



Call for Contributions

Muddled Masculinities in Central and Eastern Europe

Deadline for submission: 15 March 2014.

Special Issue

Guest editor: Roland Clark

In her recent memoir, *The Taste of Ashes: The Afterlife of Totalitarianism in Eastern Europe* (2013), Marci Shore writes of her friend – she calls him Oskar – who killed himself after a failed attempt to reintegrate into Czech society as someone who had lived abroad for many years. “It didn’t have to happen this way,” the dead man’s son wrote. “It has everything to do with being raised male. Who was there to listen to his disappointment when he returned to a country poisoned by the cheap mediocrity and plastic that seems to inevitably come with capitalism? ... I pledge to fight against these inhumane male roles, because they hurt gentle, dear men like my father and because they have killed him, and I wasn’t done loving him yet” (p. 76). Shore leaves this potent indictment of East-Central European masculinity unexamined, and unfortunately she is not alone in failing to embed the gendering of men from this region within a critical, self-conscious historical narrative. This special issue of *Sextures* seeks to expose how masculinities have evolved, merged, split, gained and lost hegemony, and been normalized in the Balkans, Central and Eastern Europe.

We invite contributions on, but not limited to, the following questions:

- Have assertions of masculinity in Eastern Europe and the Balkans in various historical periods been a reaction to Western, orientalist thinking about the region as passive, backward, and despotic?
- Both traditionalist celebrations of the peasantry and liberal stereotypes of East European backwardness root masculinity in a pre-modern, agrarian family structure. To what extent has this image of the *paterfamilias* shaped male performances of gender during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries?
- To what extent is masculinity dependent on age, class, race, and ethnicity?
- How have Christians, Jews, Muslims and atheists thought about men as gendered beings and to what extent have religious ideas shaped how men perform gender?
- How have evolving notions about women’s suffrage, the new woman, domestic violence, contraception, and abortion shaped the history of masculinity in the region?
- How have heterosexual tropes of masculinity reacted to both feminist and LGBTQ identity movements?
- How comparable were fascist and communist ideals of men during the twentieth century?
- Did oppressive regimes of the left and the right reinforce male authority within the family as a microcosm of the state or did they marginalize men by ruling family members as equal subjects of the state? Are these mutually exclusive options?
- Have bio-political regimes in the region related to men as ungendered and unmarked “citizens” or as a group with gender-specific roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the state?
- How do they police men and women differently?
- Why have some ways of thinking about masculinity thrived in the region while others remain hidden and

unacknowledged?

- What feelings/practices/physiognomies/desires constitute masculinities, and what is the role of shame in scaffolding various masculinities?

These questions are to be taken as an invitation to reflection, rather than prescriptive statements limiting potential submissions. We focus on Central and Eastern Europe and particularly welcome papers crossing/transgressing disciplinary boundaries.

Proposals for the special issue (500 words max.) should be sent by 30th December 2013 to Roland Clark at clarkrol@easternct.edu.

Deadline for submission of papers is **15 March 2014**.

Papers must be submitted through the paper submission form at <http://www.sextures.net/authors>. Please follow the guideline for contributors (<http://www.sextures.net/guidelines-for-contributors>) when preparing your submissions. Authors are strongly encouraged to submit their papers well before the deadline.

If you have any questions regarding your proposal or paper contact Roland Clark, clarkrol@easternct.edu, or Shannon Woodcock, scrangasi@gmail.com.

About Sextures:

Sextures is a refereed international, independent, transdisciplinary electronic scholarly journal that aims to provide a forum for open intellectual debate across the arts, humanities and social sciences about all aspects affecting the intricate connections between politics, culture and sexuality primarily, but not exclusively, in the Balkans, Eastern and Central Europe. *Sextures* is dedicated to fast turnaround of submitted papers.

More at: <http://sextures.net/about-us>

About the guest editor:

Roland Clark is Assistant Professor of Modern European History at Eastern Connecticut State University. His research interests range from fascism to violence and the Holocaust, religion and theology, gender, social movements, and the history of everyday life. His publications include studies on women's roles in Romanian fascism, fascist masculinities, Orthodox theology and nationalism, and anti-freemasonry in interwar Europe.