

# MOSEC

*Modernization by the State and its  
Ecological Consequences in East-Central Europe*

*Online Workshop, 5–6 May 2022*

*Centre for Economic and Social History, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic*



Image: Fortepan.hu / N. Kósa Judit

## Book of Abstracts



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**Workshop Programme & Book of Abstracts**  
(All times in Central European Time, CET)

**5 May, THURSDAY**

**9.00–10.30 Welcome and Keynote Session**

**9.00–9.15 Welcome to sessions**

Professor Aleš Zářický, Vice-Rector for Studies and Lifelong Learning & Director of the Centre for Economic and Social History

Michaela Závodná, Vice-Dean for Development & Deputy Director of the Centre for Economic and Social History welcome us all to Ostrava.

**9.15–10.30 Opening Keynote**

**“Tensions of Environmental State Making” Dr Richard Hölzl, Lecturer in Modern History at the University of Göttingen, Germany**

**Summary**

The keynote explores and questions the “environmental state” in its temporal scope and from its boundaries: Has it got a long history going back to the beginning of modern statehood, or is a recent phenomenon that developed during the “age of ecology” since the 1970s? How can it be defined and what are the principle characteristics: enclosure, extraction, conservation, preservation, sound management of human-nature-relations? Was it made from above, or from below? How “solid” are its boundaries, considering transboundary material flows, global circulation of species, the transfer and adaption of knowledge, green or ecological imperialism?

**Bio**

Richard Hölzl is a historian and lecturer at the Seminar for Medieval and Modern History, University of Göttingen. His research interests are situated in the fields of European environmental history, history of forests, the history of environmental movements and European colonial history. He published two books, *Umkämpfte Wälder. Die Geschichte einer ökologischen Reform in Deutschland, 1760–1860* (Frankfurt 2010) and *Gläubige Imperialisten. Katholische Mission in Deutschland und Ostafrika, 1830–1960* (Frankfurt). He co-edited the volume *Managing Northern Europe’s Forests* (The Environment in History, Oxford/New York 2018) and published a number articles, among them: “Historicising Sustainability: German scientific forestry in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries,” *Science as Culture* 19, 2010, 4, 430–60.

**10.30–10.45 BREAK**



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10.45–12.15

**Session 1. Histories of Modernization and Industrialisation in East-Central Europe, Paper 1.**

Bruno Raguž, University of Applied Sciences Baltazar, Croatia

*The beginnings of industrialization in Sisak and impact on the environment—example: Sisak Refinery*

Sisak is a city in central Croatia with a long history, located near Zagreb. For a long time, especially during socialist Yugoslavia, Sisak was a symbol of successful industrialization. During the second half of the 20th century, there was the Refinery, the Ironworks, the Segestica factory of alcohol drinks and many other smaller factories.

However, as this workshop deals with the period of modern history, this paper wants to explain the beginnings of industrialization in Sisak, with particular reference to the construction of the first Refinery in 1923. The Paper also wants to describe were there any protective protocols related to environmental protection, especially because the first environmental movements in Yugoslavia did not appear until about 50 years later. It is important to say that the refinery was originally planned in Belgrade, but the city authorities banned it, so why was such construction acceptable in Sisak?

The paper will also offer a chronological overview of the legal regulations and laws, from the beginning of the 20th century until 1990. The paper is based on relevant literature, archival sources and newspaper articles, in order to give a complete picture of the beginnings of strong industrialization in Sisak and its impact on the environment. The paper is based on relevant literature, archival sources and newspaper articles, in order to give a complete picture of the beginnings of strong industrialization in Sisak and its impact on the environment.

*Bruno Raguž has MA in history and art history, and he is currently a PhD student at the University of Zagreb, but also teaching assistant at the University of Applied Sciences Baltazar. His field of research is industrial history and the history of environmental protection in the 70s and 80s of the last century in Croatia.*



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## Session 1. Histories of Modernization and Industrialisation in East-Central Europe, Paper 2.

Ágnes Németh, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

“The ecological consequences of the sewerage system’s reform in Budapest in the 2nd half of the 19th century”

Budapest, the Hungarian co-capital of Austria-Hungary, was created in 1873 by the unification of three municipalities, Pest, Buda and Óbuda. The creation of a capital city comparable in particular to Vienna was an important representative goal for the Hungarian state, and the supervision and coordination of the urban planning work was taken over by a state body, the Budapest Public Works Council. As a result of the population growth brought about by the great urbanization and industrialization of the 19th century, the environmental problems of the unified Budapest increased, particularly in relation to water pollution. Also during this period the cholera epidemic caused recurrent problems, which hit Budapest particularly hard in the 1860s and 1870s. The institutional, community and individual solutions to these problems were centered, as in many other large European cities at the time, on an adequate water supply and sewerage system and thus began the general sewerage reform of Budapest in the 1860s. The main focus was on the flat Pest, with a population of 200 000 and poor housing conditions. On the other side of the Danube, the hilly terrain of Buda and Óbuda mostly used a system of the streams’ ditches to transport waste and waste water, but by the time of the unification it was not a satisfactory solution. Around the 1870s here, too began a sewer reform in connection with the Stream Ördög-árok which has enormous ecological consequences that still has an impact today.

In my paper, I will examine how the relationship between the state and the city authorities worked regarding the modernization of the sewerage system of Budapest. And also how the representatives of contemporary medical and engineering science and the decision-makers of the urban planning works were connected. What impact they had on the environmental change of Budapest with particular attention to the Stream Ördög-árok

*Ágnes Németh is a PhD student at the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary and an archivist in Budapest City Archives. Her research topic is situated in the field of environmental history which she studies through the case study of the sewerage reform of Budapest in the second half of the nineteenth century. Until now she published mostly in Hungarian historical journals (Hungarian Historical Review, Korall, Sic itur ad Astra).*



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## Session 1. Histories of Modernization and Industrialisation in East-Central Europe, Paper 3.

