Political and Administrative Elites in Europe. Theory and Practice in Historical Perspective

online conference hosted by:

Charles University in Prague
&
Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences

10-12 November 2020

Book of abstracts

Her: Congratulations, dear Mr. L.!

Him: I do thank you! But forgive me for asking, are you congratulating the newlywed, or the recently elected MP?

Roundtable 1

Franz Adlgasser, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Habsburg and Balkan Studies

Old and New Parliamentary Elites. Educational, Professional and Social Profiles of the Members of the Austrian Parliament, 1861–1918

The Austrian, or Cisleithanian Central Parliament in Vienna experienced a significant change both in size and in the make-up of its members during the second half of the 19th and the early 20th centuries. Starting as a 200-member body elected indirectly by the regional diets through a very restricted franchise, it ended as an entity of more than 500 representatives selected through universal and equal male suffrage. These changes did not just increase the absolute numbers of parliamentarians, they also caused and went along with major changes in the educational, professional and social outline of this central political elite of the old Austria. The paper tries to identify these changes through a collective biographical profile of the members of parliament and connect them to possible causes like franchise reforms, emergence and evolution of a political party system on local, regional and national levels, or socio-economic developments on different layers (center-periphery, economic stagnation, crisis and boom). The parliament and its members should be seen as a living conglomerate of politicians from many, but definitely not all strata of society. In the end, the paper aims to reveal the Viennese parliament as a vivid and ever-changing body integrated into the ever changing world of the late Habsburg Monarchy.

Ovidiu Iudean, Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Centre for Population Studies / Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences

Two Pathways to Power: A Comparative View of Nationalities' Governmental Parliamentary Representatives in Nineteenth-Century Transylvania

The present study explores two alternative pathways to what was arguably the peak of political power for non-Hungarian nationalities in Transylvania during Dualism, namely the accession to a deputy's seat in the Budapest Parliament. Predicated on the notion that the recruitment of governmental candidates within the ranks of the nationalities constituted a particular strand of elite-building, the study examines the criteria according to which the future governmental parliamentary elite was constructed, in the case of the Romanians and Transylvanian Saxons. It engages with the idea of social mobility within the elite, which implied a transition from local ascendance to the pinnacle of representative power. It achieves this goal by focusing on two exemplary case studies of individuals who followed two particular but convergent pathways to power, drawn from areas with different political and social traditions. It firstly traces the two future parliamentary representatives' career pathways, their kinship strategies, and their entry and rise within local-level networks, emphasizing how these factors worked together to ensure their electoral success. It also discusses their professional trajectories once they had entered the parliamentary ring, and their role in perpetuating the networks that had led to their ascension. Secondly, the study re-integrates these two pathways to political power into the broader narrative of social mobility engendered within nationalities' ranks by the Hungarian governmental party's political strategies. Finally, it attempts to problematize to what extent the political ascension of governmental representatives in nineteenth-century Transylvania involved social mobility, inquiring into the role of local-level circumstances and political traditions in this wide-ranging process.

Cosmin-Ștefan Dogaru, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Political Science

The National Liberal Club and Conservative Club. Political Recruitment and Elite Formation in Romania (1875–1914)

Towards the end of the 19th century, Romania experienced major transformations on various directions including architecture, culture, economy, politics etcetera. Moreover, in that period, modern political parties were created. Hence, at that point, the National-Liberal Party was officially established on the 24th of May 1875, and the Conservative Party on the 3rd of February 1880. The monarch, namely Charles I (Carol of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, of German origin) played an important role in the political regime due to its constitutional attributes, especially in the designation of the Prime Minister. Our paper wises to examine to what extent the National-Liberal Club (linked to the liberal party) and the Conservative Club (attached to the conservative party) were seen as places of political recruitment where members of the old elites and the new emerging elites alike, interact and get together for political and social purposes. We are examining similarities and differences depicting aspects related to social mobility, electoral campaigns, internal strives, elite formation and recruitment within the two major political clubs. The investigation of particular preeminent leaders is necessary as well, be them liberals (Nicolae Ionescu, Mihail Pherekyde, Eugeniu Stătescu, Vasile Lascăr etcetera), be conservatives (Alexandru Lahovari, Nicolae Filipescu, Titu Maiorescu, Alexandru Marghiloman and so forth). The Romanian political regime encouraged a two-party system inspired by the British model centered on a census suffrage, yet after World War I the male universal vote was established. The Conservative Party was a 'party of notables' as well as the National-Liberal Party even though the latter was more opened as regards the party recruitment and more disciplined. The leading aristocratic families dominated nonetheless the political arena, yet new emerging elites step by step manage to climb the social and political ladder and attain important positions in the state. Consequently, we made use of important primary sources, from correspondence, political discourses up to press etc.

