English Abstracts

Anthropology and Deconstruction: Saussure, Derrida, and the Interpretation of Linguistic Sign

Aleksandar Bošković

The paper presents some of the consequences of the arbitrariness of the linguistic sign – first presented almost a century ago by the Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913). The distinctions that he made are compared to the ones by another very influential figure of the past century, French philosopher Jacques Derrida (1930-2004). It is argued that this notion of the arbitrariness has significant consequences for anthropology and the social and human sciences in general, as it forms a firm foundation for questioning of the dominant narratives. It is also argued that the scholars from the "developing countries" can successfully employ this strategy in getting their voices and their opinions present in the international scholarship.

Friendship and Friendly Coalitions. Friendship as a Pattern of Social Relations

Milena Benovska-Sãbkova

It is the purpose of this work to characterise friendship as a principle of organisation, mobilisation and functioning of the social networks in Bulgaria under socialism and postsocialism. During this entire period, social relations have been in a process of incessant transformations. For that reason, the investigation of friendship is a step towards getting to know the changes in the social and in the interpersonal relations, moreover knowing that the latter have been underinvestigated by the Bulgarian social sciences.

Within this context the specific objectives of this paper are: to formulate the characteristics, typology and cultural forms of friendship in a Bulgarian environment; to follow how friendship compares with the other types of interpersonal relations in

Bulgaria (ritual kinship, neighbourliness); to outline the functioning of the friendly coalitions at the place of work; to chart the functioning of the friendly coalitions in the time of leisure.

In tackling these objectives, the methods of investigation have been dominated by the striving to combine oral information (autobiographies and autobiographical interviews) with data contained in written sources. In writing this work I have used about forty interviews, taken within the frameworks of the FOROST project, from 2001 to 2004, mostly from representatives of the intelligentsia in Sofia. The state archives rarely contain data about phenomena like friendship. To make up for this, I have studied unpublished written autobiographies, published memoir literature, written diaries, kept at my request by thirteen women in the course of 15 days in 2002, as well as some essays by university students. Finally, I studied all the 73 autobiographical narrations as well as the forum, prompted by these narrations in the special Internet site, devoted to the memories about socialism in Bulgaria.

A Glimpse at City Daily Life in Bulgaria, 1878-1939
Rumen Daskalov

The paper deals with urban life in Bulgaria from Liberation until 1939. Various aspects are presented such as social life and social circles, public spaces and forms of entertainment, fashion, new articles of consumption, the introduction of technical devices (cinema, automobiles, etc.). The changes of urban planning and architecture pointed toward de-orientalization and modernization. Some features of the inter-war period are traced down. The materials used come from various sources: statistics, town archives, memoirs, etc.

The Culture of "Fast" and "Slow" Food of the Bulgarians in the Beginning of 21st Century

Evgenia Krasteva- Blagoeva

The text tries to analyze the anthropological aspects of the culture of the public catering of the Bulgarians in the beginning of 21st c. in its' two main forms - the "fast" and the "slow" food. The analysis is made on the basis of fieldwork data mainly from the town of Sofia. The first part of the study presents foreign influences and fashions in the Bulgarian public catering and their mixture with the traditional Balkan food habits; elements of localization of global food patterns are sought – i.e. how and to what extent the big food chains are modified in Bulgarian conditions. The second part of the research is dedicated to the different consumer styles and tastes in relation to food and the groups of consumers, related to them. Although both models are clearly opposed in public consciousness, they is no direct competition between them. The real rivalry is between different chains inside their frames. Both types of public catering have their strong upholders and opponents. Most of the fast food lovers are young people, who rarely visit "real" restaurants. The lovers of the "slow" food use to neglect fast food chains. The famous maxim "You are what you eat", showing the importance of the food ways for the construction of individual identity, is partly valid for the Bulgarian case. The groups of upholders of the two types of public catering are heterogeneous in terms of sex, age and social status. The most numerous is the group of people visiting both types of restaurants, but not frequently. High prices in fast food chains make them almost as much inaccessible for the ordinary Bulgarians as the expensive restaurants. Regular customers in both types of places are mainly people with no serious financial problems. In this context the famous Bourdieu statement that "taste classifies" – i.e. social subjects use to define each other according to their tastes – is partially valid according to the Bulgarian material.

Dilemma between State and Individual: The Thorny Path of Citizenship in Turkey

Nalan Soyarık-Şentürk

The problems faced in Turkey related with citizenship have deep roots in the early Republican period. During this period of nation building, citizenship and national identity were inseparable. Thus, the understanding of citizenship the Kemalist regime aspired for and constructed was republican emphasizing the state and the citizen's duties towards the state. This understanding was well established and almost unquestioned by the state. However, as Turkey faced problems related with identity claims and attempted to join the EU new problems emerged. Today Turkey is trying to meet the requirements of EU stated in the Copenhagen Criteria. This paper aims to analyze this process, investigating the transformation in citizenship understanding, if any. In doing so, the process of legal amendments and changes, the preparations for, their enactment and reflections in the society will be analyzed. The underlying question is whether there is a shift towards a more liberal understanding while liberalizing the laws related with citizenship. The paper will especially focus on the Justice and Development Party government and their views. The argument is that even though the legal procedures seem to be liberalized, the process of change in Turkey is far from exercising a liberal understanding of citizenship that values citizens as individuals and safeguards their rights against the state.

