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This paper analyses the public role of religion in post-communist Central Europe by researching perceptions and expectations of people concerning different aspects of the social role of religion. The paper argues that the social significance of religion should be analysed from the point of view of its ability to fulfil different social functions and social expectations connected with it. Based on the data from the Aufbruch research project and partly from the International Social Survey Project, religious portraits of 13 post-communist countries are presented. A more in-depth analysis is done for four countries (Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovakia and Slovenia), since in these countries the differences in the general level of religiosity vary significantly, ranging from highly religious (Croatia) to highly secularized (Czech Republic). The findings show that social expectations about the public role of religion differ due to a social field in which religion is/can be engaged and that people’s expectations about the public and social role of religion do not always match the general level of religiosity in a specific society.
BACKGROUND: In Southeastern Europe, similar to other postsocialist regions on the continent, injection drug users (IDU) are exposed to a high risk of blood-borne infections. In this paper, we report the prevalence of HIV, hepatitis C (HCV) and hepatitis B (HBV) among IDUs in Montenegro. We also examine the risk factors associated with HCV diagnosis.

METHODS: In 2008, 322 IDUs in Montenegro participated in a respondent-driven sampling survey. Blood specimens were collected and tested for HIV, HCV and HBV. Behavioral data were collected with self-administered questionnaires.

RESULTS: In comparison to 2005, HCV prevalence had increased from an estimated 22 to 53.7%. Only one HIV and no HBV cases were detected. Anti-HCV positivity was associated with the region of origin, income, sharing injection equipment and frequency of injecting drugs.

CONCLUSION: The increasing HCV prevalence among IDUs in Montenegro calls for increased and better designed programs to prevent its further spread and a potential HIV outbreak.


This article discusses the potential of emotionally based strategic communications (EBSCs) as an extension of traditional strategic communications in prevention of societal stress-related disorders. The concept of EBSCs takes into consideration dominant emotional maps of a specific sociocultural environment in which communications take place. EBSCs may have a significant potential to transform mainly negative-dominant emotional maps of targeted social groups into more positive ones, as a precondition of building a more resilient and stress-resistant social environment. A better understanding of dominant emotional maps and their conditioning may facilitate restoration of more positive emotional maps by touching the right emotions of significant parts of the targeted social groups in the right way. Dominant emotional maps of societies afflicted by economic downturns, natural disasters, conflicts etc., are typically characterized by negatively valenced emotions. Persistent negatively valenced group-based dominant emotions may be used as a quantitative statistical measure of potential stress-related disorders and post-traumatic stress disorders among respected group members. The toxic power of extreme negative emotions, attitudes, actions, and behavior might be reduced by EBSCs as a communication method for transforming negative-dominant emotional maps into more positive ones. EBSCs are conceptualized as the positively valenced stimulation of a negatively emotionally affected group by an appropriate communication strategy to minimize dominant-negative emotional maps and behavior of the targeted group.
Social tolerance towards left-handed people is commonly accepted in the twenty-first century, though not universal. However, at the level of social cognition a subtle bias against this visible minority group might not have disappeared. To investigate this possibility we adopted the theoretical framework of the stereotype content model (SCM) whereby two fundamental dimensions (warmth and competence) are sufficient to explain group differences in stereotype content. We examined how a large sample of medical students (N=300) perceived nine social groups (seven with various physical, social, or mental handicaps, and the two target groups of left- and right-handers), and four “anchor” groups comprising educated people, pensioners, drug addicts, and rich people) which are considered as prototypical in terms of the SCM. Hierarchical cluster analysis was performed to determine similarity of groups in the warmth×competence two-dimensional space. Four clusters were identified, with left- and right-handers located in the same cluster together with educated people. This cluster had higher ratings on both warmth and competence (i.e., more positive stereotype) compared with all other groups. However, within-cluster analysis showed that the left-handed group was perceived as lower on both dimensions compared to the right-handed group. This statistically significant difference suggests that implicit bias against left-handed individuals has not vanished despite pervasive social tolerance. Possible mechanisms that may explain this subtle and subliminal stereotyping are discussed.


