

Diasporas and Cosmopolitanism in Central and Eastern Europe: From Theory to Practice



School of Slavonic and East European Studies
University College London
18th – 19th September 2010



Keynote Speaker:
Professor Rogers Brubaker (UCLA)

Since its inception, the study of diasporas has provided an insightful and interdisciplinary forum for the research of social identities and divisions within society. This conference aims to explore the notion of cosmopolitanism as a means to explain identity choices, outlooks, everyday experiences and political practices. How do cosmopolitan ideas, narratives and values shape everyday experiences and practices among diasporic communities living in Central and Eastern Europe? How do they make sense of their identities and social encounters in ways that can be viewed 'cosmopolitan'?

We solicit papers which address these and other related questions from scholars working in a variety of disciplines, including political science, history, sociology, cultural studies and anthropology. Papers attempting to link theoretical and empirical insights and papers emphasising speculative analysis and lived experience are particularly welcomed. Papers may also address one or more of the following themes:

theoretical conceptualisations of diaspora and cosmopolitanism in CE and EE / cosmopolitan mobilities / diasporic memory, homeland and the symbolic politics of immigration / cosmopolitanism as a type of particularistic and exclusionary identity politics / cosmopolitanism and everyday experiences of nationality, citizenship, friendships and networks / religion and cosmopolitanism / tolerance / multicultural communities / cosmopolitanism, diaspora and gender/ cosmopolitanism and diaspora media representations / cosmopolitanism and diasporic youth cultures/ everyday leisure, culture and tastes / consumption / diasporic politics and engagement.

Abstracts of not more than 250 words should be sent to the conference organiser, Dr Ulrike Ziemer (CEELBAS, SSEES, UCL) at u.ziemer@ssees.ucl.ac.uk by Friday 2nd April 2010.