Anastasiia Khovtura , V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine

“The struggle for cleanliness: waste management in Kharkiv at the turn of the 19th - 20th centuries”

The main purpose of the paper is to establish the procedure for organizing the processing of solid waste in Kharkiv in the late 19th - early 20th centuries. Basically, the city space cleaning up was the responsibility of homeowners of Kharkiv in the late 19th century. Kharkiv city government carried out the issuance of regulatory decrees. The police enforced these rules. The homeowners hired private sewers to take the garbage to landfills. Rag pickers were important actors in recycling. The artels of these professional communities were sorting through the garbage and packing it up for further processing. Active industrial development and the strengthening of urbanization trends led to a devaluation of the secondary raw materials market and a deterioration of the sanitary and epidemiological situation in the city at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The features of the formation of a new waste management strategy of the Kharkiv city government are considered. The paper also traces the transformation of the views of members of the city government and engineers regarding the development of the industry under study. Special departments of the city government began to function, which inspected the condition and cleanliness of streets, sidewalks and squares. Plumbing became the first significant technological component of the utilization infrastructure. Spatial development of the network allowed the city government to move to the creation of a closed filtration cycle for liquid waste. However, the construction of the sewerage system did not solve all the problems with cleaning the city space. The city government organized a municipal solid waste train in the 1910s. Also animal waste processing plant began to operate. It not only contributed to the release of the city from animal waste, but also carried out anti-epidemic and anti-epizootic measures during this period. It is concluded that during the period under study, Kharkiv city government reacted to the new challenge by implementing modern disposal project.

*Anastasiia Khovtura is a PhD in History and Archaeology, lecturer at the Department of History of Ukraine, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University. Research interests include historical urban planning, social history, history of infrastructure and ecology.*



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## Session 1. Histories of Modernization and Industrialisation in East-Central Europe, Paper 4.

Andrija Filipović, Faculty of Media and Communications in Belgrade, Serbia

“(Post)socialist meontopolitics: Sava river and the necroecological modernization of Belgrade”

This paper will deal with the consequences of what has been constructed as double modernization of Belgrade, what I call *meontopolitics* - the ways in which individual beings, habitats and whole environments are turned into non-being. I will take habitats on the left and right side of river Sava near the estuary with the Danube as my case study, as these most readily illustrate the effects of socialist and postsocialist “modernizations” undertaken in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century. The left side of Sava used to be a swamp but a whole new municipality called Novi Beograd (New Belgrade) was built from 1948. It was created as a planned city and made famous by its brutalist architecture. It is now the most populated municipality in Belgrade. The right side of the river is currently being turned into the so-called Belgrade Waterfront, a product of both domestic and international capital and a cause of many controversies. It is seen as a national project by the political establishment, while a monstrosity by its opponents. It contains the tallest highrise in Belgrade, the largest shopping mall in the Balkans, and it will be one of the densely populated neighborhoods once all the apartment buildings are finished. Novi Beograd was seen as a part of socialist modernity which as its aim had the production of a new, self-governing socialist man. Belgrade Waterfront is seen as a product of contemporaneity, though that contemporaneity is lived as a perpetual transition toward market economy and liberal democracy. In each case, socialist and postsocialist, modernization has entailed a meontopolitics. Each presumed destruction of local nonhuman ecologies as their condition of possibility. With the *longue durée* of these “modernizing” processes in mind, one can talk about *postsocialist necroecology*, a historically produced environmental condition, as the defining feature of contemporary Belgrade.

*Andrija Filipović is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Art & Media Theory at the Faculty of Media and Communications in Belgrade, Serbia. They are the author of Ars ahumana: Anthropocene ontographies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century art and culture (2022), Conditio ahumana: Immanence and the ahuman in the Anthropocene (2019), and monographs on Brian Massumi (2016) and Gilles Deleuze (2015). Their articles appeared in Sexualities, The Comparatist, Contemporary Social Science, Journal of Homosexuality, NORMA, and a number of edited volumes. Their research interests include environmental humanities, queer theory, and contemporary continental philosophy and aesthetics. They are Executive Editor of AM: Journal of Art and Media Studies.*

12.15–13.00 LUNCH BREAK



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13.00–14.30

**Session 2. Industrialisation and Urbanization in East Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries, Paper 1.**

Gábor Koloh, Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary

“State measures, ecological changes and peasant farming in South Transdanubia (Hungary) in the 18<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> centuries”

The enlightened absolutism of the Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II brought profound changes to the lives of the peoples of the Habsburg Empire. Following the dissolution of a large number of monastic orders, a considerable amount of land was taken into state administration, the management of which largely supported various religious and educational foundations. In Hungary, two manors in the South Transdanubian region were thus placed under state administration and, despite their similarly unfavorable economic conditions, their management soon took a very different direction.

The spread of the Industrial Revolution created a huge wood shortage throughout Europe, but Hungary still had plenty of forests. Forests, in those manors that had not begun to develop consciously, were generally considered as standing stock not requiring care, and were used mainly for grazing pigs or were the victims of peasant expansion, obviously for a small amount of wages.

By the time of the European wood shortage, the Mágocs manor had already begun to take up tobacco production, which led to the destruction of the forest before the wood shortage occurred. By the 19th century, however, much of the land had been damaged and was washed away by rain, making it unsuitable for arable production. The peasants then tried to exploit the land by planting vineyards and to enter the local and district trade with their poor quality wines. The degradation of the environment was therefore an adjustment for the local peasants, but it also forced them to find new solutions: they adapted to the challenges, growing maize, dairy products and honey, in addition to tobacco.

