

Central and Eastern European social science journals on an academic semi-periphery

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Position of Central and Eastern European Science

- Core, semi-periphery, periphery (Wallerstein, 1974)
- Eventful sociology = an analysis of unpredictable events that are able to change durable structures (Sewell, 2005)
- Two phenomena:
 - Crossroads of ideas (East meets West) during socialism
 - Gates to the West during globalization of science

Methodology

- 157 social science journals indexed in Scopus from Central and Eastern Europe (Czechia, Slovenia, Croatia, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Lithuania, Romania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Estonia and Macedonia)
- Quantitative analysis of all journals and qualitative content analysis of selected journals
- 31 semi-structured interviews with former or current editors

Crossroads of ideas

- The opening of some of the CEE socialist regimes:

Yugoslavia: split with the USSR in 1948

Hungary: introduction of the New Economic Mechanism in 1968

- Journals connecting Eastern and Western scholars

Life and Death of 'Crossroad' Journals

- Hungary:

Acta Oeconomica (1966-)

Scientometrics (1978-)

- Yugoslavia:

Praxis (1964-1974) ... continued as Praxis International (1981-1994)

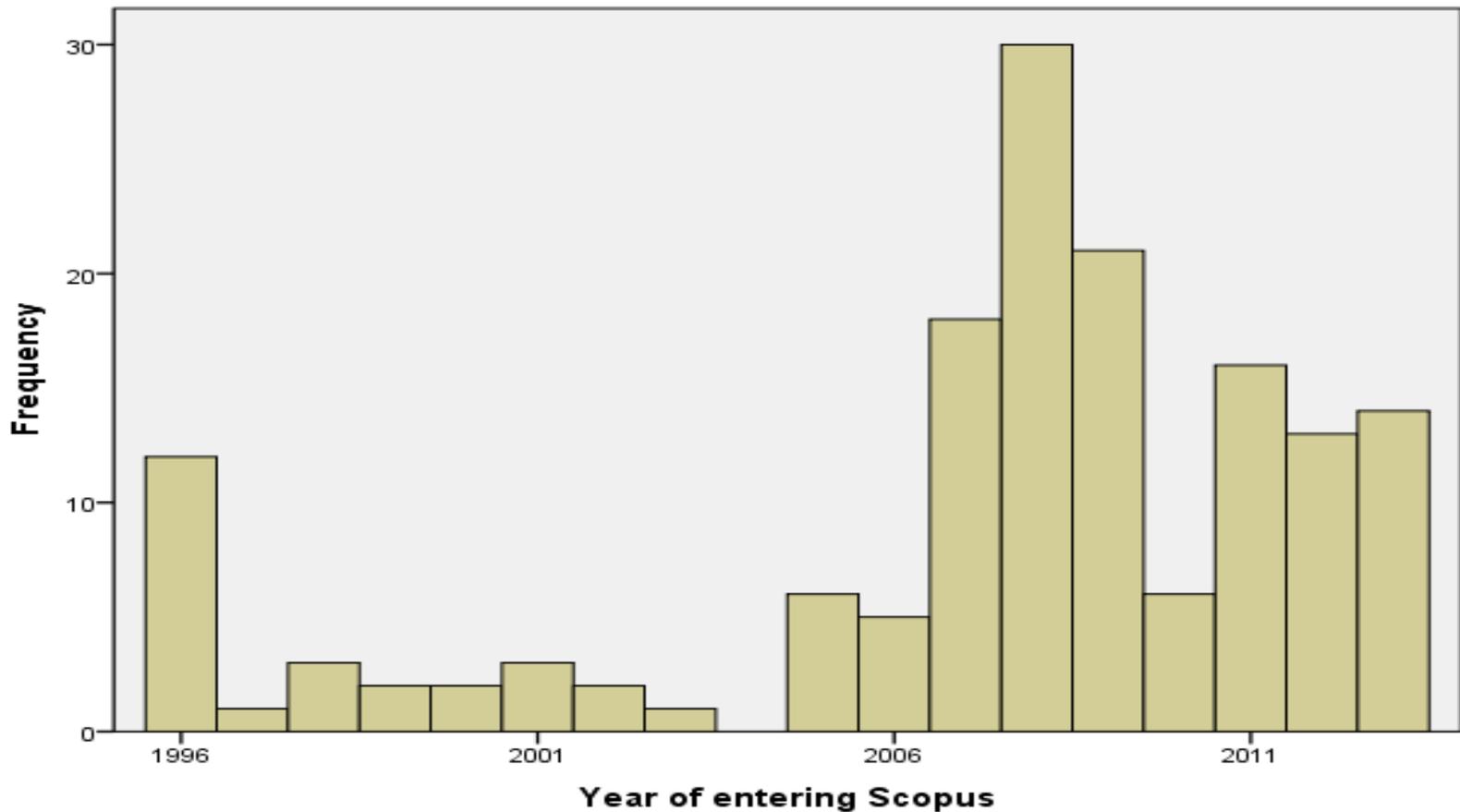
Economic Analysis and Workers' Management (1967-1992) ... continued as Economic Analysis: Journal of Enterprise and Participation (1998-2001)