Igor Vranić, Zagreb University Archives**, Leo Marić**, Independent researcher

Metamorphosis of Parliamentarian Elites in Croatia, 1911 – 1925

The Majority of Croatian political parties disappeared from the political scene after 1918 and the collapse of the Habsburg Monarchy, whilst former minor parties, such as populist Croatian Peasant Party, secured the central place in the national politics. Croatian political arena experienced a great transformation in the aftermath of the First World War as a consequence of changed political framework and the introduction of the universal manhood suffrage. At the same time, a significant number of members of the old political elite joined pan-Yugoslav parties, creating a new counter-elite in Croatia.

By analyzing Croatian parliamentary elite in two parliamentary cadences of the Sabor of Kingdom of Croatia and Slavonia (1911–1913 and 1913–1918), and in two parliamentary cadences of the National Assembly of Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (1920–1923 and 1923–1925), our aim is to explain changes in the socio-political role of the parliament from the place of the elite deliberation to the arena for political conflicts in the era of mass politics. Finally, based on comparison of social background of representatives, we want to show how political elite transformed from intellectuals, higher bureaucracy and nobility from the Habsburg times to elites which used their political power in order to increase material income during the Yugoslav times.

Stjepan Matkovic, Croatian Institute of History in Zagreb

How Modernization Process regrouped Croatian Parliamentary Politics at the turn of the 20th century

Previous generations of Croatian historians have written rich literature on the relevant political parties during the Habsburg Monarchy and their contribution to national history, focusing primarily on ideological issues. Unlike certain European historiographies that have already explored various aspects of their parliamentary life, Croatian historians have selectively approached parliamentary history. At the turn of the century, parliamentary life confirmed the modernization of society. The composition of the Croatian Diet has laid more stress on elected representatives before the appointed members (*Virilists*). This paper will show how the parliamentary elections for the Croatian Diet influenced the formation of new political parties and mobilized public opinion. It will also examine government manipulation through constituency boundaries to diminish the voting power of the opposing party. The unstoppable change of political power directly affected the political landscape, paving the way for a new type of elite. The national question became a very important topic, bringing together different factors on an ethnic basis. At the same time, the economic transition proved the social stratification of the population that affected the existing political system. The paper seeks to fill the mentioned gap in research, reconstruct the inner-party structures, and analyze its leadership. The topic of this paper also includes two cases of territorial units within the Dual Monarchy with a majority of Croats. The examples of the Kingdom of Croatia-Slavonia, associated with the lands of the crown of St. Stephen under the Hungarian halves of Monarchy, and Istria as an integral part of Austria presented both how members of parliamentary elites cooperated despite different electoral laws. In this way, the author argues that the various groups and clubs were interconnected. They established political missions based on the integral idea of the modern nation and the perspective of parliamentary affairs as a pillar of constitutionalism.

Tomáš Masař, Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Arts, Institute of Global History

From the Diet of four estates to the parliament based on universal and equal suffrage, The parliamentary reform in Finland (1906) and its reflections in Czech lands

When the Grand Duchy of Finland was incorporated in the Russian empire in 1809, emperor Alexander I. promised to keep all the Finnish laws and rights. One of them was to also maintain the Diet of four estates, which was based on laws published by Swedish king Gustavus III. in the year 1772. The Finnish Diet played important role in the political system of the Grand Duchy almost another century until it was replaced by a new parliament, based on universal and equal suffrage.

