

The regional studies journal invites the submission of original manuscripts on topics relevant to the Aims & Scope, as illustrated below. The very first issue of will be devoted to the theme “The Second Decade of Post-communism” (see the enclosed description). We encourage interested researchers to submit papers reporting and analyzing political, historical, social, and cultural transitions in the post-Soviet period, with a focus on the recent ten years. If you prefer to write about something other than this specific topic, you are also welcome to submit a paper to be published in one of the subsequent issues.

Aims & Scope

will be a peer-reviewed international journal that explores the history and current political, economic, and social affairs of the entire former Soviet bloc. In particular, the journal will focus on various facets of transformation at the local and national levels in the aforementioned regions, as well as the changing character of their relationships with the rest of world in the context of glocalization.

The following topics will be most prominently featured:

- Regional identities in globalized societies
- Communication and transmission of information
- Migration and boundaries
- Transition: politics, economy, society, and culture
- Theories and methodologies of regional studies in the context of glocalization
- Imagined territories: cyber space, urban vs. rural, center vs. periphery, etc.
- Inter-regional cooperation
- Identities in the Soviet and post-Soviet periods, memories, and nostalgia

This journal will be distinguished from others in similar fields by its (g)locally oriented perspective. This journal will also regularly give a certain portion of space to articles on concrete local issues written by local Eurasianist scholars.

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Article Submission Guideline

There is no absolute length requirement for manuscripts but the preferred length is 8,000-10,000 words. An abstract of no more than 150 words should be provided at the beginning of the article. If possible, manuscripts should be prepared in MS Word using Times New Roman 12 point font. Double-space abstracts, manuscripts, notes, and indented quotations. Number pages consecutively. Articles should be submitted to Dr. Hakyung Jung (the managing editor) at hakyungi@gmail.com.

Call for Papers

We are now accepting papers for the first and subsequent issues of . As expressed in the Aims & Scope, will cover a broad range of topics related to any of the former Soviet bloc countries in general. However, the first issue of will be devoted to the theme, The Second Decade of Post-communism, as introduced below. Following the publication of the first issue, there will be no thematic restrictions. Manuscript submission for the first and the second issues is due on July 15th, 2011.

The Second Decade of Post-communism (the 1st issue)

The overarching theme of Region's first issue will be "The Second Decade of Post-communism." Since the fall of the Soviet Union on December 25th of 1991, "transition" has been the most popular keyword of academic discussions regarding the post-communist period. The advent of democratic institutions and market economies has been accompanied by radical changes of political, economic, and social landscape in the former Soviet bloc countries during the first ten years, where many transitional phenomena were rapid, chaotic, and unpredictable. The direction and nature of transitions during the second decade of post-communism (2001-2011), however, dramatically differ from those of the first decade in various aspects.

In Russia, while the first decade is characterized as centrifugal and chaotic, the most notable features of the second decade are centripetal tendencies and order, mostly due to Vladimir Putin's policies aimed at creating a strong Russia. In social dimensions, the second decade has simultaneously

witnessed the growth of the middle class and an increasing gap between the rich and the poor. The burst of migration from the CIS countries reinforced the multi-ethnic and multi-cultural aspects of the society. The most distinctive cultural trope of the last ten years would be nostalgia, harking back to the Soviet period. Under the regime of Putin, the sentiment of nostalgia and its commercialization have in turn supported the revival of authoritarian tendencies in political and social spheres. Compared to the 'liberal' Yeltsin period, the past ten years have seen a restriction on the rights of freedom of speech and media, as well as a constriction of competition.

The former CIS and Balkan states have experienced drastic political changes, some described as color revolutions, such as the Orange Revolution in Ukraine (2004), the Rose Revolution in Georgia (2003), and Kyrgyzstan's Tulip evolution (2005). These non-violent revolutionary waves against corrupt authoritarian regimes constitute an interesting contrast with the retro-trends of the Russian Federation.

Alternatively, Eastern European countries have continued and expedited changes of their own with an affinity to the west in various facets of their societies. One of the most outstanding events was when former Soviet bloc countries such as Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the Baltic states entered the EU in 2004, followed by Romania and Bulgaria in 2007. The shifting dynamics between Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation (as well as the US) are also notable in terms of the WMD issue in Eastern Europe.

Overall, in order to gain a general understanding of the post-communist period, estimate the direction these societies are heading, and anticipate how their relations with the rest of the world will evolve, the nature of the second decade of post-communism must be explored and highlighted from a comparative perspective. As that second decade is drawing to a close by the end of this year, the journal *Region* will dedicate its first issue to the examination of transitions during this critical period.

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