

2015-2017 report on RN36 activities

Name and Number of RN

RESEARCH NETWORK 36 "SOCIOLOGY OF TRANSFORMATIONS: EAST AND WEST"

Names and email addresses of

outgoing Coordinators and board members (past term)

Coordinators:

Elena Danilova, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia
(endanilova@gmail.com)

Matej Makarovic, School of Advanced Social Studies, Nova Gorica, Slovenia
(matej.makarovic@fuds.si)

Arkadiusz Peisert: Sociology Philosophy and Journalism Institute, Gdansk University, Gdansk, Poland, wnsap@univ.gda.pl

Board members

Zenonas Norkus, Sociology Department, Faculty of Philosophy, Vilnius University, Lithuania
(zenonas.norkus@fsf.vu.lt)

Triin Vihalemm, Institute of Social Studies, University of Tartu, Estonia (triin.vihalemm@ut.ee)

Andrei Gheorghită, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Department of Journalism, Public Relations, Sociology, and Psychology, Romania (andrei.gheorghita@ulbsibiu.ro)

Agnieszka Kolasa-Nowak, Institute of Sociology Marie Curie-Sklodowska University, Lublin, Poland (ag-kol@wp.pl)

Tadeusz Szawiel, The Institute of Sociology, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland
(szawiel@uw.edu.pl)

Yulia Prozorova, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia
(yulia.prozorova@gmail.com)

incoming Coordinators and board members (new term after 2017 ESA conference)

Coordinators:

Elena Danilova, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia
(endanilova@gmail.com)

Matej Makarovic, School of Advanced Social Studies, Nova Gorica, Slovenia
(matej.makarovic@fuds.si)

Arkadiusz Peisert: Sociology Philosophy and Journalism Institute, Gdansk University, Gdansk, Poland, wnsap@univ.gda.pl

Board members

Zenonas Norkus, Sociology Department, Faculty of Philosophy, Vilnius University, Lithuania
(zenonas.norkus@fsf.vu.lt)

Triin Vihalemm, Institute of Social Studies, University of Tartu, Estonia (triin.vihalemm@ut.ee)

Andrei Gheorghită, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Department of Journalism, Public Relations, Sociology, and Psychology, Romania (andrei.gheorghita@ulbsibiu.ro)

Agnieszka Kolasa-Nowak, Institute of Sociology Marie Curie-Sklodowska University, Lublin, Poland (ag-kol@wp.pl)

Tadeusz Szawiel, The Institute of Sociology, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland
(szawiel@uw.edu.pl)

Yulia Prozorova, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences, St.Petersburg, Russia
(yulia.prozorova@gmail.com)

Activities:

Please describe all relevant activities of your RN in the past two-year term:

- **Did you organize a mid-term conference? If yes, please provide the title, venue, date, organizers, number of papers and participants and overall assessment of the event. (Consult your midterm conference report which will not get published on the website.)**

ESA RN36 **Midterm Conference “*Social transformations: new challenges, practices, and critique*”** was held in Sibiu, Romania, September 28-29, 2016. Hosting institution: Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu (LBUS). RN36 organized this conference with support of the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu (LBUS), the Romanian Sociological Association (SSR) and the Alumni Association of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities LBUS (Alumni FSSU).

Conference participation: submissions around 70 abstracts, accepted submissions – 50 papers including distributive papers. 54 participants; 43 presentations + 2 keynote speakers

The main aim of the conference was to enhance mutual knowledge and stimulate cooperation between the members of the RN36 and to develop conceptual frames for the analysis of social transformations in the Eastern part of Europe from the different perspectives. The feedback from the participants was very positive. The conference was very successful in many terms.

1) Networking and bringing together researchers from a number of countries, enlarging participation from different countries (Poland, Slovenia, Estonia, Lithuania, Germany, UK, Russia, Latvia, Czech Republic, Romania, Bulgaria; Ireland; Ukraine; Sweden); 2) Very good academic level of papers and inspiring content of discussions; 3) Effective organisation of the conference and good social program provided by hosting organisations.

- **Please report on your activities at the ESA Conference of this year: Number of sessions; how many presentations, how many distributed papers?**

During ESA conference 2017 in Athens RN36 organized: 1 semi-plenary session with 2 speakers; 17 sessions with 67 presentations and 2 distributed papers

- **Did you establish a Newsletter of your RN? If so, how often is the Newsletter published; is it placed on the ESA RN website?**

No

- **Does your RN have a website of its own, other than the space on the official ESA website? Publications related to RN sessions and/or midterm meetings?**

We do not have a special website of our own, but collaborate with institutions in providing information about RN36 on their sites

- **Any action to be taken to improve participation of PhD students and early career researchers?**

Activities on promoting PhD students' participation in ESA initiatives, including summer schools, ESA conferences, RN midterm conferences, international research projects and publications

(fee reduction, special sessions, university PhD student's involvement in the working of conferences on the basis of Universities).

- **Any action to be taken to expand membership, especially from countries with overall weaker ESA membership? Also, are there members from outside Europe?**

Improved scope of the mid-term conferences resulted in expanding membership. Cooperation with national sociological associations (lastly – Romania, Ukraine, Belarus, Hungary, China Japan)

- **Any collaboration within ESA with other RNs? If so, please give details. Do you plan to improve collaboration across RNs?**

Joint sessions within ESA conferences

- **Any action to be taken to improve opportunities for publication of papers presented at the RN meetings and sessions?**

We promote publications of RN members and participants by putting together their contributions in the special volumes.

- “Multi-faced Transformations. Challenges and Studies”. Editor(s): Elena Danilova, Matej Makarovic, Alina Zubkovich. 2015 Cambridge Scholars Publishing. Volume of contributions from RN326 prepared by SASS (Slovenia)
- The Routledge International Handbook of European Social Transformations. Edited by Peeter Vihalemm, Anu Masso, Signe Opermann. Series: Routledge International Handbooks. Routledge, Abingdon, New York, December 2017 (volume of contributions from RN36 prepared by Tartu University within Ashgate Research Companion to European Social Transformation).

Reviews

"The epoch of neo-liberalism since the late 1970s has been a period of fundamental social transformations leading to shifts in all areas of society. The editors of this path-breaking handbook have assembled a team of scholars, who examine the social, institutional, spatial and temporal dimensions of social transformation as experienced in Eastern Europe and the European Union, and link these both to social theory and to global processes of transformation. This is an important book that could help reframe the social sciences for the 21st century."

Stephen Castles, University of Sydney, Australia.

"A comprehensive and up-to-date coverage of transformation studies, reaching out from post-communist "transitology" to structural changes of the EU and global capitalism, including both macro, meso, and micro level research. A must-read for specialists and students as well as general readers interested in the epochal change the world is undergoing."

Pekka Sulkunen, University of Helsinki, Finland.

- Journal articles dedicated to transforming societies

- **Any plans for further activities of your RN?**

Midterm Conference of ESA RN36 titled „ **The Social Transformations We Live in: Between Cohesion and Fragmentation**” is planned to be held in Nova Gorica, Slovenia September 20-22, 2018. *Host institution:* School of Advanced Social Studies, Nova Gorica, Slovenia. Together with Slovenian National Committee of the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations Program (MOST).