For the most of the 19th century the political life in Finland was controlled by Swedish speaking elites, who kept their dominant position from the Swedish period. In the late second half of the century, new Finnish speaking elites started to fight not only for the national emancipation, but also for control of political institutions as the Senate or the Diet. The turn of the 19th and 20th centuries brought completely new political parties like Social Democrats, or Agrarians in the political competition, who represented previously neglected lower strata from industrial suburbs and countryside. The new parliamentary reform gave those new parties opportunity to redraw the political map of Finland.

As the situation of Finland was very similar to Czech conditions, there was a great interest among Czech politicians and journalists in the Finnish course of events. We can observe a great number of articles in prominent Czech periodicals commenting on the political situation and elections in Finland during the period of 1899–1917. Heated discussions as well as panegyric articles can indicate on which side the sympathy of writers of Czechs periodicals laid.

Roundtable 2

Therese Garstenauer, University of Vienna, Department of Economic and Social History

Careers in times of political change: Analysing biographical data of Austrian high officials (1918–1945)

When it comes to analysing Austrian administrative elites it is obvious to look at the heads of departments in ministries ("Sektionschefs"), the most senior civil servants in public administration. In my contribution, I analyse the impact of a number of major political changes from the end of the Habsburg monarchy to the end of the National-Socialist regime on this group. Using biographical data of all heads of departments who were on active service in the period from 1918 to 1945, I will outline a collective biography of this professional group. I will provide a fresh look at data collected and published over 20 years ago in a book called "Servants of many masters" by analysing them with multivariate statistical techniques. This will allow for a comprehensive perspective on the elite of Austrian civil servants, synchronically as well as diachronically. Apart from professional skills and education, national, religious, 'racial' and political criteria were crucial for someone's eligibility for the highest position in state administration. In addition to the prosopographical approach, typical and exceptional individual cases shall be discussed. Thus, it will become clear that on the one hand, in times of regime changes there can be clear deviations from a regular career as traditionally associated with civil service. On the other, it is striking to see how much continuity of elite personnel can be observed.

Katya Vladimirov, Kennesaw State University, GA, USA, The Department of History and Philosophy

We, the People: Profiling Soviet Elites from 1917 to 1940

The paper is a study of the Soviet party élites, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CC CPSU), by profiling the anatomy of historical generations that embodied it in the period of 1900s-1940s. It is a part of a larger project based on the statistical analysis of the upper echelon of the Soviet elites from 1900 to 1990. The study specifically addresses the generational aspects and conflicts between several generations in power. The history of any complex living system did not move in a straight line but was imbued with oscillation, curves, and shifts. These tide-like motions reflected the flows and ebbs of generations, each with a different peer personality and lifecycle story. The generational approach illuminates the history of elites and leads to many surprising discoveries.

Julia Bavouzet, Centre de Recherches Pluridisciplinaires Multilingues (CRPM) - Université Paris-Nanterre / Centre de Recherches Europes-Eurasie (CREE) - Inalco

How to measure decline? Hungarian administrative elite and perceived downward social mobility (1867-1918)

Created after the 1867 Compromise, the Hungarian ministerial elite forms the core of a professional and efficient bureaucracy inherited from the prestigious royal councils dating from the Middle Age. However, deep changes that underwent in state administration during the second half of the 19th century affected the role, status and responsibilities of these *spitzen Beamten*, contributing to their perceived decline. Fist, growing differentiation between official elites (political, judicial and administrative) and massification of the state apparatus led to a depreciation of administrative careers that manifested in lower wages and loss of prestige. Second, with the development of a new expert-corps in more technical fields of the administration, a counter-elite started to contest the monopoly of traditional law-trained *Konzeptsbeamten* from inside the bureaucracy. Finally, the general transformation of the Hungarian society provoked a reconfiguration among the different elite-groups that affected the self-representation but also the individual career-path of senior officials.

