Economic Transformations and Political Change

Laszlo Bruszt

First Term 2010

Unless otherwise stated the seminar will take place on Thursday, 15:00 – 17:00 pm
in the Seminar Room 4, Badia Fiesolana
(only on 2 December the seminar will take place in Emeroteca)
Registration with: Monika.Rzemieniecka@eui.eu

The course offers a broad overview of the literature on economic transformations with a focus on the interplay between the remaking of economic and political institutions. While there is a long tradition of studying the relationship between economic change and political change, the parallel transformation of property regimes and polities in the new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe posed several ‘old questions’ in a new way. The simultaneous emergence of newly propertied classes and newly enfranchised subordinate groups posed the central postsocialist problem of how to restructure economies and remake political institutions when those who perceive their interests to be threatened by change have the capacity to block the implementation and consolidation of economic and/or political reforms. The course will discuss different theoretical perspectives on economic transformation, on the transformation of states, welfare regimes, the transnationalization of states and economies, and analyse diverse paths of institution building in several postsocialist economies with a focus on the politics of market making. We will not be able to cover all the topics in the seminars and we will adjust the final selection to the research needs of the participants.

Course Requirements:
Informed participation in each weekly seminar is expected of every student in the course. To prepare for the discussions, write a short essay (max 2 pages) on the required readings for each week and send it to the lecturers prior to the seminar. The major requirement for the course is a research paper. You should begin working on your paper already during the first weeks of the course. You’ll be asked to make a brief presentation about your research. The topic and the format of the final paper are your choice, in consultation with the instructor.

If you wish to write a term paper from this course, please send the outline of your paper to the seminar's professor and the relevant secretary before 23 November. The full paper has to be submitted by 14 January 2011.

Mandatory readings are marked with *. The rest are recommended.

1/ Perspectives on economic reform


Gérard Roland, 2000 Transition and Economics -Politics, Markets, and Firms MIT Press


2/Legacies


*Grzegorz Ekiert, 2003 Capitalism and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe: Assessing the Legacy of Communist Rule, (co-editor Stephen Hanson), Cambridge University Press,

*Chapters 1. And 2. Pp. 11-89

Ekiert and Hanson, “Time, space and Institutional Change in Eastern and Central Europe” and

Herbert Kitschelt “Accounting for Post-Communist Regime Diversity: What Counts as a Good Cause?”


3.The problem of simultaneity revisited


*Steven Fish “The Determinants of Economic Reform in the Post-Communist World”  


Dorothy Bohle, 2010, East European Transformations and the Paradoxes of Transnationalization

Herbert Kitschelt and Edmund Malesky “Constitutional Design and Post-Communist Economic Reform” paper presented at the Midwest Political Sciences Conference, Chicago, 2000 April 28

4/Transforming states


* Roger, Shoenman 2010 “Captains or Pirates? Politicians and Oligarchs Building Capitalism” book manuscript. Chapters x...


* Gerald A. McDermott “The Political Foundations of Inter-Firm Networks and Social Capital: A Post-Communist Lesson” 2004 August


5/The Postcommunist welfare state


Bohle Dorothee, „Race to the Bottom? Comparative Institutional Advantage? Competition and its consequences in the enlarged EU“ Manuscript to be submitted to Politics and Society

Approaching the EU and Reaching the US? Rival Narratives on Transforming Welfare Regimes in East-Central Europe

János Mátyás Kovács

*West European Politics*, 1743-9655, Volume 25, Issue 2, 2002, Pages 175 – 204


6/Discourses

*Bruce Kogut and Andrew Spicer, 2000 “Ideas, Organizations and the Politics in the Russian “Transition” A working paper of the Reginald H. Jones Center – The University of Pennsylvania

*Balazs Vedres and Peter Csigo, 2002 “Negotiating the End of Transition – A Network Approach to Local Action in Political Discourse Dynamics in Hungary 1997”


7/Elites


8/Labor


9/Transnationalization of states and economies

*Bela Greskovits and Dorothee Bohle 2010 "Capitalist Diversity on Europe’s Periphery" Book manuscript, to be submitted to Cornell University Press Chs. x


Stark, David and Balazs, Vedres, 2004 “The Social Times of Network Spaces: Sequence Analysis of Network Formation and Foreign Investment in Hungary 1987-2001” manuscript


European Politics and Societies 17(1):74-82.


10/ Supranational actors


*Milada Anna Vachudova, 2006 Democratization in Postcommunist Europe: Illiberal Regimes and the Leverage of International Actors*

- Europe Undivided: Democracy, Leverage and Integration After Communism


Jacoby, Wade, "Minority Traditions and Postcommunist Politics: How Do IGO's Matter”


Hughes, James; Sasse,Gwendolyn and Gordon,Claire, 2004 Europeanization and regionalization in the EUs Enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe – The Myth of Conditionality Pakgrave MacMillan Chs. 1, 3 and 5


11. Transition versus (economic) transformations


12. Transforming properties


McDermott, Gerald, “The Political Foundations of Interfirm Networks”, 2004, manuscript

Pistor, Katherina and Xu Chenggang, "Financial Market Governance in China and Russia” manuscript, 2003

Kogut, Bruce and Spicer, Andrew "Capital Market Development and Mass Privatization are Logical Contradictions – Lessons from Russia and the Czech Republic” in Industrial and Corporate Change, Vol. 11. N. 1 pp. 1-37