This article contributes to understanding change in gender regimes in post-communist countries. Using Croatia as a case, it juxtaposes the observed change in key indicators of the position of women in various walks of life with the context of the European gender agenda and the positions of actors involved in the national political arena and policies introduced throughout the transition period. The article reviews the previous enlargement waves and indicates that the gender agenda was added to the negotiation process rather late – primarily via the EU accession conditionality requirement. Although narrow in scope and often limited in impact to just ‘paper compliance’ with EU legislation, it opened discussions in the gender equality area in post-communist countries and empowered women's organizations. In all the countries, the implementation of the European agenda was heavily influenced by the power and discourses of the main actors involved. The article provides a map of social actors involved, together with gender-related policies as they have changed in three distinct periods in Croatia. The final analysis of observed practices and structures indicates very slow change and the crucial impact of structural and institutional developments as well as economic cycles, but little association of observed developments with dominant discourses or policies implemented over the past two decades.


Procesi globalizacije i ujedinjenje Europe, uzdrmali su suverenitet njenih nacionalnih država, te se javila potreba za preispitivanjem stanja demokracije, ljudskih prava i sloboda u novim uvjetima multikulturalnosti, u kojima se našlo europsko društvo. Pojavilo se mišljenje da je u Europi demokracija u krizi, a uzroci, kako se smatra, nisu samo financijske prirode, nego u sve većem prilivu stranaca u zemlje Zapada. Inzistiranje na kulturnim pravima, ostvarenju prava na različitost, kulturnom pluralizmu što je sad u prvom planu europske politike, izraženo je u politici odnosa prema doseljenicima, a očituje se i u tendencijama afirmacije i povezivanju lokalnog segmenta, regija, u uvjetima globalizacije. Pri tome se u drugi plan potiskuju univerzalna ljudska prava pojedinaca kao egzistencijalno jedinstvenih bića.


http://esr.oxfordjournals.org/content/28/6/755.short

An expansion in tertiary education participation implies that a growing share of youth cohorts is to drop out of the tertiary education system without graduating. This article explores the effects of tertiary education dropout on the early labour market careers of youths in Croatia and Serbia. Theoretically, the article deduces the expected outcomes of dropping out based on the mechanisms postulated within the human capital, signalling, and credentialist theories. It then elaborates how prominence of any given mechanism within any given country should be conditional on the institutional set up of employment systems. Our country choice is driven by the similarity of two countries’ education systems and their diverging labour market trajectories, allowing for cautious inferences about institutional effects. Empirically, we estimate the propensity of young people to enter, persist in, and complete tertiary education, net of socio-demographic background, and study characteristics. We observe several labour market outcomes across these three comparisons. Our results largely support the predictions of education being used as a signal in Croatia, the country with predominantly internal labour markets. In Serbia, a country with pronounced external labour markets, the outcomes are closer to the productive skills understanding of education.


Using the National Comorbidity Survey Replication, this study explores the effects of incarceration on the subjective status of men, based on the MacArthur Scale of Subjective Social Status (or the “ladder”). The study makes several crucial distinctions. First, it distinguishes subjective status in one’s community and subjective status in the United States generally, thereby exploring differences between the local and global meanings of incarceration. Second, it distinguishes crime, arrest, and incarceration, thereby exploring the added effects of contact with the criminal justice system, apart from offending. The results reveal that contact with the criminal justice system results in progressively lower status: those who committed a crime report lower subjective status than those who did not, those who were arrested report lower status than those who only committed a crime, and those who were incarcerated report lower status than those who were only arrested. Although these differences along the crime-to-sentencing continuum are strong, the effects of crime, arrest, and incarceration are, if anything, even stronger among African Americans than whites. The results also suggest that the effects of incarceration are similar to—if not greater than—those of other stigmatizing statuses, including having spent time in a psychiatric hospital. The effects of arrest and incarceration are not driven entirely by the social or economic consequences of incarceration, although these consequences further deflate subjective status among former inmates.


http://scien cetechnologystudies.org/v26n1

Research into media representations of science is widespread and well-established in scientifically and technologically highly developed countries. However, very little is known about the characteristics of media reporting of science in transition countries, which are only just beginning to recognize the importance of research into the relationship between science, the media and the public. In this study, using content analysis of the daily newspapers with the largest circulations in Croatia (Jutarnji list and Večernji list) we researched the quantity and quality of media reporting of science. We link them to the characteristics of the Croatian media (tabloidization, the erosion of professional criteria) and the wider social context from which they stem. Our findings have shown poor representation of science news in the daily press as well as a low level of trustworthiness, especially in reporting biomedical news.