In this contribution, I propose to address the issue of social mobility in the administrative elite from both an individual and a collective perspective. Indeed, declining social status and contested legitimacy led to collective defense of the profession, but also to individual response in terms of professional strategies and mobility manifested in earlier stages of the career or even during the academic formation. Keeping these two levels in mind, this communication will also propose a methodological reflection on comprehensive quantitative approaches, relying on a large prosopographical database encompassing all senior officials of the Hungarian ministries. By this, it aims at contributing to a better understanding of the social mobility of administrative elites and their inscription in other elite-fields.

Judit Pál, Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Faculty of History and Philosophy / Masaryk Institute and Archives of The Czech Academy of Sciences

Aristokratie und Politik: die siebenbürgische Aristokratie und ihre familiale Netzwerke

Mein Vortrag konzentriert sich auf die Darstellung verschiedener Quellentypen, die zur Erstellung der Datenbank über die Familienbeziehungen der siebenbürgischen Parlamentarier vor 1918 und die hauptsächlichen Probleme, die mit diesen Quellen verbunden sind, wie Zugänglichkeit, unsichere oder unvollkommene Daten. Die Hauptquelle bilden die kirchlichen und staatlichen Register (in Ungarn wurden die Standesregister ab 1895 verpflichtend), nur gehören diese Matrikeln mehreren Konfessionen an, die Einträge sind uneinheitlich und möglicherweise fehlen Daten, manche Register haben sich nicht erhalten oder müssen in Archiven mehrerer Staaten gesucht werden. Andere zwei bedeutende Kategorien sind die Nekrologe, bzw. verschiedene genealogische Sammlungen und Adelalmanache. Die Bestandsaufnahme ist mit einer kurzen Forschungsgeschichte verbunden, die herausarbeitet, wie die Forscher der parlamentarischen Elite aus Ungarn die Quellen ausgewertet, bzw. verwendet haben.

Dobrinka Parusheva, University of Plovdiv / Institute of Balkan Studies – Sofia

Paths of social mobility, or about the motivation of young people to pursue career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the turn-of-the-nineteenth-century Bulgaria

"In 1894 I received circa 500 letters. The authors of almost all of them demanded posts and jobs…" This quote is from a letter of Grigor Nachovich, Bulgarian Minister of the Foreign Affairs at the time, to a friend. The politician points to the increasing number of office-seekers in the Principality of Bulgaria and refers to the unofficial way of seeking a job which he finds truly sad.

There was, however, also an official path to apply for an administrative high position, either at the ministry offices in Sofia or at the diplomatic agencies abroad. The aim of the proposed paper is to shed light on the motivation of young people to seek a job at the Foreign Ministry at the end of the 19th and early 20th century. Such a job was considered prestigious and a possible way of social uplift. As a basis of analysis a new (unexplored by now) archival source will be used, namely a part of the archival fund of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Central State Archives – Sofia, Fund 176, op. 18) which contains the application letters of many young people from the last decade of the 19th century up to the 1920s. Since the archival data cover a long period (and of substantial changes by that) it offers an opportunity for a detailed analysis of the motives described in the applications as well as for comparison between at least two (even three) generations depending on the contemporary context.

Andrei Sora, University of Bucharest, Faculty of History

How to keep the Prefecture in the family? Political, social and matrimonial strategies in Romania, 1866-1916.

In Romania, in the second half of the 19th century, the dignity of county prefect was well-esteemed, and desired by members of the local elite. The model of the prefectural institution was France, therefore the prefect was an important agent of the centralized administration and the main power broker in relation to the government. Hence, at county level, the prefect, which was appointed by royal decree, enjoyed extended powers, authority and visibility both within the party structures and in society. In the majority of cases, the prefects were members of the most representative families at the regional and even national level; one can easily observe that, in each county, a large number of prefects came from only two or three families. In some cases, strategies were developed, aiming to keep the prefecture in the (extended) family even after the change of government. The first objective of this paper is to identify the relation between this easily empirically observable practice and the struggles of the noble families to maintain their influence by means of securing key administrative offices and in particular that of prefect. Thus, the question arises: was this practice generally spread and accepted, or was it rather a sign of privilege, even among local elites? The second objective, and the most important one, consists in measuring the amplitude of the phenomenon based on examples and case studies and by answering questions such as: can one talk about prefectural dynasties? What kind of kinship was more common, between a former and a new prefect? Were there regional differences in this regard?

