Bandelj, Nina

Article

Note from the editor

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Note from the editor

Dear reader,

Welcome to the Winter edition of the European Economic Sociology Newsletter! I am especially pleased to bring this issue to you because it is dedicated to a topic very dear to my heart (and research agenda) - the economic sociology of postsocialist transformations.

Not surprisingly, the fall of communist regimes, and consequent social, political and economic transformations have provided much food for thought to economic sociologists. Reorganization of socio-economic systems, restructuring of enterprises, and redefinition of old and creation of new economic institutions and actors, have all offered plenty of opportunities for social scientists to explain ongoing fundamental economic change, to participate in policy debates to alter its course, and to learn from it about general processes of market creation and operation. This EESN issue provides a taste of some of the current research on these stimulating and important issues from established and newcomer scholars.

Starting us off, Dorothee Bohle and Béla Greskovits of Central European University summarize their research on the varieties of the postsocialist capitalisms consolidating throughout the region. After only about a decade of rapid transformations, the authors trace the already apparent divergence in postsocialist economic systems.

Lawrence King of Cambridge University takes on a hotly debated issue of neoliberal policy prescriptions to transforming postsocialist economies. He provides a critical assessment but also a much needed alternative sociological perspective on postsocialist development and enterprise restructuring.

Alina Surubaru, a doctoral candidate at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Cachan, shares some of her dissertation research on the garment industry and entrepreneurial careers in Romania, addressing an important issue of whether and how Romanian economic actors have managed to convert their political capital to an entrepreneurial advantage.

I am also pleased to include a short description of a currently ongoing program on the networks and institutions in the postsocialist economic transformation that convenes this academic year at the Harriman Institute at Columbia University in New York City, directed by David Stark.

What follows the contributions on postsocialist transformations, is a stimulating piece by Dirk Baecker that takes us back to the founder of economic sociology, Max Weber, pointing out yet another aspect of his contemporary relevance. In his note to Weber’s unfinished theory of Economy and Society, Baecker scrutinizes Weber’s definition of Wirtschaften, economic action, uncovering in it references to the term Gewalt, violence.

The issue also includes an interview with one of the foremost experts in economic sociology in Russia, Vadim Radaev, Professor and Head of Department of Economic Sociology, as well as First Vice-Rector of the State University–Higher School of Economics in Moscow, who provides his thoughts on ten questions about economic sociology.

Filippo Barbera of University of Turin focuses on recent research on the intersection of social networks and individual economic action in this issue’s “Read and Recommended”. His contribution is followed by additional recommendations in a form of four book reviews on some of the most recent work on a variety of economic sociology topics.

Last but certainly not least, it is wonderful that we can include at the end of this issue also brief summaries of several dissertations that are currently ongoing or recently finished from young researchers from Eastern and Western Europe and the United States addressing economic sociology topics. Reading about their interesting projects should make us confident about the future of our field, especially because there are certainly many more doctoral students that can share findings from their projects. Where ever you are, please consider sending us your dissertation abstract for the future EESN issues.

I also kindly invite anyone who might have a short research piece to contribute, a book review, an announcement, or a response to essays included in this issue, to send these to me. And please do not forget to tell your colleagues and students that anyone who subscribes at [http://econsoc.mpifg.de](http://econsoc.mpifg.de) can receive EESN free of charge directly to their email box!

With best wishes, until Summer,

Nina Bandelj

nbandelj@uci.edu