At the same time, the inhabitants of the Vajszló manor, only 80-90 kilometers away, were not involved in the tobacco trade and had no vineyard, so they stuck to pig farming, which meant that they largely preserved the forests. By the end of the 18th century, therefore, the European wood shortage had reached the point where the manor had plenty of woodland at its disposal, which it took into its own jurisdiction. This was the beginning of a conscious forest management that continued until the 20th century, but the peasants reacted to the change in a very different way from before. They saw the manor's action as a reduction in their farming space and changed their fertility practices.

In my presentation, I want to illustrate this ecological and farming interaction.

*Gábor Koloh is a Research fellow at the MTA-SZTE-ELTE Research Group on Globalisation History and the ELTE Centre for Business History. Koloh's book, published in 2021, examines birth control in South Transdanubia at the end of the 18th century.*



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## Session 2. Industrialisation and Urbanization in East Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries, Paper 2.

Piotr Boroń and Jakub Grudniewski, University of Silesia, Poland

“The influence of the state policy on the development of industry in Upper Silesia on the example of the zinc smelter in Katowice-Szopienice (Wilhelminehütte) and the ecological consequences of the production of non-ferrous metals in the region”

The history of zinc production in Upper Silesia dates back to the early 18th century, when Georg von Giesche, a merchant from Wrocław, began mining and processing calamine in the vicinity of Tarnowskie Góry. His activities were supported by the Habsburg Monarchy, which established a monopoly on mining and production in 1704. The Prussian monarchy extended this monopoly until 1802 to occupy Silesia. At the beginning of the 19th century, the Prussian administration abolished this monopoly and took steps to organize royal zinc smelters. Prussia also developed the infrastructure of the Upper Silesian area, which allowed for significant industrial growth. Thanks to the construction of a royal road from Wrocław to Mystowice on the border, the importance of the areas along this road, including the area around the village of Szopienice, increased. There, Georg von Giesche's Erben company erected the Wilhelmine zinc works in 1833. Production at this smelter continued until the early 20th century, developed thanks to the support of successive governments - both German and Polish.

The long-lasting production caused the area around Szopienice to become heavily contaminated with waste, and the local population is still at risk of disease. Measures to end production and protect the local population's health were not always the norm in state policy. Often, economic interests played the most important role. Measures were also taken to conceal the health risks to the local population.

*Piotr Boroń (Prof. Dr hab.) is a historian, professor at the University of Silesia in Katowice, specializing in historical and archaeological research. Author of works on the history of the Slavs. Researcher of the history of Upper Silesia. Co-author of research and analysis of working conditions in industrial professions. T.1, Searching for traces of the past mining and processing of useful minerals, and Argenti Fossores et alii. The economic importance of the eastern parts of Upper Silesia and the western part of Małopolska in the late phase of the early Middle Ages.*

*Jakub Grudniewski, (Dr) is a historian, assistant professor at the University of Silesia. He specializes in the modern history of Upper Silesia. Author of the work "Prussian power elite in Upper Silesia (1871-1918)", and co-author of the monographs of the towns of Żory, Kostuchna, Murcki.*



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## Session 2. Industrialisation and Urbanization in East Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries, Paper 3.

Marcin Szymański, Agata Zysiak, University of Lodz, Poland

“Modernization of Lodz industrial plants and the issues of environment and health and safety. Outline of the problem”

It seems paradoxical that environmental policies and public discourses on pollution environmental well-being under state socialism are so poorly researched in Poland. We explore governmental documents, oral histories and local discourse taking Lodz as a case study. This is a part of a pilot study on environmental history under state socialism, and we are looking forward to the collaboration.

The so-called Polish Manchester, the capital of the textile industry, Lodz had a tremendous impact on industrialization, urbanization and migration in the region. So it had inevitably on the environment. From the 19th-century press discourses alarming about air pollution, contaminated water and unbearable living conditions, Lodz was often labelled among other industrial cities as hell upon earth.

After 1945, with state socialism slowly being established, industrialization became a modernization paradigm for the region. However, it supposed to bring along decent living conditions, upward mobility, workers' safety, health and hygiene to everyday men.

We aim to explore the 1970s modernization of the textile industry and its relation to both environmental problems and local discourses about them. The conditions of work and work-related diseases became an important focus on modernization efforts, but awareness of the environmental issues was also present. There was a lot of research towards water and air pollution at the time, but it was not presented to the public as it was not neither political nor social priority.

***Marcin Szymański** is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of History, University of Lodz, Poland. Dr Szymański's research Interests are the economic history of Poland in 19th and 20th century, industry and statism in Poland, and the history of Łódź industrial region.*

***Agata Zysiak** is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Sociology, University of Lodz, Poland and also serves as Assistant Professor at the RECET, University of Vienna, Austria Dr Zysiak's research Interests are historical sociology, Eastern European studies, biographical analyzes, oral history, qualitative methods social change, upward mobility, and modernization.*



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## Session 2. Industrialisation and Urbanization in East Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries, Paper 2.

Michaela Závodná, University of Ostrava

“Let them breathe—ecological aspects of urban transport in Ostrava region during 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century”

With the growing industrialization of the Ostrava region, the ecological burden of this region also grew. Significant migration of the population to this area also brought with it deteriorating living conditions. The spontaneous construction of workers' colonies, together with the polluted environment, also significantly affected the lives of the local population. Very quickly, the need to leave the unhealthy environment at least one day a week and spend it in a family circle in nature began to show. The surroundings of Ostrava offered these possibilities, but it was a question of how to achieve them and how to use them. In this paper, we will focus on the following topics:

1. Whether the municipalities of the Ostrava region used their location as a counterpoint to the industrial center and whether they thus promoted it when requesting transport connections with the center
2. During the 19th and 20th centuries, did the way in which the city and state management viewed environmental aspects changed and to what extent did they adapt transport policy to them?
3. Whether ecological transport factors were also taken into account when planning transport in the Ostrava region