Roundtable 3

Karin Schneider, Archives of the Austrian Parliament

Political careers as vehicle for social advancement

In the 19th century social backgrounds of political actors in the Austrian Parliament were diverse. In this short-presentation I will show, that political careers proved to be a probate vehicle for social advancement. I will focus on the CVs of two Clerical-Conservative/ Christian-Social politicians from Vorarlberg: Johann Kohler and Martin Thurnher. Both were born in poverty but were ambitious and tried to get a good education. Both became active in the clerical-conservative movement in the 1860th and married women who came from well-off families. Both became members of the Diet of Vorarlberg and crowned their political careers with mandates in the Lower House of the Reichsrat.

Kohler and Thurnher are only two examples on how political change creates opportunities for social advancement. Their careers were enabled by a political turnaround in the Diet of Vorarlberg in 1870: The Liberal party lost their comfortable majority. The Clerical-Conservative movement won 15 of 20 seats. In the following years the Clerical-Conservatives/ Christian-Socialists could even increase their majority.

Kohler, Thurnher and other ambitious young men profited from this turnaround on a local level to start their parliamentary career. When Kohler and Thurnher died in 1916 and 1922, they were both members of the social and political elites of the Crownland Vorarlberg.

Miha Preinfalk, Scientific Research Centre of Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

Correlations between social and national mobility in the 19th century Carniola

The connection between the Slovenes and the nobility has caused controversy ever since the emergence of national tensions in the nineteenth century. A constant feature underlying this kind of discourse, which rose to prominence especially after 1848, is the assertion that the Slovenes had no nobility of their own. From a strictly legalistic point of view, this is correct. From the Middle Ages onwards, the territory of what is now Slovenia remained under the Habsburg rule, with the nobility divided into (and identifying itself with) different provinces.

However, it is absolutely incorrect to maintain that there were no nobles among the Slovenes. A more detailed research into individual noble families in the Slovenian territory revealed a good number of those that could be identified as Slovenian. The distorted image emerged due to the habit that after being granted the status of nobility, individuals would often change their names, or they would substitute their original Slovenian names with the newly obtained noble predicates.

Until the end of the 18th century, the national or ethnic affiliation did not play a significant role. By that time, the Slovene national awakening began, joined by a few nobles, but such phenomena almost completely died out in the pre-March period. The question of nationality became topical in the second half of the 19th century, when national struggles between Slovenes and Germans intensified. The old, basically still feudal nobility, as a rule, did not engage in these struggles, nevertheless they mostly showed their affiliation with the German side. Extremely rare were individuals from the ranks of the old nobility who sided with the Slovenes or even declared themselves Slovenes.

It was quite different with the new noble families, from the ranks of bureaucracy and military. They, despite their eventual Slovene origin, predominantly joined the German side. Which camp someone belonged to or identified with was shown in several ways, for example by choosing a German or Slovene predicate, by the spelling of the surname, also by the coat of arms.

The relation between ethnic and social mobility among Slovenes can best be studied in the case of Carniola, which was the most Slovene of all the Habsburg lands.