The aim of this mixed-methods study was to document and analyze the dimensions and meanings of anoreceptive pain and pleasure among heterosexual women. An online survey was carried out on a convenience sample of 1,893 women aged 18-60 years. Qualitative data were collected using open-ended questions mailed to women who expressed interest in continuing participation in the study; narratives from 68 women who had experienced anal intercourse were collected and analyzed for pain themes. Most surveyed women had experienced anoreceptive intercourse. A majority of women (79.1 %) reported their first anal intercourse to be painful, but for most of them the intensity and duration of pain/discomfort substantially diminished over time. Less than a third (27.7 %) of participants who regularly engaged in anoreceptive intercourse in the past 12 months stated that they rarely or never experience pain/discomfort with the practice. Nevertheless, most women who continued to practice anal intercourse (58.1 %) reported it to be very arousing and pleasurable. The pleasure associated with anoreceptive intercourse was best predicted by masturbatory frequency and orgasmic ability (with sexual intercourse). The qualitative assessment pointed to a wide range of personal experiences with and meanings attached to pain/discomfort associated with anoreceptive intercourse. Three broad pain themes emerged: (1) pain as insurmountable obstacle, (2) strategic management of pain, and (3) pain eroticization. The study findings suggested that the successful inclusion of anal intercourse into a couple's sex life is often dependent on a specific learning process.


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In contrast to the body of research focusing on female sexual desire, there has been very little research into patterns of male sexual desire. This study addresses this deficiency in the literature by providing empirical answers to the following three questions: (1) is there a pattern of responsive sexual desire – defined as being predominantly receptive to a partner's initiation of sexual activity without initially desiring it – among men? (2) Is this pattern associated with lower levels of sexual health than a more spontaneous pattern of male desire? (3) Are existing clinical observations regarding possible causes of reduced interest in partnered sex useful for understanding the more responsive men's sexual desire? A large online survey about men's sexual interest was conducted in 2011 among 2215 Norwegian and Portuguese men aged 18–75 years (the average age in the sample was 36.5 years). Sociodemographic, health-related, sociosexual and relationship-related information was collected. Three distinct patterns of male sexual desire were observed: decreased (23.6%), responsive (2.5%) and spontaneous (73.9%) desire patterns. Men in the more responsive and spontaneous desire groups significantly differed from participants in the decreased desire group, as they reported significantly higher levels of sexual interest, sexual satisfaction and frequency of sexual intercourse and were less likely to have experienced sexual health difficulties in the past 12 months. Interestingly, participants with more responsive and spontaneous desire patterns were indistinguishable in terms of a number of sociodemographic, health-related, sociosexual and relationship-related variables. The sole predictor of the responsive sexual desire pattern was proneness to relationship-related sexual boredom. Clinical observations about the roles of negative emotions, relationship strain and specific sexual arousal patterns (homoerotic, autoerotic and/or paraphilic) in the etiology of hypoactive sexual desire did not seem relevant for men with responsive desire.
The paper discusses results of empirical research focused on the barriers to cooperation of Western Balkan countries and Turkey (WBC&T) in EU Framework Programmes (EU FP). It reveals that WBC&T and member states of EU share a very similar pattern of barriers dominated by ‘Project managing weaknesses’ and ‘Bureaucratic barriers of the European Commission’. However, same barriers present much greater difficulties to researchers from WBC&T due to low intensity in international research cooperation, weak mobility and specific socio-political factors like political instability and scientific inferiority. The weak participation of WBC&T in FP is an obstacle not only to integration of WBC&T into the ERA but also slows down overall cohesion process that is nowadays dependent on human capital and innovation capacities supported by research. Therefore, the balance between social cohesion policy and scientific-merit research policy should be put in place.

Poglavlja u knjigama inozemnih izdavača


This is the introductory chapter to the book, which gives historical, theoretical and methodological framework for appearance of this collection, and introduces the authors and themes of the following chapters. Bilić and Janković apply an autoethnographic approach to discuss different tensions surrounding the theme of post-Yugoslav anti-war contention, while arguing for reconciliatory forms of scholarship which would derive meaning from lived (activists’) experiences.