*Michaela Závodná is the Deputy Director of the Center for Economic and Social History, and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Ostrava. Dr Závodná earned her PhD in 2016 and focuses on the spatial, cultural, social and economic ties of the history of public transport in regional and global perspective. She has published a number of peer-reviewed articles and chapters of edited volumes, as well as a monograph book. Dr Závodná has participated in scientific projects at the national level, and organized a number of conferences. In 2008 she received the Rector's Award, and in 2017 the Josef Pekař Award for the best scientific monograph of an author under 35 years of age.*

**14.30–14.45 BREAK**



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## 14.45–15.45 Roundtable Session “Modernization by the State and its Ecological Consequences in East-Central Europe”

### Summary

During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries urbanization and industrialization altered the environment dramatically in East-Central Europe, and much of this change was instigated, facilitated and coordinated by the state while being interconnected with agents of capitalism and science. This roundtable session invites leading environmental-, economic-, and technological historians to discuss the complex interconnectedness of state-intervention, capitalism and anthropogenic environmental change in the East-Central European context.

### Panelists

Josef Djordjevski, University of Graz, Austria

Jiří Janáč, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czechia

Ślawomir Łotysz, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

Péter Szabó, Institute of Botany, Czech Academy of Science, Brno, Czechia

Michaela Závodná, University of Ostrava, Czechia

Moderator: Viktor Pál, University of Ostrava, Czechia

*Joe Djordjevski is an environmental historian specializing on transformations of the Eastern Adriatic seaside during the period of Yugoslav socialism. He received his PhD in History at the University of California in San Diego, where he defended his dissertation, titled A Seaside for the Future: Yugoslav Socialism, Tourism, Environmental Protection, and the Eastern Adriatic Coastline, 1945-2000s. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Graz's Dimensions of Europeanization Field of Excellence program.*

*Jiří Janáč teaches Comparative and Transnational history at Charles University in Prague and is a researcher at the Institute of Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Science. In his research he focuses on environmental history, especially on history of environmentalism and environmental expertise during the period of state-socialism.*

*Ślawomir Łotysz is a Professor at the Institute for the History of Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland. His research interests include history of technology, disability studies, environmental history, and health diplomacy. Recently he published Pripet Marshes. Nature, knowledge, and politics in Polish Polesie until 1945 (in Polish: Pińskie błota. Natura, wiedza i polityka na polskim Polesiu do 1945 roku, Krakow: Universitas 2022). In 2014-15, he was the Andrew Mellon Fellow at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies in Wassenaar. He was the President of the International Committee for the History of Technology in 2017-21.*

*Péter Szabó is an environmental historian. He works at the Institute of Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences; his research focuses on long-term woodland history and the connections between history, ecology and nature conservation.*

Kindly see the short bio of Michaela Závodná on Page 10

Kindly see the short bio of Viktor Pál on Page 13

## 15.45–16.00 BREAK



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### 16.00 –17.00 Book Presentation Session

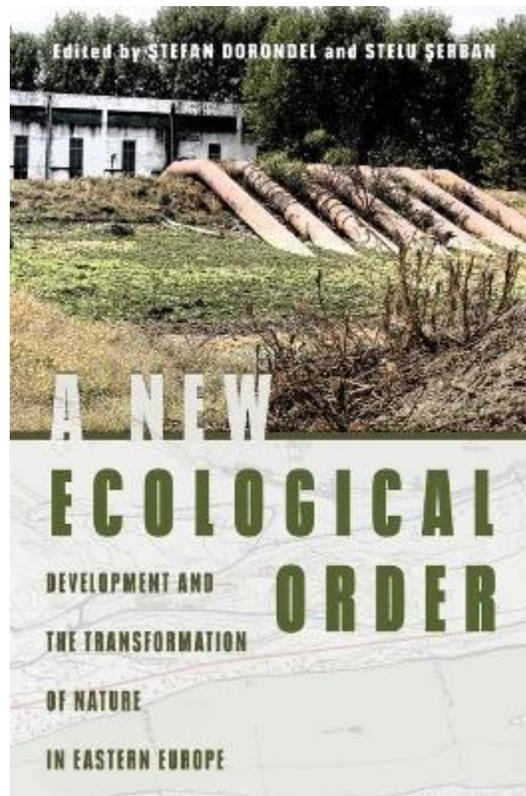
Ștefan Dorondel, Stelu Șerban eds. *A New Ecological Order. Development and the Transformation of Nature in Eastern Europe* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2022).

#### Summary

The presentation aims at introducing the newly published edited volume *A New Ecological Order. Development and Nature in Eastern Europe* (Pittsburgh University Press, 2022). The volume explores, from a historical and ethnographic perspective, the role of state planners, bureaucrats, and experts—engineers, agricultural engineers, geographers, biologists, foresters, and architects—as agents of change in the natural world of Eastern Europe from 1870 to the early twenty-first century.

The rise of industrial capitalism in the nineteenth century forged a new ecological order in North American and Western European states, radically transforming the environment through science and technology in the name of human progress. Far less known are the dramatic environmental changes experienced by Eastern Europe, in many ways a terra incognita for environmental historians and anthropologists. Contributors consider territories engulfed by empires, from the Habsburg to the Ottoman to tsarist Russia; territories belonging to disintegrating empires; and countries in the Balkan Peninsula, Central and Eastern Europe, and Eurasia. Together, they follow a rhetoric of “correcting nature,” a desire to exploit the natural environment and put its resources

to work for the sake of developing the economies and infrastructures of modern states. They reveal an eagerness among newly established nation-states, after centuries of imperial economic and political impositions, to import scientific knowledge and new technologies from Western Europe that would aid in their economic development, and how those imports and ideas about nature ultimately shaped local projects and policies.



