

Invitation to take part in a project on de/territorialisation of SEE

Tihomir Topuzovski, a PhD candidate at the University of Birmingham (UK), has recently turned to us with a request to take part in his project. In the context of his PhD research project (Culture, Politics and Place), he prepared a semi-structured questionnaire for written interviews. Members of the Questioning Transitional Dynamics... project team as well as other visitors of our website are welcomed to answer Tihomir's questionnaire.

Project description:

The purpose of this research is to investigate the de/territorialisation of SouthEastern Europe, and the manner in which it is enmeshed in political and cultural processes within the region. Hence, I explore the territorialisation of the Western Balkans as a transitional destination for the countries which should reorganize in a territorial manner, according to new type of social-political reality appeared parallel with the territorialisation. In relation to the global trends and EU enlargement, the transformation of the region has provided frameworks for political and cultural transition towards global contexts, resulting in their intensified hybridisation.

Besides, the research takes into account how the rearrangement of the state and regional boundaries was implicated in the rise of new identities formation and artistic practices, which suggests that all social and political identities are shaped by the reorganisation of the borders in the region. In that direction, I explore the attempts of old/new political discourses to appropriate the field of culture in order to establish an all-exclusive national narration.

Tihomir Topuzovski is a PhD candidate at the University of Birmingham UK. Tihomir has three degrees (BAs in Philosophy and Art, and an MA in Art), and has received various academic achievement awards and research grants. He has also published a number of papers and participated in individual group exhibitions.

Contact:

TXT989@bham.ac.uk
ttopuzovski@yahoo.com

Questions:

(Please, send your answers to above email addresses.)

- How would you assess the past 20 years of transition in Eastern Europe in the field of culture?/Has there been a new cultural paradigm, producing new artistic practices in the Eastern Europe, and if yes, what has it entailed?/ How are new types of culture shaped by new set of boundaries?
- The re-establishment of nation-states after the 1990s coincided with a return to reconstruction of the national identities. How do artworks created after the 1990s

address this issue? /In many cases, the depiction of countries in the post-communist period was marked by the specific national cultural policies. What do you think about this? To what extent is this policy important for the construction of the national identities in the countries of South-Eastern Europe, and why?

- There are currently foundations which have certain cultural policies about the countries of South-Eeastern Europe; How do you understand these policies?/ What, if any, important examples of externally-based cultural foundation policies, rules, instructions, can you highlight for the countries this region?
- What do you think about how the Post-Communist art is being displayed in Western countries? / How was the Balkans region represented through externally-based artistic exhibitions about it?
- How would you interpret the meaning of concepts such as hybridization and deterritorialisation in the context of changing cultural policy in South-Eastern Europe? How has EU enlargement contributed to the hybridisation and deterritorialisation of culture in South-Eastern Europe toward the global context?
- To what extent has the change of global values already occurred, and how does it influence new forms of identification?