



Alterglobalism in Postsocialism

A Study of Central and Eastern European Activists

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Abstract

A Study of Central and Eastern European Activists' is a doctoral thesis that presents the development and the characteristic of the Global Justice Movement in Poland, the Czech Republic and in Hungary. Using tools and approaches derived mostly from anthropology this thesis is supposed to give an insight into the movement in Central and Eastern Europe, but it also relies on the tradition of sociology (in particular social movement studies) with some references to postsocialist and historical studies. Although far from being complete, it is one of the first comparative ethnographies of the movement and of the activists in the region. One of the main ways to explain the specificity of the movement in this part of the world is the existence of the postsocialist condition – a set of factors that have shaped the ways of organization of contentious politics.

This thesis also attempts to analyze the movement from various perspectives by looking at its relations with the civil society, subcultures and countercultural milieus and with other actors of the global movement. At the core of the analysis are the repertoire of actions used in the region and the frames used to link local protests with more global struggles. In particular I was interested how do the social activists manage to deal with the notion of postsocialism and how do they adapt the frames derived from activism in other parts of the world to their own cases. I have tried to analyze these processes by looking at the practices of the activists in order to get a more realistic image of the movement, not biased by the self-imaginings of the activists.



Jury: Grzegorz Ekiert (Harvard University), Donatella Della Porta (EUI) (Supervisor), Don Kalb (Central European University) (External Supervisor), László Bruszt (EUI)

Bio: Grzegorz Piotrowski is currently a Junior Fellow at Collegium Budapest working within the program 'Fresh Perspectives on New Democracies'. Prior to coming to the EUI he received his MA in social anthropology and philosophy from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań in 2005. He was a visiting researcher at the Charles University in Prague (2008) and he organized a panel at the 2nd ECPR Graduate conference in Barcelona. His research interests intersect between social movement studies, postsocialist studies and anthropology and the thesis he defended at the EUI in July 2011 is a description and an analysis of alterglobalist activists in Central and Eastern Europe. He published in *Interface* (Civil society, un-civil society and the social movements, 2009), *Debatte* (Between the Dissidents and the Regime: Young People by the End of the 1980s in Central and Eastern Europe, 2010).