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CGS Final Interdisciplinary Conference

Nation and Society

29-30 June 2018, Toruń (Poland)

The topic of the conference are the current problems of the development of modern societies in the frames of national state developments. The central point is the question of communication between masses and power in the conditions of challenges of the 21st century. In the sense of a comparative perspective not only in the transnational frames, the historical examples and development processes should be used to explain the current phenomena. The conference is explicitly addressed to scientists who work on the society related topics and particularly calls up for an interdisciplinary perspective. The main points of the conference are:

I. Civil Society and Transnational Communication

The development of the society is more and more taken away from the national frame. External influences like globalization and even more the new means of communication set the social behaviour and creation of special peculiarities/specifics with which the nation increasingly loses its status as value for general orientation and turns into a formal shell. Civil society acts here especially intensive through its communicative abilities. One has to ask, how the forms of organization of the civil society work beyond the national borders and how does it come to direct contact. How is the communication between the civil society and the state in other civil societies perceived and finally how do the forms of mutual influences in the shaping of international relations change. How do the civil societies react in their mutual perception to the tendencies of restriction of fields of the state activities and doctrinal tendencies. Does the possibility of the formation of certain forms of civil society exist, which can correspond with these tendencies, as well in the sense of a constructive communication?

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II. Migration and the Question of National Identity

Already now it is clear, that the migration in its diverse forms is the biggest challenge of the 21st century. At the same time the reasons for migration in the perception of society and political judgments are variable, they play though by coping with this problem a rather marginal role. It appears as a main problem, that the social effects of migration are not able to be solved by the politics. This formulates the essential questions for state and society. They combine mostly with the problem of globalization. It should be asked whether transnational unification processes influence the identity building and strengthening of the identity. What role do the social components play and how do the communication between large groups and power develop. How do we put ourselves under the pressure of migrants' flows to the thesis of "clash of cultures" and what is the meaning of finally more and more common questioning of national identity as orientation and model of society.

III. Change and Progress as Structural Problem in the Interdisciplinary Perspective

With all changes in the development tendencies there is one common issue: the old-fashioned direction sign of the modern time are not enough to answer the pending questions. It enforces on one hand to put the complexity of problems in the focus, on the other hand this approach should stimulate the more detailed questioning of social processes in a comparative perspective. This enforces on the one hand more focus on the complexity of phenomena, on the other hand this approach should stimulate to question the social processes in a comparative perspective. With that it is less about searching for legal solutions, but more about identifying different models which are representative for schemes of changing, as well as showing mechanisms of coping with the past using examples and to prove their effectiveness on the background of historical experiences. Working on that with knowledge-profit is a great task of the interdisciplinary research and is underdeveloped until now. It should be about searching for research questions which are understandable for different disciplines

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Frame schedule of the event

28 June (Thursday)	Arrival
29 June (Friday)	1st Working day
9.00 – 9.15	Welcoming of the guests
9.15 – 10.15	Introductory session
10.15 – 10.30	Coffee break
10.30 – 12.00	Panel session 1
12.00 – 12.15	Coffee break
12.15 – 13.45	Panel session 2
13.45 – 15.00	Lunch
15.00 – 17.00	Panel session 3
17.30 – 19.30	Public lecture
20.00	Official banquet
30 June (Saturday)	2nd Working day*
9.00 – 11.00	Panel session 4
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 – 13.30	Panel session 5
13.30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:30	Panel session 6
16:30 – 16:45	Coffee break
16:45 – 18:45	Panel session 7
19:00	Dinner

* The 2nd day schedule may change depending on the number of participants.

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