More than Just Literature… Some Aspects of Identity Construction in the Light of Hungarian-Romanian Relationship in Transylvania

Eva Blenesi

From the perspective of cultural studies, Transylvania as a region, appears in different narratives as a constellation of symbolic geography and collective identities where culture and history shape each other and the representatives of different ethnic

groups bound by their "imagined communities" and "invented traditions" are also rooted - at a deeper level – in more "primordial" patterns of identities, myths beliefs, cultural fantasies.

One of the key questions that the current paper raises is that to what extend can artists and different works of art belonging to the Hungarian literature or fine arts in Transylvania successfully meet all those challenges that faces them while in one hand they are expected to assume the role of being the key promoters of nation building and at the same time to correspond to those expectations of complex systems of values which are universally valid irrespective of geographical location or national belonging.

Dreams and Reality: Life of Undocumented Bulgarian Turks in Vienna
Diana Karabinova

The paper outlines the dimensions of the Bulgarian migration in Vienna, Austria after the fall of the Iron Curtain and the legal situation for the migrants in Austria. It focuses on the problem of undocumented migration and explores one specific group: the group of the undocumented Bulgarian Turks working and living in Vienna.

The aim of the paper is to emphasize the outcome and consequences for the individual migrant living on the "undocumented" side of society and their strategies for survival living in perpetual risk of being caught by the police and forced to leave the host country.

Based on a number of interviews with a young Bulgarian of Turkish origin, employed by two Austrians of Turkish origin, on data gathered during my work as a legal counselor at the Viennese Fund of Integration and on some fieldwork on three Viennese markets, the following aspects of migration are subject of discussion: transfer of working and behaviour models from the home country to the host country; perception of the own status as an undocumented migrant and motivation for staying in Austria; support networks; family and emotional connections to Bulgaria; basic rights and their

enforcement in the home and host country; expectations and future perspectives in Austria and possibilities for acquiring the "documented" status and being granted work and stay permit.

The paper argues that the specific group of the undocumented Bulgarian Turks in Vienna develop certain strategies that do not differ drastically from other comparative groups (e.g. the group of undocumented Bulgarians in Vienna), but they preserve certain models of behaviour and tend to live more isolated among themselves. Although they realize that their chances for legal integration in Austria are minimal, they still dream of life in the host country.

The Images of the West in Bulgarian Traveller's Literature from the Times of State Socialism (1944-1989)
Rositsa Gencheva

The paper attempts to grasp the multifaceted image of the West emerging from the travel writing of Bulgarians who went abroad during the socialist period. The analysed travelogues were officially published and followed from visits to Western European states, as well as the USA and Japan. They show that the vision of the West has not been a coherent and static construct throughout the socialist regime, with a significant transformation becoming palpable in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The censoring, self-censoring and stringent control of travelogues made them serve as manuals disciplining vision, as "safe texts" containing a "correct", socialist-friendly version of a Western society that could freely be offered to socialist readers. Through travelogues, a very strong attempt – and an efficient one – was made to channel visitors' impressions of the developed West and to guide, direct and focus their perceptions. In this specific context, Bulgarian travelers moved to the West yet had to remain unaffected by capitalist ideas. Certain segments of Western culture were useful and desirable, while others needed to be isolated and their transmission to the socialist homeland blocked and stopped altogether. The mobility of bodies and the stability of ideas contributed to a particular way of seeing

and describing the West that helps reconsider notions such as social privilege, power, compliance and resistance in a socialist regime.

Cities in Transition: Culture as Resource
Irena Bokova

The article presents some of the concluding observations of an investigation conducted in several Bulgarian cities and towns and exploring the effects of postsocialist transition on urban development. More particularly, this presentation focuses at the relationship between culture and the projects for local development. It argues about the necessity that local authorities regard culture as resource and undertake concrete measures to apply this idea into practice.

Health Culture and Health Services
Vasil Garnizov

The article presents the results of an interdisciplinary survey on the quality and public evaluation of the health services reform held in the postsocialist period. Various aspects of the reform, as well as the formation of the health culture of the Bulgarians are discussed in the presentation. The major observations and conclusions are rawn out from the fieldwork materials collected by a team of students of anthropology.

Isocrate's Education Strategy and Civic Function in the Athenian Classical Police
Emil Marianov

The article discusses the development of the educational strategy in Athens

during the 5-4th century B.C. in the changing social, political and cultural life in the ancient Greek police. The central function of political organisation in the police culture has significantly changed its significance during the period of interest and this has led to re-definition of the social responsibility of the citizens. An illustration of this shifts gives Isocrates conception of the role and meaning of civic education, which basic components are outlined in the article.

"The Collection of Folk Lore" (SbNU): from Conceptualization to Realization in the Period between the Two World Wars
Tsveta Bachvarova

The article is dedicated to probably the most influential edition in the history od folklore studies in Bulgaria, the "Collection of Folk Lore" (SbNU), published since 1889 up to the present time. The author discusses the emergence of this collection in the context of intense formation of the Bulgarian national idea in the second half of the 19th century. The changing editorial conception of the Collection within the interwar period is discussed in the context of the shifting public ideas of the Bulgarian nationhood.