



University Evenings

Lectures on Global Politics

One of the main events of the Department of Juridical Sciences and European Studies within the Sapientia – Hungarian University of Transylvania is the *University Evenings. Global politics in the 21st century*, a session of lectures where social scientists, politicians or public intellectuals are invited to talk about current issues in global and regional politics. In the past year, our Department invited several well-known academics from Hungary and Austria, providing interesting lectures not only for our students, but for the wide public of Cluj, as well.

On December 11, 2012, Béla Bauer, a sociologist from Hungary talked about the *Identity construction of youth from Transylvania*. Being a regional expert of youth sociology and youth policies, the sociologist presented findings from his newest research on young people in a comparative perspective.

On May 9, 2013, Zsolt Rostoványi, the rector of Corvinus University from Budapest, Hungary, presented a lecture on Islam and the west. The renowned expert of international relations theory deconstructed the bases of the conflict between the Islam world and the Western civilization.

On May 14, 2013, Katalin Szili, the former president of the Hungarian Parliament, presented her thoughts about the national politics of the Hungarian government. In a lecture entitled *Nation and politics = national politics?*, she presented the dilemmas which every Hungarian government faces when dealing with kin-state politics.

On November 14, 2013, historian Archimedesz Szidiropulosz, the founder and editor-in-chief of the journal *Trianoni Szemle* (Trianon Review), presented a lecture on the Turkish–Greek conflictual history with the title: *Can Kemal be a role model? The Greek Trianon*. After the event, the newest issue of the journal *Trianoni Szemle* was presented.

On December 17, 2013, a historian, Ernő Deák, presented an interesting lecture on the Hungarian–Austrian relations. The event entitled *The centuries of the Austrian–Hungarian vicinity* gave us important insight not only into how the Austro–Hungarian Empire worked, but also into how the two nations' relations changed in the period of the Cold War.

Tibor TORÓ

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Nurturing talents for the BA Students in International Relations, European Studies specialization

In the fall of 2011, a tutoring program was started. In this, six BA students were included, namely: Tekla Vincze, Noémi Hegyi, Csongor-Zoltán Király, Viktória-Nóra László, Brigitta Német, Ágnes Szenkovits and Gergely Végh. The students were each working together with a tutor – some of the teachers working at the Department of Law and European Studies, namely: Emese Szőcs, Márton Tonk, Barna Bodó, Zsolt Kokoly and Tünde Székely – on different topics such as organizational management, student unions in the high schools of Transylvania, Transylvanian NGOs led by women and feminism in Transylvania, European cultural capitals, the role of the transnational corporations in the Romanian economy, minority civil society in Central and Eastern Europe.

The outcome of these joint tasks of teachers and students was expected to be realized by including students in some projects to work together with their tutors, and also by papers presented by them at Student Research Conferences. On the 24th of April, the Department organized a Student Research Conference, and the jury gave the 1st prize for the EU Section to Csongor-Zoltán Király; the 2nd place was taken by Andrea Csilip and the 3rd prize went to Brigitta Német and Viktória-Nóra László. Noémi Hegyi presented her paper in the Law section, and she received honourable mention.

As the next step, between the 24th and 26th of May, the Hungarian Student Union of Cluj-Napoca organized the “16th Transylvanian Students’ Scientific Conference”, where our students presented their research findings. All of them were rewarded by the jury. In the Law Section, Noémi Hegyi took 2nd place, and in the Political Science Section Csongor-Zoltán Király took the 1st, Viktória-Nóra László the 2nd and Andrea Csilip won 3rd place, while Brigitta Német received honourable mention.

Finally, we can conclude that this pioneer program of our department – this is the first program of nurturing students’ talents at the Sapientia University –, which was organized for the second time, reached its goals by helping students and teachers work together and nurturing students’ talents to pursue their own professional development.

Tünde SZÉKELY

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Hungarian Science Day in Transylvania

In the frame of the 12th *Forum of the Hungarian Science Day in Transylvania*, having as central topic “Science living with us”, organized by the Transylvanian Museum Society, a two-day scientific conference was organized by the Economics, Juridical and Social Sciences Section of the Transylvanian Museum Society in collaboration with the Department of Juridical Sciences and European Studies of the Faculty of Sciences and Arts within the Sapientia – Hungarian University of Transylvania from Cluj-Napoca, on 20–21 November of 2013.¹ The conference entitled “Dilemmas and Challenges in Central and Eastern Europe” took place in Cluj-Napoca, in the Óváry Hall of the Bocskai House.

The program of the conference contained seven presentations from various scientific domains and research fields such as political and social sciences, history or economics. Thus, mainly due to the interaction of many visions, the presentations were followed by interesting discussions.

Miklós Bakk (Babeş-Bolyai University, Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences, Cluj-Napoca) held an interesting presentation, discussing the following topic: double tradition of the Romanian state building and the regionalization.