Link to publication: <https://upittpress.org/books/9780822947172/>



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## Panelists

Abran Agota, New Europe College, Romania

Eunice Blavascunas, Whitman College, USA

Ștefan Dorondel, Romanian Academy, Romania

Anna Olenenko, Khortytsia National Academy, Ukraine

Flora Roberts, University of Cardiff, Wales

*Agota Ábran is a social anthropologist focusing on human and nonhuman relationships in Romania, particularly interested in their co-creation of environments and economies. She finished her PhD in 2018 at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, analysing how common weeds become medicinal plants across commodity chains in Transylvania. At present, she is a postdoctoral researcher at New Europe College, Bucharest, in a Horizon 2020 project called EnviroCitizen, following amateur birdwatchers in their enthusiasm for birds, asking how citizen science activities can turn into environmental citizenship.*

*Eunice Blavascunas is an Associate Professor of Anthropology and Environmental Studies at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington (USA). Her recent book, “Foresters, Borders and Bark Beetles: The Future of Europe’s Last Primeval Forest” came out in 2020 with Indiana University Press. Professor Blavascunas has been a Rachel Carson Fellow in Munich, Germany and has held a fellowship at GWZO/Leibniz Institute in Leipzig. She is the recipient of grant from Fulbright, NSF, the Mellon Foundation and a proud Switzer Environmental Leadership Fellow.*

*Ștefan Dorondel is affiliated with the Institute for Southeast European Studies Bucharest and the Francisc I. Rainer Institute of Anthropology Bucharest. His last monograph is *Disrupted Landscapes. State, Peasants and the Politics of Land in Postsocialist Romania* (Berghahn, 2016).*

*Anna Olenenko is an Associate Professor at Khortytsia National Academy, Ukraine. She researches environmental history of the Southern Ukrainian steppe, examining all kinds of nature transformation such as rivers, wetlands, forests, animals etc.*

*Flora Roberts is Lecturer in Environmental History at Cardiff University, where she teaches and researches the Soviet period, with a particular focus on southern Central Asia, dams and the energy sector. Her work has appeared in *Global Environment, ab imperio, RCC Perspectives, and Central Asian Survey*. She is working on an environmental history of the relationship between the Syr Darya river and the Ferghana Valley in the modern period.*



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## **6 May, FRIDAY**

### **9.00–9.45 COST Actions Planning Session**

#### **Summary**

COST funds interdisciplinary research networks called COST Actions. These Actions bring together researchers, innovators and other professionals including industry specialists, who are based in Europe and beyond, to collaborate on research topics for a period of 4 years. Funding for COST Actions covers the expenses of networking activities and as such is used to organize meetings, training schools, short term scientific missions, and other networking activities. During this planning session conveners invite potential COST Actions participants to work toward a joint application with a deadline in October 2022.

Participation in COST Actions has led to significant results and follow-up in terms of the number of proposals submitted for collaborative research in Framework Programmes, with a success rate which more than triple the average success rates for these programmes (37% success rate). By funding networking, COST acts therefore as a pre-portal for further research and innovation funding such as the European Framework Programme for research and technological development.

For more about COST Actions visit: [www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu)

Before attending this session it is advised to read this short description about COST:  
<https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/what-are-cost-actions/>

#### **Conveners:**

Michaela Závodná, University of Ostrava, Czechia

*Michaela Závodná is the Deputy Director of the Center for Economic and Social History, and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Ostrava. Dr Závodná earned her PhD in 2016 and focuses on the spatial, cultural, social and economic ties of the history of public transport in regional and global perspective. She has published a number of peer-reviewed articles and chapters of edited volumes, as well as a monograph book. Dr Závodná has participated in scientific projects at the national level, and organized a number of conferences. In 2008 she received the Rector's Award, and in 2017 the Josef Pekař Award for the best scientific monograph of an author under 35 years of age.*

Viktor Pál, University of Ostrava, Czechia

*Viktor Pál is the Title of Docent at Tampere University, Finland and Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Economic and Social History at the University of Ostrava.*

### **9.45–10.00 BREAK**



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**10.00–11.30 Session 3. Industrialisation and Urbanization in Eastern Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries, Paper 1.**

Iaroslav Golubinov, Samara National Research University, Russian Federation

“War debris: the problem of creation and utilization of military waste on the Eastern Front 1914-1918”

In 1914, the border areas of three empires (Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary) turned into a war zone, where tens of millions of people lived and died every day. In addition to the economic effect, the presence of armies negatively affected the state of the environment in the front-line zone. Soldiers cut down forests, burned, dismantled and destroyed houses and outbuildings, killed wild and domestic animals, trampled crops. During the construction of their fortifications, armies drained or, conversely, flooded the battle area, laid roads, dug trenches, built fortified posts, dugouts, barracks, hospitals, etc. All such activities were accompanied by littering of the territory.

In addition, during the fighting, the armies also left a lot of garbage and waste: the corpses of animals and people, used and unused ammunition, broken weapons, waste from medical operations (bandages, bottles, syringes, etc.). All of this either remained on the battlefield, becoming part of a unique front-line environment or being picked up and processed by military personnel or civilians allowed to do this. So, such activity became a part of the system of occupation and exploitation of the non-combatants.

The paper's purpose is to highlight the features of the creation and disposal of garbage on the Eastern Front of the First World War, based on a wide range of military documents (orders and reports) and ego-documents (diaries, memoirs and letters of combatants).

*Iaroslav Golubinov is working as the assistant professor at the Faculty of History of the Samara National Research University. He's also a member of the team working on a project №21-59-14003 «Great War and the Anthropocene: 'Imperial Debris' and Environmental Change in Central-Eastern Europe» funded by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) and the Austrian Science Fund (FWF).*



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### Session 3. Industrialisation and Urbanization in Eastern Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries, Paper 2.

