



RECONFIGURING THE 'GLOBAL' FROM THE MARGINS: EASTERN EUROPE AND THE HISTORIES OF 'ELSEWHERE' IN THE TWENTIETH- CENTURY



GRACEH 2018 KEYNOTE:
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Time: 6.30 pm

Jan III Sobieski's Room
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Reconfiguring the 'Global' from the Margins: Eastern Europe and the Histories of 'Elsewhere' in the Twentieth-Century

The beginning of the twentieth-century witnessed the redrawing of territorial borders and initiated the massive shift from the empire to the nation-state. These shifts also inaugurated a new era of epistemic experiments that reconfigured social science. In modern eastern and central Europe, where millions of people changed residence and citizenship, the entanglement between the move of people and the move of ideas was powerfully present. The times of displacement shaped new ways of imagining knowledge about what binds and divides people, what is near and distant, backward and modern, and what makes the part and the whole. Crucial to these political and epistemic transformations was the remaking of what Deborah Coen calls the 'scalar imagination:' a process of 'situating the known world in relation to times or places that are distant or otherwise inaccessible to direct experience.'

This lecture deals with the shifting status of politically 'peripheral' localities in the history of science and knowledge in the era of the imperial collapse and de-colonization. In particular, I will focus on history of east central European reformers, whose debates on rural 'backwardness' shifted geographically as the non-Western world divided into the socialist Second World and post-colonial Third World. Contributing to what could be called a spatial move in intellectual history, I propose to re-illuminate a seminal phase in the history of social science. The case of eastern and central Europe invites us to think about histories of 'elsewhere' spread 'everywhere' and reshaped our understanding of the twentieth-century modernity.

Małgorzata Mazurek is an associate professor of Polish Studies in the Department of History, Columbia University. She specializes in modern history of Poland and East Central Europe. Her interests include twentieth-century social sciences, international development and social history of Her new book project deals with the intellectual history of East Central European involvement in the making of the non-Western world between the late 19th century and 1960s. It investigates the role of Warsaw-based social scientists in shaping Eastern European debates on population, migration and capitalism and further, in transforming this locally produced knowledge into development policies for the so-called "Third World."

After obtaining her PhD from Warsaw University in 2008 she worked as a research scholar in Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung, Potsdam, Germany. Her book, *Society in Waiting Lines: On Experiences of Shortages in Postwar Poland* (Warsaw: Trio 2010) has been shortlisted among the ten best books in contemporary Polish history in a 2011 nationwide contest. She is also the author of several articles on comparative and transnational history of labor and consumption in the twentieth-century Poland.