Ana Victoria Sima, Marius Eppel, Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca / Masaryk Institute and Archive of the Czech Academy of Sciences

Social Origin, Denominational and Family Networks among the Romanian Political Elite in Transylvania. Case Study: Greek-Catholic Politicians (1861-1918)

This study analyses to what extent social origin, denominational and family networks influenced the rise and development of the Romanian political elite in Transylvania in the second half of the nineteenth century and at the beginning of the twentieth century. This analysis focuses on the Greek-Catholic laymen and clergymen who asserted themselves in the political life of Transylvania during the studied period. Starting from the unanimously accepted premise that clergymen were gradually replaced by secular politicians (laymen) on the political stage in the second half of the nineteenth century, we aim to achieve the following goals.
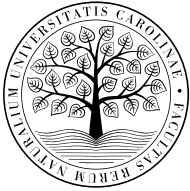
First of all, we wish to identify the social strata of this political elite and the decisive role played by the socio-economic background in their advancement as individual actors or as members of a decision-making group. Secondly, we intend to see to what extent belonging to a confession, in this case to the Greek-Catholic faith, was an incentive towards political cohesion in dualistic Hungary. Specifically, we will try to answer a few research questions such as: did confession still serve, in the second half of the nineteenth century, as an invisible bond among the Romanian political elite? Given the existing structures in the territory, at the level of the dioceses, vicariates and deaneries, could confession ensure a broader and more efficient electoral support compared to other voter activation mechanisms?

Last but not least, we will attempt to capture the socio-confessional and family networks existing at the level of the Romanian political groups, their ramifications in the territory and their ability to support and influence the political leaders' decisions.

Sorin Radu, „Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, Faculty of History and Heritage

Between Revolutionary Socialism and Social-Democracy: the Formation and Mobility of Socialist Elites in Romania at the End of the 19th Century and the Beginning of the 20th Century

The influence exercised by the socialist movement on the political life in Romania was relatively insignificant. Poorly represented in Parliament – mainly due to the system of representation that favored the wealthy – the Socialists did not succeed until the Great War, nor after, to influence too much the political and governmental activity. However, from a doctrinal point of view, socialist ideas will decisively influence the process of democratization of the political system and have played a crucial role in the social modernization since the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. Especially after 1918, many of the social-democratic programmatic principles would be found in the programs of important political parties. Moreover, the socialist elites had an essential role in organizing and developing the trade union movement in Romania.

Social democracy represented, rightly so, from a theoretical point of view, the third way of evolution and modernization of Romania.

The left elites were little researched, especially from the perspective of their intellectual formation, although for a long time historiography paid maximum attention to the socialist and communist movement. Even when they were studied, most of the scientific approaches were marked by the attempt to recover and place in a positive light the activity of some personalities, exaggerating their political importance. An in-depth analysis reveals that the socialist elites at the end of the 19th century come from different cultural and political backgrounds. Part of them were formed in the tsarist space and were marked by the ideas and the Russian revolutionary spirit, while another part came from the petty and middle bourgeoisie and was educated in the West and shaped by the liberal democracy ideas. At the beginning of the 20th century, on the background of the disintegration of the Social-Democratic Party of Workers in Romania, the socialist elite reconfigured itself: one part chose to join the Liberal Party, and another part remained in expectation. The socialist movement would survive by promoting recruited leaders from the trade union movement, almost all of whom had labor origins.

Our study aims to analyze the training laboratory of the socialist elites, their education and political mobility, in order to understand the particularities of the Romanian socialism and also the springs of the social promotion of those which from simple workers became important leaders of the socialist party.

Roundtable 4

Matthias Schögl, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austrian Centre for Digital Humanities and Cultural Heritage

APIS+: Management of prosopographical data@ACDH-CH

The Austrian Biographical Dictionary (ÖBL) was started in the 1950s and contains today more than 19.000 biographical entries. The ÖBL started to adopt modern technologies in the early 2000s by introducing Gideon – a data management system used to manage the production process of the lexicon. With the rollout of Gideon the ÖBL went also online and is freely available via https://biographien.ac.at since 2007.

In 2015 the ACDH-CH (ACDH by then) was founded at the Austrian Academy of Sciences to foster Digital Humanities research at the Academy and in Austria. One of the first projects at the newly founded institute was the Austrian Prosopographical Information System (APIS). The ultimate goal of this project was to create structured data out of the biographies that could then be used to do research on migration patterns. To that end the APIS software was developed (the beta version of the final APIS project database is available here: https://apis.acdh.oeaw.ac.at).

