

## **A Convergence of Risk Attitudes? Attitudes towards Social Inequality and Work in Post-Communist and 'Traditional' European Market Economies**

Economic and governmental reforms typically coincide with political and perceptual changes among the population, either preceding or following them. Radical *systemic* change in a country's governance may reflect or trigger similarly rapid and fundamental changes in attitudes and behaviours among citizens. Using the International Social Survey, this paper analyses reported attitudes to social inequality and work orientations in European post-communist countries, monitoring those reported immediately after the introduction of market economies (in and around 1990) to more recent years (up to 2005 or, if available, 2006). The emerging patterns are compared with those reported in Western European market economies around the same time in order to observe the extent to which, if at all, popular attitudes in old and new market economies have aligned following regime changes. Reference will be made to relevant historical contexts. Differences and similarities between post-communist and 'traditional' market economies are highlighted for relevant population groups. Comparisons will account for differences in population structures and baseline attitudes. The implications of findings for understanding social change from a risk perspective are discussed. The paper seeks to contribute, in particular, to the conference's second stream, using empirical data to explore the dynamic nature of risk in society.

Andreas Cebulla,  
NatCen  
London  
UK

Email: [a.cebulla@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:a.cebulla@natcen.ac.uk)