The presentation of Artúr Lakatos (Romanian Academy of Sciences, Cluj-Napoca Branch, “George Bariţiu” Institute of History) covered contemporary and very actual geo-economic issues in Central and Eastern Europe, namely the effects of Nabucco and South Stream pipelines.

János Kristóf Murádin (Sapientia University, Faculty of Sciences and Arts, Cluj-Napoca) presented – revealing interesting details – the presence and role of the Transylvanian Party in the Hungarian National Assembly between 1940 and 1944.

Emese Balla (Sapientia University, Faculty of Sciences and Arts, Cluj-Napoca) presented some research results regarding the main challenges of Szeklerland’s agriculture, highlighting effects of the climate change.

The presentation held by Tibor Toró (Sapientia University, Faculty of Sciences and Arts, Cluj-Napoca) was based on a research on the development of the Transylvanian Hungarian political science as a discipline in the 2000s, and it provided new and useful information on this issue.

Márton Tonk and Tünde Székely (Sapientia University, Faculty of Sciences and Arts, Cluj-Napoca) discussed an interesting topic: the relation of the civil society and the Church in the Transylvanian Hungarian society, investigating the cooperative, rival or complementary character of this relation.

1 The conference represented, in the same time, the Social Sciences Section of the conferences organized by the above-mentioned section of the *Transylvanian Museum Society*, in the frame of the 12th *Forum of the Hungarian Science Day in Transylvania*.

The presentation of Barna Bodó (Sapientia University, Faculty of Sciences and Arts, Cluj-Napoca) contained a detailed and comprehensive analysis regarding the characteristics and development of the Transylvanian Hungarian scientific activity organized in civil (NGO) framework.

Summing up our experiences, it can be concluded that – mainly due to the different scientific backgrounds of the participants and to the variety of the issues discussed – the conference was interesting and successful.

Emese BALLA

Department of Law and European Studies

Notes on the 2013 EU-Camp at Izvoru Mureşului

The motto of the 2013 EU-camp at Izvoru Mureşului was “A Changing Europe, a Changing Transylvania”. This idea was well reflected in the presentations, workshops and the entire program of the camp held between the 2nd and the 7th of July.

The focus of the program was on the actual political issues concerning Transylvania, and these issues were embedded in a global context, as well. The lecturers, who were invited to give presentation and share their ideas and views on different concerns, were highly qualified and succeeded in portraying these matters to an audience consisting of individuals with various qualifications, interests and belonging to different generations.

The topics of the presentations varied as well. One of the first topics introduced was the problem of the constitutional amendments in Romania. We were given an insight into this topic by a Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) representative, a member of the committee responsible for constitutional amendments, Árpád Márton, as well as by Attila Varga, associate professor at the Sapientia University.

Another topic was the possible future of Turkey in the European Union. This presentation given by RMDSZ MP Attila Korodi interpreted the recent past and present of Turkey’s political situation and portrayed relevant characteristics of the Turkish society such as the discrepancy between the rural and urban regions, religious aspects, the situation of the Kurdish minority and their pursuits of emancipation. At the same time, the possible consequences of the acceptance of Turkey as a member-state in the European Union were discussed.

Another relevant question of the program was the problem of minorities and the local government. This discussion was led by the mayor of Săcuieni, Csaba Béres and the mayor of Avrămeşti, Szabolcs Simó-Dezső. Lóránt Vincze and Attila Markó (RMDSZ) spoke about the issue of the civil initiative of the minorities.

The YEPP's vice-president, Stefan Schnöll, presented the various endeavors and YEPP projects to lower the number of unemployed young people in Europe. The idea of a "new" Europe was discussed by RMDSZ EP representative Gyula Winkler, who also offered suggestions to the younger generations and spoke about the possibilities for young people in the European Union and its different institutions. Some participants in the camp had already had the opportunity to learn under the supervision of EP representatives and they shared their impressions with the audience.

Some presentations raised very specific questions such as Europe's dependence problem from the point of view of energy, the issue of regionalization, metropolis areas in Transylvania, the inclusion of women in politics and their impact.

There were several programs intended to entertain the audience such as the integration of humor in politics – best illustrated by Hungary's Kétfarkú Kutya Párt – or the presentation given by Glenda Nagy, the PR representative responsible for the program, on the objectives of Cluj-Napoca as the Youth Capital in 2015.

Besides the daily presentations and discourses given by guest lecturers and politicians, the participants were involved in a competition with several challenges related in one way or another to some of the topics discussed during the presentations. The competition also tested their general knowledge about the traditions, the past and the present of the European Union. The grand prize of the competition was also European Union-related: the opportunity to travel to Brussels and understand the mechanism of the Union's institutions and to try to envisage the role they could play in it in the future.

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