

**Social Inequalities and Migration
in Post-Communist Societies
Searching for Positive Identity
of Central and Eastern European Sociology**

Call for Contributions

**Central and Eastern European
Sociology Workshop**

organised by

**The Polish Sociological Association,
Institute of Sociology at Adam Mickiewicz University,
Institute for Western Affairs
with the support of the International Sociological Association**

Poznań, Poland, 21–22 September 2009

The workshop is intended to be a meeting of sociologists interested in Central and Eastern European societies, with a special emphasis on the issues of traditional questions of social inequality and migration.

In all countries which began to develop capitalism at the beginning of the 90s, the phenomenon of growing social inequality could be observed. Economic processes caused the segmentation and acceleration of old inequalities, and implicated new ones. This structural differentiation also results in a strengthening of cultural distinctions.

At the same time, the enlargement of the EU and the consequences of the Schengen agreement have resulted in an acceleration of migration processes in which Central and Eastern European countries are beginning to play a double role—as traditional sources of migrants, but also, beginning in recent years, as host societies. For this reason it is worth asking about the social consequences of both the growing social differences and the intra-European relocation of employees. Growing migration and factors of social differences are also reasons for the rising social and cultural strains between the dominating identity of the host society, and the ethnic and cultural identities of immigrant groups.

Both problems will form the basis of a more general discussion about the sources of identity of sociology in this part of Europe. The societal change in post-Communist societies at the beginning of the 1990s caused a breakdown in the identities of national sociologies, and has necessitated the building of a new model of “post-state” sociology.

We believe that similar experiences of systemic transformation might have influenced our points of view and our perceptions of social order. The question of positive identity raised in the title concerns the hypothetical common space of reflection on contemporary societies in Central and Eastern Europe, where researchers collect information and build more or less similar theoretical generalizations. Such a perspective is also reinforced by the observation of the ‘renationalization’ of contemporary sociology (Michael Buravoy uses a similar concept with reference to American sociology). It also refers to public sociology, the aim of which is the ‘revitalization’ of the voice of sociologists in public discourse, and the revitalization of the language they use in their descriptions of social problems.

-----We are seeking papers concerning social inequality and migration. Such papers should be advanced interpretations of both theory and empirical data.-----

We especially encourage applications on the following topics:

1. Migration from and to Central and Eastern Europe—diagnosis and interpretations.
2. The social and cultural contexts, and the consequences of differentiation and marginalisation in Central and Eastern European societies.
3. Is there a (ideal) type of Central and Eastern European welfare state?
4. Strategies of coping with poverty, and the social and cultural consequences of migration—the role of the state and civil society.
5. Does Central Eastern European sociology have a distinct identity?

Applications from early stage researchers (PhD students), postdocs and young scholars from all national backgrounds are strongly encouraged.

The workshop form of the meeting is intended to stimulate a free exchange of views and ideas, as well as to establish new networks of cooperation.

The language of the workshop will be English.

Applications (**consisting of an abstract no longer than 500 words and a short academic CV relevant to the subject of the conference**) should be sent to marek.nowak@amu.edu.pl. The deadline for applications is **December 1, 2008. Selections will be made by March 1, 2009.** Successful applicants will be informed of the acceptance of their proposal.

Further questions: marek.nowak@amu.edu.pl or nowosielski@iz.poznan.pl

-----**Important!** All submissions satisfying the basic requirements will be subject to a review. Only papers of sufficient academic quality will be accepted.-----