During the development process we came to the conclusion that monolithic systems are hard to maintain and even harder to adapt for possible other use cases. We therefore decided to go for a modular system architecture. Following the SaaS (software as a service) model we deploy services for every clearly definable task and include these services via Rest APIs in the overall framework.

The presentation will show the main components of our framework for prosopographical research (APIS – the prosopographical database, HistoGIS – the GIS service, SpacyApps – the NLP pipeline, Omnipot – the RDF based Knowledge-base and ApisHUB – the social network visualization component) and discuss the advantages of such a modular approach as well as the shortcomings on the basis of two research endeavors: The movement of Tyrolean artists (based on the APIS/ÖBL data) and the history of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ongoing research project that aims at creating a prosopography of all former and present members of the academy).

Links:
APIS: https://apis.acdh.oeaw.ac.at
HistoGIS: https://histogis.acdh.oeaw.ac.at
SpacyApps: https://spacyapp.acdh-dev.oeaw.ac.at/
ApisHUB: https://apis-hub.acdh-dev.oeaw.ac.at/

Kirill Nazarenko, Saint Petersburg State University, Institute of History, Department of source study on Russian history

The database "Navy Officers" as a tool for biographical research of the ex-imperial Russian naval officers' corps after 1917

The naval officers of the Russian Empire (first of all, executive branch) were undoubtedly an elite community: they were few in number, they were closed to outsiders, they dominated the leadership of the Navy, exerting a certain influence on the external and (to a lesser extent) internal policy of the Empire. During the revolution of 1917 and the Civil war (1917-1921) they underwent transformation and split into several groups (The Reds, The Whites or served in newly-formed states).

For the purpose of comprehensive study of this socio-professional group, in 2015, the creation of the database "Navy Officers" (NO) was launched, which is the first and the only project to date that combines biographical data of all officers of the Russian Navy during the First World War. As of to-day, the NO includes 9902 personal pages (8830 officers and war-time officers, 343 temporary officers, 729 graduates, but never commissioned due to abolition of ranks in November 1917). The most important thing is that the database allows to conduct research based on quantitative data.

Using the NO in 2015-2018 was explored the changes in Naval officers' corps during the First World War (1914-1917). Since 2019 work has been going on to study the transformation of the Russian naval officers as a group in 1917-1921, and this allows us to formulate several preliminary hypotheses: 1) There is approximately equal proportion in the number of the officers who served the Reds, the Whites and those who got out of participating in the Civil War; 2) The comparative leniency towards the ex-white naval officers who were captured by the Reds; 3) There was more likelihood of the Reds joining the Whites than vice versa; 4) Former officers held high positions in the Red Navy, despite the fact that they themselves or their closest relatives fought for the Whites; 5) Nearly all ex-imperial officers were forced out of commanding positions in the Red Navy into teaching or discharged in the early 1930s; 6) Joining the Communist Party was an extremely rare event; 7) A significant number of the former Navy officers lived in Leningrad in the early 1940s, and died during the Siege; 8) Only those who had been linked by birth to the newly-formed states (Baltic States, Finland and Poland) served in military service of these countries in 20-30s.

Tana Dluhošová. Czech Academy of Sciences, Oriental Institute

Taiwan Biographical Ontology (TBIO database) and the study of Taiwanese elite families

The presentation will introduce the Taiwan Biographical Ontology (TBIO), a database developed with partners at the Oriental Institute (Czech Academy of Sciences). It stores biographical information about Taiwanese elites and those related to them and thus covering period from 1895 to 1950. It can be used for prosopographical studies of particular groups of people and for analysis of their life and career-path trajectories. Currently the database stores information about 30,372 people; 82,872 organizations; and about 3,343 various positions within the organizations. The database is organized as a graph database, so it uses graph structures for semantic queries with nodes and properties (also known as triple) to represent and store data. It is openly accessible to registered users who can visualize basic data but also download data sets obtained from their own queries. The presentation will introduce the basic structure and functionalities of the database.

