

Dissenting Voices

European thought between tradition and rupture



A series of webinars

#3: March 12th, 2021, 11:00 am (Cardiff), 12:00 am (Rome)

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Webinar#4: Looking for alternatives

March 12th, 2021, 11:00 Cardiff, 12:00 Rome

Full Programme

⊕ 12:00-12:05 *Opening by Jiří Přibáň*

⊕ 12:05-12:35

● Bojan Bugarič (Sheffield): *Work, family, Fatherland: the political economy of populism in central and Eastern Europe*

⊕ 12:35-13:05 Discussion led by Jiří Přibáň (Cardiff)

Since 2008, Hungary and Poland have developed a distinctive populist economic program, which has begun to spread to other Central and East European Countries (CEECs). This article develops a theory of the political economy of populism in CEECs, arguing that these countries' dependence on foreign capital constrained them to follow (neo)liberal economic policies. After the global financial crisis, populist parties began to break from the (neo)liberal consensus, 'thickening' their populist agenda to include an economic program based on a conservative developmental statism. Case studies of Hungary, Poland, and Serbia describe these policies and show that they exhibit a particular form of economic nationalism that emphasizes workforce activation, natalism, and sovereignty. This shift has gone hand-in-hand with attempts to attract investments from Eastern authoritarian states, illustrating the connection between CEEC development strategies and sources of foreign capital.

See the full article, now published in JEPP:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13501763.2020.1832557?journalCode=rjpp20>

⊕ 13:05-13:35

● Petr Agha (Charles University): *The Forgotten Voices of the Velvet Revolution(s)*

⊕ 13:35-14:05 Discussion led by Jan Komárek (Copenhagen University)

The paper will focus on the dissenting voices of the Velvet Revolutions in the CEE region, voices which didn't embrace the total impositions of the "end of history" paradigm which we find mostly expressed in the current architecture of the European project. Through the examination of different critical voices (sidelined mostly by the mainstream academic outlets), this contribution will try reconstruct an alternative story of the so called transition from communism to democracy. Why is this important? This paper will identify a different trajectory of transition from communism to democracy by way of demonstrating the already existing tensions between the European project and its ideology of (ordo)liberalism which

might help us understand the seemingly recent surge of alternative (constitutional) projects in the CEE region.

⊕ 14:05-14:15 Short Break

⊕ 14:15-14:45

● Isabel Feichtner (Würzburg): *Helmut Ridder (1919-2007), Resisting with Law the Legal Mutilation of Democratic Potential*

⊕ 14:45-15:15 Discussion led by Stefan Auer (Hong Kong)

After a promising start of his academic career, with an early invitation to hold a lecture at the German Staatsrechtslehrervereinigung (German society of public law professors) in 1951, Helmut Ridder in later years was (in his own words) “abhorred” by many colleagues or “treated as non-existent” for allegedly “left errations.” Nonetheless, he significantly impacted the thinking of his students, a number of whom became prominent jurists and law professors -- among them Germany’s acting Federal President Frank Walter Steinmeier; former Federal Minister of Justice Brigitte Zypries, Ulrich K. Preuß and Karl-Heinz Ladeur. My presentation introduces Helmut Ridder as a political and democratic law professor and activist, his interpretation of German basic law as a democratic constitution of society and of fundamental rights not primarily as shields against “the state”, but as “impersonal rights” that enable the democratization of society. Today, Ridder’s writings, including his monograph “Die soziale Ordnung des Grundgesetzes”, based inter alia on his engagement in educating teachers, tend to be forgotten. Yet, they should not be. Thus, one focus of my presentation will be on what we may learn from Ridder about the role of law and lawyers in societal transformation.

See Isabel Feichtner, *Riddern in der Pandemie*, *Kritische Justiz* 53 (2020) 200-211



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UiO : Universitetet i Oslo

The series of webinars “Dissenting voices” is organised jointly by Christian Joerges, Michelle Everson, John Erik Fossum, Jiří Přibáň and Agustín José Menéndez .