Journals ideologically interesting for Western scholars either vanished or were transformed

‘the interest vanished and general interest vanished in Eastern Europe on transition research, therefore interest vanished also in our journal. We had to rebuild this interest.

Which partly succeeded in the sense that our journal is now quite well quoted among researchers doing with the region, dealing with the region, but it did not go back to the international top level. Because of course it has no resources and no, the geographical location is not favourable, in this regard.’ (Respondent 29)

Europeanisation and Globalisation: CEE Social Science journals entering Scopus



| Country | Number of Scopus indexed journals |
|------------------------|--|
| Croatia | 29 |
| Romania | 24 |
| Poland | 21 |
| Czechia | 20 |
| Hungary | 16 |
| Lithuania | 15 |
| Slovenia | 10 |
| Serbia | 7 |
| Slovakia | 6 |
| Estonia | 5 |
| Bulgaria | 2 |
| Macedonia | 1 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 1 |
| Total | 157 |

Scopus publishers

| | Frequency | Valid Percent |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Academy | 18 | 11,5 |
| Society | 14 | 8,9 |
| Institutes | 13 | 8,3 |
| Private publishing house | 25 | 15,9 |
| Other | 10 | 6,4 |
| University | 77 | 49,0 |
| Total | 157 | 100,0 |

Ulrichsweb publishers

| | Frequency | Valid Percent |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Academy | 56 | 6,2 |
| Society | 90 | 10,0 |
| Institutes | 51 | 5,7 |
| Private publishing house | 142 | 15,7 |
| Other | 91 | 10,1 |
| University | 472 | 52,3 |
| Total | 902 | 100,0 |

Opening gates to the West: Empowering young scholars from their national scientific communities

'We have actually accomplished that the number of young researchers that have published their manuscripts and that have learned how to publish has risen, and that in that way they are getting qualified for publishing **in more serious journals.**'

(Respondent 8)

- CEE countries: 120 million people and 157 Scopus indexed journals in social sciences
- Russia: 145 million people and 10 Scopus indexed journal in social sciences
- Nigeria: 190 million people and 1 Scopus indexed journal in social sciences

Opening gates to the West: Empowering scholars from more peripheral areas

‘our philosophy is that first we try to respect all authors and we are never that rude, overbearing or arrogant as our colleagues from the Anglo-Saxon world because we will never write to someone: „Your English is not good. Sorry, write English and then resubmit“.

So we foster a kind of partner relationship with our authors. ...that also influenced this rise in submissions because colleagues know that we not will turn down the manuscript because of a little bit inadequate English language.’
(Respondent 15)

Closing and opening gates to the West

- ‘we unfortunately have to reject many paper coming not only from Russia, but from other non-Western countries.

But I saw that the Nigerian article is the most downloaded...

Yes, because of the topic. And of course, it's a normal quality.’ (Respondent 25)

Closing gates to the West

- 'And then we started to receive submission from Russia or from the whole area of the ex-USSR.

These submissions are very often of low quality and sometimes expect they can buy their way into being published. We have received some kind of offers also from Russian mediating agents.

Work on the basis that we will supply you with manuscripts and the cooperation will be that if you publish them we'll pay for them. We refuse that. ' (Respondent 24)

- East meets West?
- North meets South?
- Exclusion or empowering?
- The role of national journals?