As a case study, the presentation will introduce a case of big Taiwanese elite families and their sources of prestige. Following a Bordieuian approach, the article analyzes distinct elite groups and their engagement in multiple fields of activities, information about which is stored in TBIO. The analysis reveals the existence of characteristic combinations of capital—dubbed here portfolios of prestige—which allowed these families to gain and maintain their positions of influence. In combining Digital Humanities methods and sociological approaches, the article is thus identifying salient social structures of Taiwanese elites and opens up new prospects for future research.

Alice Velková, Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science, Department of Demography and Geodemography

The research database of Bohemian elite groups: sources and approaches.

The aim of the presentation is to introduce the main instrument used for gathering the data which will be analyzed in the project *Social mobility of elites in the Central European regions (1861−1926) and transition of imperial experience and structures in nation-states*. This database collects not only biographical information on Bohemian deputies and higher-ranking state officials, but it also focuses on the reconstruction of biological as well as other ties which could help in understanding the relationship networks of members of the elite. We consider these networks as a key factor of the social mobility of elites, which may also clarify the process of circulation of elites.

Attention will be also paid to the sources of the information inputted into the database: parish registers, police registration forms, population censuses, press and periodical, etc. The main purpose of the presentation is to open the discussion whether Digital Humanities methods enable us to find a universal approach when analysing data based on different sources and originated from distinct milieus, as well as to test other ways and methods of future cooperation.

Klára Hulíková Tesárková, Barbora Janáková Kuprová

Where the past meets the present: the use of modern statistical methods in the analysis of historical data

The paper aims to present and briefly illustrate selected modern methods of quantitative analysis potentially suitable for in-depth study of historical (demographic) data. This might be tied to the observed methodological development within the historical demography, which could be summarized as a shift (1) from aggregated data to individual ones, (2) from rather descriptive analysis to statistical approaches and modeling, and (3) from a description of the main trends of summary measures to statistical analysis and testing of the relation between the development and potential explanatory factors. All the presented methods were selected based on their relatively easy application and usually clear interpretation. This opens their usage also for non-statisticians working in the field of historical demography. The attention is paid especially to methods which can cope with incomplete data, that are quite common in history and historical demography (incomplete reproduction histories, migrating persons not covered by records from parish registers from one locality only, etc.) – above all the Survival analysis or the Cox regression. However, also the advantages of methods oriented more on the analysis of categorical data (bivariate or multinomial logistic regression) will be mentioned.

Angela Lumezeanu (Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Centre for Population Studies)
Judit Pál, Vlad Popovici (Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca / Masaryk Institute and Archive of the Czech Academy of Sciences)

Accommodating Family Relationships into a Historical EAV Database Model. The Members of the Hungarian Parliament Elected in Transylvania (1866-1918) and their Families: Sources, Challenges, Solutions

Our paper explores the process of integrating information concerning relationships, especially family ties, into an Entity – Attribute – Value (EAV) historical database model (Historical Data Grinder). The sample we are focusing on includes the members of the Hungarian Parliament elected in Transylvania between 1866 and 1918. Due to their elite status, they are, along with a high number of relatives, frequently mentioned in a variety of sources (parish registers, funeral notices, genealogical collections and family monographs, press notices of vital events, etc.), some of them not yet digitized. The sources snapshot different (and relatively random) moments in time, offering the historian a very mosaicked and seldom coherent image, hence the difficulties in employing traditional data gathering and structuring methods.

We aim at detailing the reasons behind choosing an EAV model (*inter allia*: the multitude of the sources and the diversity of their inner structure, the possibility to add and link further data placing the family ties in a broader social context), the main challenges raised by accommodating historical information to the respective digital environment, the step by step procedures of data inputting, cleaning, standardization and linkage, as well as the process of extracting data in view of analyses. We also intend to highlight the strengths and shortcomings of the employed model and database, both as a research tool and an educational one.