



We have the pleasure of inviting you to the lecture:

*Nothing New Under the Sun?
How States in Southeastern Europe Try to
Control Migration. Lessons from the Past*



given by

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**Wednesday, October 25, 2017, at 17h00
New Europe College (Plantelor 21)**

The control of migration is currently one of the most ardently discussed issues in European politics. Across Europe, and especially in its central and eastern parts, populations unanimously put migration as the challenge no. 1 for Europe. Populist governments, such as the Hungarian and the Polish ones, position themselves as immigration hard-liners and claim to defend their nation, and Europe, against non-European intruders.

Yet, this is not the first time that migration sparked public fears and political intervention in modern Southeastern Europe. Actually, there is a long tradition of political and public fearmongering when it comes to the movement of people across borders. Historically, though, it was emigration that caused moral panic, and national elites feared for the sovereignty and wholeness of their nation. Already before 1914, governments in Southeastern Europe began to implement measures to control, regulate, and even restrict emigration. More often than not, such policies followed a nationalistic rationale.

In my talk, I will systematize and analyze state responses towards emigration in Southeastern Europe, focusing on the pre-1914 and the interbellum periods, i.e., the age of mass emigration to America and its immediate aftermath. I will discuss the relationship between emigration policies and national imaginaries, and will highlight hidden agendas of public policies. Can we draw a line from anxieties about emigration in that period and anti-immigrant xenophobia today? Probably we can, if we look at the history of migration politics in Southeastern Europe through the paradigm of demographic nationalism and of politics in the periphery.

GLOBALIZING SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE



EMIGRANTS, AMERICA, AND THE STATE
SINCE THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY

ULF BRUNNBAUER

Ulf Brunnbauer is Director of the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies in Regensburg and professor of Southeast and East European History at the University of Regensburg. He has a PhD in history from the University of Graz. His most recent books are *Globalizing Southeastern Europe. America, Emigrants and the State since the late 19th Century* (2016) and *The Ambiguous Nation. Case Studies from Southeastern Europe in the 20th Century*, with Hannes Grandits, eds. (2013). In spring 2018, his "*Kleine Geschichte Südosteuropas*" (with Klaus Buchenau) will come out.

This event is organized in connection with NEC's interest in diaspora and migration studies.