Elena Kochetkova, HSE University, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation  
*Socialist quest for no-waste economy and wood consumption, 1950s–80s*

My presentation will examine how the Soviet government and specialists proposed using a variety of waste products (sawmill, wood processing and consumer wastes) in industrial operations instead of wood. It will emphasize a discussion about the rational and complex use of natural resources as a pervasive paradigm in Soviet industry after the war. This drew on the discourse of economizing, which emphasized saving costs on production and increasing efficiency. Rationality referred to minimizing waste, meaning that all the possible resources should be used in industrial processes. The complex use of natural resources became a principle of late Soviet industrial development. Complexity could help maintain sustainable resource supplies and industrial growth, because not only the best wood (paper wood) could be used, but all parts of trees that had hitherto been left as waste now had industrial value.

The paper will show that many Soviet specialists suggested using various types of waste in place of wood in industrial operations when possible, on the one hand, and to stop wasting forests on the other. These projects were largely supported by the state as an initiative to consume less natural resources (wood) and produce more consumer goods which became pivotal in the post-war East-West competition. It also discusses projects, experiments and professional discussions around waste, and demonstrates a gradual shift from conceptualizing nature and its assets as an economic resource to conceiving of it as an actor in its own right. By the 1980s, specialists increasingly described nature as having its own agenda and being important for the broader ecosystem and human life. By this time, they had also come to connect waste not only to industrial value but to an environmental practice, advancing the need to keep nature pristine.

*Elena Kochetkova is currently an assistant professor at the Department of History at the HSE University. She is working on the monograph "The Green Power of Socialism: Wood, Forest, and the Making of Soviet Industrially Embedded Ecology".*



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### Session 3. Industrialisation and Urbanization in Eastern Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries, Paper 3.

Ludovít Hallon, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia

“Attempts to overcome the effects of socialist industrialization on nature and the landscape in Slovakia in the period of ‘political normalization’ in the 70s and 80s of the 20th century”

The communist regime in Czechoslovakia political normalization, ie in the 70s and 80s of the 20th century he tried to overcome the technological lag of the economy behind the developed western countries. These efforts also included attempts to overcome the most serious impacts of industrial development and large-scale agricultural production on nature and the landscape. As in other areas of political, economic and social life, the government regime based its example on the political agendas of the Soviet Union. Representatives of the government regime of the Czechoslovak Republic responded to the new impulse to shape the environmental policy of the socialist countries, which came out of the tribune XXIV. Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, where the urgent needs for environmental protection were expressed in a keynote address by the Secretary General of the Communist Party Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev. Environmental issues were subsequently included in materials XIV. Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in 1971. A separate initiative was also shown by the government authorities of the then Slovak Socialist Republic, which in connection with the Congresses of the Communist Parties of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia developed their first broadly conceived program to protect and improve the environment. It was approved under the title Comprehensive Concept of Environmental Care in the Slovak Socialist Republic for the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1976 - 1980). This concept provided a realistic picture of the state of the environment and set aside the regions of Slovakia most affected by the devastation of the environment, where the main ecological measures were to be concentrated. Similar programs were developed by Slovak government agencies and tried to be implemented for the period of the seventh and eighth five-year plans in 1981-1985 and 1986-1990.

*Ludovít Hallon (DrSc.) is the Head of the Department of History of Sciences and Technology of the Historical Institute of SAS. He defended his dissertation on "The development of the energy sector in Slovakia in the years of 1918 - 1938" in 1992 and in 1993 he obtained the title Candidate of Historical Sciences (CSc.). Hallon's professional focus is the economic history and technology in Slovakia as well in Central Europe during the 20th century. He is the author or the co-author of 14 monographs and approximately 150 scientific studies, of which around 60 are foreign.*

**11.30–12.15 BREAK**



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## 12.15–13.45 Session 4. Environmental Legacies of Socialism and Post-socialism, Paper 1.

Marta Rendla and Janja Sedlaček, Institute of Contemporary History, Slovenia  
*“Industrialization and Urbanization in the Slovenian part of Socialist Yugoslavia and Their Impact on the Environment”*

The history of zinc production in Upper Silesia dates back to the early 18th century, when Georg von Giesche, a merchant from Wrocław, began mining and processing calamine in the vicinity of Tarnowskie Góry. His activities were supported by the Habsburg Monarchy, which established a monopoly on mining and production in 1704. The Prussian monarchy extended this monopoly until 1802 to occupy Silesia. At the beginning of the 19th century, the Prussian administration abolished this monopoly and took steps to organize royal zinc smelters. Prussia also developed the infrastructure of the Upper Silesian area, which allowed for significant industrial growth. Thanks to the construction of a royal road from Wrocław to Mystowice on the border, the importance of the areas along this road, including the area around the village of Szopienice, increased. There, Georg von Giesche's Erben company erected the Wilhelmine zinc works in 1833. Production at this smelter continued until the early 20th century, developed thanks to the support of successive governments - both German and Polish.

The long-lasting production caused the area around Szopienice to become heavily contaminated with waste, and the local population is still at risk of disease. Measures to end production and protect the local population's health were not always the norm in state policy. Often, economic interests played the most important role. Measures were also taken to conceal the health risks to the local population.

*Marta Rendla, PhD, works at the Institute of Contemporary History in Ljubljana. As a research fellow she researches economic, social and cultural manifestations of the living standards of Slovenes during socialism.*

*Janja Sedlaček, PhD, is an independent researcher of history. Her main research focus is on contemporary economic history, with emphasis on regional development and regional disparities.*



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## Session 4. Environmental Legacies of Socialism and Post-socialism, Paper 2.

