and owners of marshrutkas forge their own informal regulations and expertise on their network. Though officials have power to decide the future of marshrutkas they lack expertise because drivers and owners are reluctant to give information and seek local sovereignty (cf. Humphrey, 2004). Local authorities to legitimize their decisions appeal to passengers’ knowledge of conflicts in marshrutkas and to groups of activists (cyclists) who oppose marshrutkas as if they were blurring the boundary between expertise and intervention.

Alexandra Sindrestean - Global zones of dis/investment and strategic underdevelopment

‘Even if they sleep for a hundred years and we work meanwhile, we will never catch up.’ This is how P., a textile foreman, ended his recollection of a two-week training session in Britain, back in 1982. P.’s words evoked a particular global conjuncture. In early 1970s, Romania joined IMF and WB and obtained the status of “developing country” in order to access global credit lines for development. This enabled the socialist state to rapidly industrialize a significant number of smaller cities. Such projects nurtured hopes of wellbeing and materialized the promise of socioeconomic convergence with the ‘West’. P. lived and worked in one of these newly industrialized cities: a small port on the banks of Danube.
In the late 1990s, the Romanian state started the process of mass privatization and was keen on attracting foreign financed development again. In order to channel foreign capital, myriad state territorialities were recast into different types of "underdeveloped zones" where new incoming investors would allegedly benefit from long term tax exemptions: "less favoured", "mountainous disfavoured", "significantly disfavoured", and "naturally specific disfavoured". The small port-city on the Danube became a "less favoured zone" (LFZ). Paradoxically, both developmental projects—those of the 1970s and those of the 2000s were undertaken by 'inventing' underdevelopment in order to pave the way for investments in particular locations. Based on fieldwork and archival research, this paper explores policies of 'strategic downgrading' in the case of the small port-city on the Danube, which was rapidly industrialized in the '80s, and has been currently undergoing a second round of industrialization as LFZ. Despite the two sets of development projects displaying a rather similar agro-industrial layout for the city as basis for socioeconomic growth, I argue that they reflect very different understandings of global (dis)connections (Ferguson 1990, 1996, 2006).

My contention is that this search for differential positioning in the global economy serves to legitimize endless trial outs of new projects (Elyachar 2005). Thus, people's hopes of a better life are in fact always-already deferred into uncertain alternative future(s). Failures, past or present, can never be grasped solely from people's horizon of expectations. The systemic character of 'failure' becomes visible only from within the structural temporality of global dynamics of investment and disinvestment.

Davide Caselli – The Expert Construction of the 'New Welfare' – The Case of Social Enterprises in Italy.

This paper focuses on the impact of knowledge and knowledge circulation on the current restructuring of EU's national welfare systems. This process, intensified by EU's austerity measures, is impacting on all welfare actors, speeding up long term processes of transformations. The state, the non profit sector, private investors, consulting and facilitation companies are all dealing with major changes in their identities and strategies – while new, mostly financial, actors are entering the welfare field. Scientific knowledge, both theoretical and empirical, is crucial in periods of transformations, due to its performative nature (2,3,4), and this case is no exception. The issue gets more complex considering the crucial transformations at work within the field of social research itself: new institutions gain importance, while older ones change their structure and partially lose their role. (5,6,7) In this context, the paper analyses the growing interest, within the EU countries and under EU pressures and initiatives, in “social innovation” and "social' enterprise", generally presented as (good and often ultimate) responses to the new welfare challenges (5, 8, 9). Focusing on the city of Milan, Italy's economic capital, this paper sketches a profile of these transformations in terms of a) emerging expertise/research institutions and networks; b) emerging normative references for policy and cognitive theories for action (2,3).