

Title: Wellbeing & Welfare: Theoretical and practical reflections on research practice in post-socialist countries

Organisers: BASEES Study Group for Societal Change in the Post-Socialist States

Date: Friday 12th – Saturday 13th January 2007

Location: Rm. 311, School of Geography, Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham, Birmingham B15 2TT

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Overview

This Workshop brings together themes concerned with issues of wellbeing & welfare in the former socialist countries of central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The 3 main themes include:

- Governance, Corruption & Crime
- Gender & Care / Care & Social Security
- HIV/Aids & Health

While focussing on the specific theme in question, each session will also address generic issues such as:

- Wider conceptual concerns related to understandings of wellbeing & welfare with respect to postsocialism and the post-socialist condition;
- Evolving understandings of the nature of post-socialist societal change and the nature of research practice in the context of post-socialist countries;
- Relevance and application of findings derived from different empirical studies carried out in a range of contexts;
- Appropriate forms of communication of research findings to policymaker and practitioner communities.

Each session will consist of an introduction provided by the session coordinators. This will either be directly based on, or else a discussion of, issues and themes arising from papers/readings which will be circulated in December 2006.

Participants will be asked to (i) discuss specific issues that have been raised by the session coordinators (ii) think critically about the generic areas for discussion outlined above. The Workshop is therefore geared very much towards discussion and debate rather than the presentation of formal academic papers.

Programme

Friday 12th January, Rm. 311, School of Geography, Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham.

10.15-10.45 - Coffee

10.45-11.00 – Introduction

11.00-13.00 - *Governance, Corruption & Crime*

[coordinators: Svetlana Stephenson & John Round]

1300-1345 – Lunch

1345-1545 - *Gender & Care / Care & Social Security*

[coordinators: Rosie Read & Rebecca Kay]

1545-1600 – coffee

1600-1800 – *HIV/Aids & Health*

[coordinators: Erica Richardson & Dominique Moran]

1800-1815 – Concluding comments

1900 – Evening meal

Saturday 13th January

1000-1230 – Focus on furthering the Study Group's work and agenda and a reflection on Friday's work. (As noted previously – all participants are invited to attend this session. However, it is possible to attend the Friday part of the programme only).