This paper analyzes micro-determinants of negative attitudes toward homosexuality in seven South-East European societies (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia). Using data from the South-East European Social Survey, carried out on national probability samples in 2003, we analyzed the individual-level effects of modernization and religious tradition. According to our findings, homonegativity – operationalized as disapproval of homosexuality – was inversely associated with social modernization (education and urbanity). As reported in other similar studies, gender, age, and religiosity were found to have independent effects on homonegativity. Interestingly, persistent religious traditions affected the reported levels of homonegativity differentially – in a country-specific manner. In the pooled sample, Muslim and Orthodox participants were more likely to have homonegative attitudes than Catholic participants, irrespective of their socio-cultural status. When the analysis was carried out separately by country, only age and education were found relatively consistent predictors of attitude toward homosexual individuals. In addition, several country-specific effects were observed, but, overall, the model lacked substantial explanatory power. In conclusion, the authors discuss the role of post-communist transition in generating homonegativity and address possible study limitations.

Along the lines of Putnam’s (2008) findings of positive correlation between social capital and tolerance, this article is aimed at examining the relationship between the social involvement of Croatian students as a structural dimension of social capital and the level of social distance towards the main ethnic groups of the former Yugoslavia. The empirical data was collected in 2010 on a representative national sample of 2000 regular students from all universities in Croatia. For the purpose of this article, only respondents of Croat ethnicity were included in the statistical analysis (N= 1618). The structural dimension is operationalized in associational membership and volunteering and the expressed readiness for some form of civic action. Associational membership alone does not imply low expression of social distance; hence these data do not entirely support Putnam’s findings. The results however do suggest that the type of association and readiness for civic action are connected to the level of acceptance of ethnic groups, so it may be said that our hypothesis was only partially confirmed.

This paper argues that post-Yugoslav anti-war movements of the 1990s represent an important and early example of contemporary transnational activism. Based on the available documentation, personal experiences and activists’ testimonies, I analyse formation of transnational (activists’) identities and transnational social spaces as a valuable counterpoise to the prevalent nationalistic discourse of the time.

Taking a critical feminist perspective as a point of departure and reference, the author explores the politicality of anti-war engagement as a civil and ethical ‘investment’ despite dilemmas and ambiguities in terms of approaches to confronting the realm of the ‘event’ in former Yugoslavia that appeared in its most dramatic form – war violence. In this chapter both the issue of civil disobedience against hegemonic and militaristic ‘normality’ established through militarised actions, retaliation and massacre of civilians, detention camps, discrimination against women, ethnic cleansing and war terror as well as the issue of creation of the transnational civil spaces and networks crossing the divided communities during the 1990s in the post-Yugoslav region, are addressed. The author argues that the resistance consciousness present within peace circles – and among feminists in particular – across the militaristic frontiers fostered an active critical stand against ‘the production of human havoc’ by insisting on the political responsibility for the specific war crimes and actions. At the same time it created a platform for rethinking the questions pertaining to human vulnerability, security, community, political sociality, history, de-humanisation and destruction in a globally-interrelated and ethically radical manner.


Authors tried to build a bridge between the qualitative and quantitative approaches taking into consideration many methodological and specific professional issues in social sciences, especially those engaged in educational researches. After illustrating the fundamental characteristics of QUAL and QUAN research, methods and approaches, they tried to point out some of the essential points of controversies and debates about the need to integrate QUAL and QUAN in general. They strongly suggest integrating QUAL and QUAN research in educational projects and presented key theses of mix methodology. The most important are possibilities for combining and comparing QUAL and QUAN in educational researches. Integration QUAL and QUAN research is still possible. There are differences among these methodological approaches or types of research and the types of information available to it as well as levels of analysis performed. Because of that each type has its advantages like disadvantages. Finally, the authors insist to remove the artificial qualification of QUAN research as a standard by which we must constantly measure each QUAL research. In all of that mix methodology is undoubtedly can play a key role. It is important alternative methodological paradigm in educational researches. In the text we will refer to the part of methodological developments in or around empirical researches in education.

The aim of the paper is to provide a theoretical and analytical framework for the understanding of the social construction of stereotypes as linguistics forms, how they work and how they are conceived by a chosen group of informants. The analysis will be held on various levels – the individual as well as social/cultural level. This approach has emphasized relevance of stereotyping as cognitive tools to satisfy basic needs for environmental understanding and for self promotion and justification of the existing situation. Special emphasis will be given to ethnic and gender stereotypes. Besides theoretical approach, the paper will be founded on both, qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. The interdisciplinary approach and the use of various methodologies will enable us to provide an overall picture of the issues addressed. The authors conclude that the study of ways in which people use language in different contexts allows us a wealth of information about the ways in which language works, about social relationships in the community, and the ways in which people project aspects of social identity.