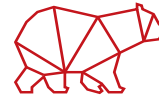




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BEAR NETWORK

**BEAR Jean Monnet Network
Collaborative Writing Workshop**

June 16-18, 2022

[Kempinski Hotel Corvinus](#)

Budapest, Hungary

The BEAR Collaborative Writing Workshop proved to be an extremely productive event for BEAR members. Over the course of three days, six intensive writing sessions, and daily group discussions, all participants made significant progress on BEAR-related research. Below please find testimonials written after the completion of the workshop:

Viacheslav Morozov (University of Tartu)

I revised a conference paper (*A Hegemonic Ontology of Societal Multiplicity: Outlining a Research Agenda*), which had previously been presented at the European Workshops in International Studies in Thessaloniki and received encouraging feedback. I also produced an outline of another conference paper, *The Russian Challenge: Chaos as Excess of Order*, which will be presented at the Pan-European Conference of the European International Studies Association in Athens in early September.

Maria Koinova (University of Warwick)

Prof. Maria Koinova worked on her developing paper "Power and Informality in Governing Transit and Irregular Migration on EU's Eastern Border." The paper is focused on the EU border crisis and Belarus in 2021-2022. During the workshop she wrote more than 1500 words of new material and introduced revisions to an earlier version of this paper, responding to several scholarly comments obtained during a migration-related workshop in Germany earlier in June 2022. During the BEAR Network workshop in Budapest, she benefitted further from discussions on her work related to Poland and the Baltic republics, also in the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine. Koinova's paper is intended to be part of a special journal issue, which she seeks to edit. As a follow up on her work during the BEAR Network workshop, she sent a special issue proposal to the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies on 30 June, 2022.

Marat Shterin (King's College London)

I had a wonderful and highly productive time in Budapest. I focused on two things. First, I was working on developing a framework to explore the relationship between Russia's ethnic minorities, their European counterparts, and the Russian state. In continuity with my presentation at the BEAR-PONARS workshop in Washington earlier this year, I engaged in a critical conversation with postcolonial perspectives to address this broad theme. As a test case, in Budapest, I worked on a paper (commissioned by Marlene Laruelle and Jesco Schmolter for a special journal issue) focusing on the response to the war in Ukraine by Russia's Islamic leaders. The result was the completed abstract and first draft skeleton for this paper.

Second, as after Budapest, I was to travel to the Georgian capital Tbilisi to participate in conference bringing together Eastern European, Ukrainian, Russian, and other international scholars focusing on religion, politics and society in Eurasia and Black Sea regions. I prepared my response as a session discussant and leader of a panel on decolonisation of studies of religion in that region.

Finally, I'm immensely grateful to all organisers, especially Juliet Johnson, Magdalena Dembinska and Sashenka Lleshaj, for the idea and organisation of this wonderful workshop.

Adrian Florea (University of Glasgow)

The BEAR Writing Workshop allowed me to make important progress on my book manuscript, *Nonstate Order, Power, and Legitimacy: The Survival and Disappearance of De Facto States*. During the workshop writing sessions, I had the opportunity to complete two important sections in Chapter 3 of my book manuscript: one on the taxation practices undertaken by armed nonstate actors and another on the provision of public goods by armed nonstate actors. Overall, the writing sessions have been extremely productive; additionally, I've had a chance to learn more about the exciting projects that our BEAR colleagues are working on. Many thanks again for this opportunity!

Milada Anna Vachudova (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

For years, I have been studying how political leaders use ethnopopulist appeals to justify democratic backsliding. The BEAR writing retreat in Budapest gave me the opportunity to make a great leap forward in a new project that compares how and why citizens in different countries have protested against democratic backsliding. I have been working on a special issue of a journal on mobilization against democratic backsliding since early 2020, slowed tremendously by the pandemic. During the BEAR writing retreat, I was able to draft the entire introduction to the special issue. Having structured writing time with colleagues and the ability to discuss with them my key arguments was incredibly valuable. As a result, I have been able to finish drafting the introduction over the last month and the special issue will be submitted in the coming two or three weeks. During the writing retreat, I was also able to learn about the Hungarian and Polish opposition firsthand both from participants and from other colleagues that I met with in Budapest.

Maria Popova (McGill University) and Oxana Shevel (Tufts University)

At the writing workshop, Maria completed one solo writing project and Maria/Oxana started work on a co-authored one. The solo writing project was an article for the Journal of Narrative Politics. The article

was in the second round of (minor) revisions and the writing retreat gave Maria an opportunity to focus exclusively on this article and complete the revisions. The article is now published: <https://jnp.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/default/article/view/166>

The second project is a book manuscript on the Russo-Ukrainian war, which Oxana and Maria are writing together. We signed the book contract on the day the writing workshop started, so we used the time together to plan the first book chapter. By the end of the workshop, we had written a 3500-word outline.

Ammon Cheskin (University of Glasgow)

I was able to use the time in Budapest to work on my article “Gender and Russian Foreign Policy: Feminist Foreign Policy Analysis and ‘Masculine’ States”. I was surprisingly productive during our dedicated writing sessions and was able to write up large sections of my empirical research. I also benefited from the chance to talk to some of the BEAR colleagues about my work and theirs. I hope to be able to submit my article to an International Relations journal in the near future.

Sasha Lleshaj (McGill University)

During the Budapest Writing Workshop, I worked on a solo project to produce a first draft of a book review essay. The book *Broken Narrative: The Politics of Contemporary Art in Albania* is important for my doctoral dissertation project, and the workshop presented the perfect opportunity to work on a review essay. The review was published by ArtMargins Online, here <https://artmargins.com/broken-narrative/>

While presenting what I managed to accomplish over the course of the workshop, I had the opportunity to discuss my dissertation work and get valuable feedback from all the BEAR scholars in the room.

Juliet Johnson (McGill University)

During the workshop I made significant progress on revising for publication a manuscript on “Aspirational Iconography: The European Union Flag as an Extra-Territorial Political Symbol.” This manuscript, co-authored with geographer and BEAR member Benjamin Forest, examines how and why protestors, parties, and governments in non-member states have used the EU flag as an aspirational symbol meant specifically to blur the ideational and temporal boundaries between the European Union and an imagined Europe. Having time to focus only on collaborative writing was even more of a blessing than I had expected - I made more progress on manuscript revisions in these three days than I had in the previous year.

Magdalena Dembińska (University of Montreal)

These few days in Budapest have been extremely productive. I spent the first day on my R&R article on the legitimization of the separatist cause in the Eurasian de facto states for *Nationalities Papers*. I managed to send my modifications and responses to the reviewers, and the article has thereafter been accepted for publication. I had another article project on my agenda for a while and the writing retreat was a great opportunity to concentrate on its conceptualization, argument, and structure. By the end of the retreat, I managed to send a thorough proposal and a first draft of the introduction and the literature review to my co-author, Marcin Kosienkowski.