Ferenc Jankó, Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary

*“Political ecology of environmental conflicts in Hungary: from socialism to the present”*

The second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century until the present is the era of the environment also in Hungary. However, the environment is under ongoing pressure from various economic and societal actors. The paper highlights the most important environmental conflicts and related scientific controversies that took place in Hungary. Debates over the relationship between coal mining and karst hydrological problems in the Transdanubian Mountains, water quality and water level issues of the Lake Balaton, or the building of hydropower-plants on the Danube will be used, first, to contrast and compare these issues to the environmental conflicts of the last decades including urbanization and tourism-led pressures on the natural ecosystem. Second, by pointing out the various actors and their power relations as well as the different geographical scales involved, the paper analyses the changing political ecology of Hungary. Namely, who has the right to use and transform nature, who has the justice and for what quality of the environment? Further, what is the role of the state in forming the political frames and institutions, and rearranging and managing the political economy of environmental change? What is the role of science, echoing the utilitarian thoughts of nature transformation, or opposing this views using the claims of an apolitical ecology? Through these questions, the paper offers a comprehensive view on Hungarian environmental conflicts, i.e. more widely some concluding thoughts on the conflicting relationship of Hungarian society to its natural

*Ferenc Jankó is an associate professor in the Department of Social and Economic Geography at the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest and at the Institute of Ecological Economics of the University of Sopron. His research focuses on scientific knowledge controversies as well as public debates related to environmental change and conflicts, and especially climate change. Relatedly, he conducted research in climate change adaptation and quite recently in climate change communication. As a second post-doc research topic, he is dealing with the issue of the history of geographical knowledge making in Burgenland, Austria, here, he recently authored a book in Hungarian.*



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#### Session 4. Environmental Legacies of Socialism and Post-socialism, Paper 3.

Weronika Parfianowicz, University of Warsaw, Poland  
 “Central European heralds of ecosocialism”

During the transition of 1989, the deplorable state of the natural environment in Central European states was used as one of the important arguments for delegitimising socialist governments [Dominick 1998, Spurný 2019]. Thus, in the following years, the environmental reflection, formulated within the public, scientific and intellectual debates during the socialist period were generally perceived as irrelevant: first, for its meager impact on official policies during the mentioned period and second, for its inadequacy with political regimes emerging in place of the socialist system. With rising awareness of how the capitalist system contributes to accelerating ecological and climate crises, there are now more favorable conditions to discuss degrowth or ecosocialism as serious alternatives. There is also a need to reconstruct historical traditions that could inspire and inform these projects. In the presentation, I'll examine two examples of environmental reflection in Polish and Czech debates: Ladislav Žák's idea of “pannaturalistic socialism”, formulated within the project of “necessismus” after World War II and the discussions concerning the socialist answer to the environmental crisis, led within the Committee of the Research and Prognosis “Poland 2000” affiliated with the Polish Academy of Science in the 1970s. I will focus especially on the critique of consumption and economic growth present in both cases and on the alternative modes of living and organizing society and economy proposed by both milieus. My presentation is a part of the research project “Traps of Industrialization, Temptations of Consumption, the Search for “Harmonious Progress” and Care for Earth's Future. Environmental Challenges in socialist Poland”

*Weronika Parfianowicz, PhD works at Institute of Polish Culture, University of Warsaw. Her research interests involve history of contemporary Czech culture, housing policies in Central Europe, degrowth and ecosocialism.*

**13.45–14.00 BREAK**



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**14.00–15.30 Session 5. Resource Extraction and the Environment since the 18th century, Paper 1.**

Kompaniiets, Bohdan Khmelnytsky National University of Cherkasy, Ukraine

“Forest Harvesting as a Factor of Increasing in the Frequency of Floods: the Case of Galicia and Bukovina From the Period of the Austrian and Austro-Hungarian Empire (1772–1918)”

The lumber industry was the leading economy of Galicia and Bukovina - least economically developed regions, which were part of the Austrian (later - Austro-Hungarian) Empire during 1770's - 1918. Development of capitalism and growth of industrialization required an increasing amount of raw materials, which led to increased anthropogenic pressure on the environment. In the case of Galicia and Bukovina, one of the manifestations of this trend was the increasing the scale of deforestation. It is scientifically proven that deforestation is not the only cause of devastating floods, however, the uncontrolled state of this type of economic activity is one of the main factors of increasing the frequency and scale of floods.

The aim of this paper is an attempt to determine the impact of forest management on changes in forest cover and their correlation with the dynamics and scale of floods in Galicia and Bukovina during 1770's - 1918.

The author summarizes and analyzes information on floods that occurred on the largest rivers of Galicia and Bukovina - Dniester, Prut, Seret, Zbruch, Cheremosh, Stryi, Western Bug. It is established that in the 1772 - 1918 time interval 46 years were marked by catastrophic floods: 1780, 1785, 1812, 1815, 1816, 1820, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1827, 1830, 1834, 1837, 1838, 1841, 1843, 1845, 1848, 1850, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1876, 1877, 1879, 1882, 1889, 1890, 1892, 1893, 1897, 1903, 1908, 1909, 1911. The obtained chronological range was correlated with data on changes in the forested area of Galicia and Bukovina during second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and the rate of deforestation in the region.

According to the results of the study, the relationship between the growth dynamics of deforestation, deterioration of forest species composition, reducing their productivity and increasing the frequency and scale of devastating floods was substantiated. However, the measures initiated by the government and local authorities to modernize lumber industry, regulate deforestation and implement reforestation did not have sufficient effect.

*Oleksii Kompaniiets is a Postgraduate Student at the Department of Archeology and Auxiliary Sciences of History, Bohdan Khmelnytsky National University of Cherkasy, Ukraine. His research interests are historiography of environmental history, an environmental history of Eastern Europe of 16th - 19th centuries, paleoclimatology, history of water management and natural resources use.*



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## Session 5. Resource Extraction and the Environment since the 18th century, Paper 2.

