



BSE 2: The Faces of Regulations/Modernizations/Changes in South-eastern Europe, 18th-19th centuries

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Session Abstract

South-eastern Europe experienced a long process of changes, reforms and regularisations during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Behind all these changes were individuals often neglected by historical research who focused mostly on institutional or political processes. Part of the Ottoman Empire, the regions of South-eastern Europe gained statehood gradually, and had different trajectories on their way to building nations. Our panel aims to analyse the individual agents entering the service of the newly formed nation-states. If some of them are known, others have remained in the shadow of history. Biography has strongly returned into historical research, emphasizing the contribution of trans-imperial actors to the circulation of ideas, goods, and knowledge. Our panel will therefore look at the biographies of “foreigners” and their roles in major areas, such as the regularization of cities, the construction of sanitary cordons, or the construction of a maritime, railway and urban infrastructure. The intellectual, social, political or cultural itineraries and biographies of historical actors were foundational on many accounts for the new South-eastern European states. Such individuals also stimulated controversies surrounding the social and political phenomena specific to what was perceived as modernization (“corruption”, naturalization, sanitization, civilization vs. barbarism).

Connecting Innovation and Science in the Phanariot Administration

Constanta Vintila, Romanian Academy, Institute of History “Nicolae Iorga”, Romania

Standardizing the Danubian quarantine system (1830s – 1850s)

Constantin Ardeleanu, New Europe College / Institute for South-East European Studies, Bucharest, Romania

Sanitary reform and “corruption” narratives in Romania (the 1860s – 1890s)

Silvia Marton, New Europe College, Institute for Advanced Study, Bucharest, University of Bucharest, Political Science Department, Romania