



CEU DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF HISTORY

The Doctoral Thesis in Comparative History

by

Adrian Grama

on

“**Laboring Along: Industrial Workers and the Making of Postwar
Romania (1944-1955)**”

will be held on

Thursday, March 16, 2017, at 15:30 a.m

in

**Senate room, Nádor 9.
Central European University (CEU)
Budapest—1051**

Examination Committee

Anton Pelinka – Chair (Department of Nationalism Studies, CEU)

Marsha Siefert – supervisor (Department of History, CEU)

Susan Zimmermann – CEU internal member (Department of History)

Maria Bucur – external member (Indiana University)

Lewis Siegelbaum – external reader (Michigan State University)

ABSTRACT

Products of war rather than revolution, the socialist regimes of Eastern Europe established themselves in a global conjuncture defined by the aftermath of the Second World War. In this sense, coping with the far reaching consequences of the war as they affected various domains of social life while building socialism constituted entangled processes of postwar transformation. How did these regimes manage to end the postwar by overcoming the domestic impact of the Second World War? Taking Romania as a case-study and industrial workers in metal industries and mining as objects of analysis, this dissertation argues that in the realm of labour relations the major paradigm for ending the postwar was the “politics of productivity”: a complex, always conflicting set of policies, plans and strategies designed to recover the efficiency of industrial production and gear it towards stable, long-term growth. The politics of productivity, I contend, structured the transition from the period of postwar reconstruction to the take-off of industrial development during the late 1950s, thus mediating the transformation of the war economy bequeathed by the Second World War into a socialist command economy tailored to national circumstances.

Conceived as (1) pacification of labour relations, (2) the recovery of managerial authority, (3) monetarization of everyday life, (4) rationalization and (5) austerity, the politics of productivity provides a comprehensive conceptual framework for grasping together the end of the postwar period and the building of state socialism in Eastern Europe. By revealing how the social consequences of the Second World War were absorbed in the transition to authoritarian state socialism in the age of the rolling steel mill, this dissertation carries implications for the way in which we may think about the aftermath of wars, reconstruction and development during the second half of the twentieth century.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Adrian Grama



EDUCATION

M.A. Nationalism Studies, CEU (2010)

B.A. Political Science, University of Bucharest (2007)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Junior Editor, European Review of History (2011-2016)

Tutor, Roma Access Program, CEU (2013)

Research Assistant, Open Society Archives (2011)

CONFERENCES

“Work and Non-Work in Global Perspective. Resonances, Connections, Contradictions”, Seoul, Republic of Korea (2015)

Third Annual Europe & the World International Graduate Conference, Reims, France (2014)

European Social Science History Association Conference, Vienna, Austria (2014)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

CEU Department of History Award for Advanced Doctoral Students (2015)

LANGUAGES

Romanian (native), English, German, French

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

“Labour’s Risks: Work Accidents, the Industrial Wage Relation and Social Insurance in Socialist Romania” in Marsha Siefert & Susan Zimmermann (eds.) *Labor in State Socialist Europe after 1945: Contributions to Global Labor History* (CEU Press, 2017 forthcoming).

Adrian Grama, “Urbanism, cotidian si spectrul austerității [Urbanism, Everyday Life and the Specter of Austerity]”, in *Vatra*, XLV, No. 532-533, July-August, 2015, pp. 148-154.

“Marxism Strategic și Social-Democrație Interbelică: Șerban Voinea/Lotar Rădăceanu” [Strategic Marxism and Interwar Social-Democracy: Șerban Voinea/Lotar Rădăceanu], with Dan-Mihai Cîrjan in *Plante Exotice: Teoria si Practica Marxiștilor Români* [*Exotic Transplants: The Theory and the Praxis of Romanian Marxists*] (Cluj: Tact, 2015), 43-125