Róbert Balogh, University of Public Service, Hungary

“The Role of Forest Laws in the Transition to Profit-oriented Agriculture as State Project in the Kingdom of Hungary, 1849–1918”

This paper argues that the Forest Law of 1852 and of 1879 may be seen as essential constituents of the long transition towards profit-oriented agriculture in Hungarian part of the Habsburg Empire. Forest laws appeared in many parts of the world in the second half of the 19th century in both colonial and non-colonial contexts. Their intention to divide forests, designate protected areas and non-forests and limit access to timber and non-timber resources of the latter category was a common feature of these legislative acts. In Hungary, the introduction of the first such decree coincided with the onset of the wave of enclosures, while the second one, in 1879, shortly followed this period. Notably, the rights regarding forests were the most debated issue of the court cases regarding enclosure. The forest law of 1879 defined forest soil and soil that may be turned into a cornfield, limited the right of communities to cutting, banned grazing in forests in the majority of instances and designated protected forest areas. Moreover, it treated forests as capital and the growth of timber as interest for forest management plans.

The paper will first highlight the type of interests and conflicts that these changes triggered at the local level related to three distant regions, the vicinity of Banská Bystrica (Slovakia), present-day Covasna County, and Maramureş County (both in Romania) on the basis of archival documents. Then, it will discuss the kinds of response that the Ministry of Agriculture gave to the emerging problems during World War I and how these compared to the economic and agricultural concepts that took written form in the Ministry of Finance shortly after 1900.

*Róbert Balogh is Junior Research Fellow at the Institute for Central European Studies, University of Public Service, Budapest, Hungary. Balogh is working on the historical interpretation of the Anthropocene epoch through the history of forestry. For the next few years, he will examine epochal events leading to the Anthropocene such as energy production and consumption, food processing and textile production.*



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## Session 5. Resource Extraction and the Environment since the 18th century, Paper 3.

Viktor Pál, University of Ostrava

“Nationalist Modernization and Ecological Crisis in the Habsburg Empire during the Nineteenth Century”

During the nineteenth century many East-Central European intellectuals and politicians shared the view that a successful nation could rise out of competition if only it embraced Western economic and technological advances as fully as possible, among which intensifying network of rails, roads and movement of goods and people, as well as large reclamation and river regulation projects combined with the intensive extraction of natural resources, for example forests, were seen as key.

As a result of the dramatic nationalist modernizations, such as the one orchestrated by the elite of the Kingdom of Hungary, the environments of East-Central Europe, for example the floodplains and the ridges of the Carpathian Mountains were transformed at an alarming rate.

The political, social and economic aspects of this history have been well documented most notably perhaps by György Ránki and Iván T. Berend but also by many other historians. Albeit the scientific community still knows little about the complex interconnectedness of national building, modernization and their ecological consequences and subsequent environmental discourses, of which this presentation aims to explore.

*Viktor Pál is the Title of Docent at Tampere University, Finland and Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Economic and Social History at the University of Ostrava.*



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## Session 5. Resource Extraction and the Environment since the 18th century, Paper 4.

Steven Jobbitt, Lakehead University, Canada

“Interwar Assessments of Hungary’s Modernization Project: Hydrological Science and the Question of Water Management, 1920–1938”

Signed in 1920, the Treaty of Trianon resulted in the loss of two-thirds of Hungary’s prewar territory, much of it at the headwaters of the nation’s major rivers. Like most Hungarians, Hungary’s hydrological experts viewed Trianon as a national tragedy, not least of which because it marked a sizable disturbance to a modern hydrological project that had radically transformed the Carpathian Basin since the mid nineteenth century. However, though Hungary’s truncation had made both research and water management efforts more complicated and, in some cases, even impossible, it also exposed a number of issues and crises whose origins predated Trianon, and had little to do with the terms of the treaty itself. Many of the nation’s hydrological experts, in fact, assumed a critical and often introspective stance between the wars, directing their individual and collective energies to the examination and solution a host of longstanding environmental and water-related problems. Looking in particular at works published between 1920 and 1938 in journals like *Vízügyi Közlemények* (Water management review) and *Hidrológiai Közlöny* (Hydrological bulletin), this paper provides an overview of professional and scholarly assessments of Hungary’s modernization project as they wrestled with the various hydrological challenges they faced in the interwar period. Though academics and practitioners alike tended to celebrate the nineteenth-century efforts and achievements of Hungary’s hydrological experts, they were also aware of some of the most significant social and environmental consequences of modernization, especially as this related to river regulation and water use policy. In focusing on these critical assessments, we not only get a sense of how Hungarian experts at the time viewed the environmental impact of modernization over the long nineteenth century, but also gain insight into their vision for the future, one that typically called for greater state intervention to mitigate the negative impacts of large-scale hydrological projects and water use policy.

**Steven Jobbitt** is Associate Professor of History at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario. He is president of the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada as well as the US-based Hungarian Studies Association, and was managing editor of *Hungarian Studies Review* from 2018 to 2021. His published work focuses primarily on topics related to Hungarian historical geography and includes the book *Fodor Ferenc önéletírásai* [The autobiographical writings of Ferenc Fodor] (ELTE Eötvös József Collegium, 2016), co-edited with Róbert Győri. His most recent book is *Power and Identity in the Post-Soviet Realm: Geographies of Ethnicity and Nationality after 1991* (Stuttgart: Ibidem, 2021) co-edited with Zsolt Bottlik and Márton Berki.

END OF WORKSHOP



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**The Modernization by the State and its Ecological Consequences in East-Central Europe (MOSEC) Online Workshop is co-organized by Michaela Závodná and Viktor Pál and is realised in the frame of OP VVV grant scheme, reg. no CZ.02.2.69/0.0/0.0/18\_053/0017856 Posílení vědeckých kapacit na OU II / Strengthening the university's scientific capacities II**



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