



CENTRE FOR RUSSIAN AND CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

**Roundtable Discussion:  
National Minority Rights and Non-Territorial Cultural  
Autonomy in Central and Eastern Europe**

Part of the AHRC-sponsored research project  
'Ending Nationalism? The Quest for Cultural Autonomy in Inter-war Europe'  
and the CRCEES Briefing Days Programme

30 January 2007 11.00-13.00  
Randolph Hall, Main Building, University of Glasgow

Convenors:

Prof. John Hiden and Dr David Smith, Department of Central and East  
European Studies, University of Glasgow

Keynote Discussants:

Mr Christopher Decker, Chief, Security Issues Section, OSCE

Ms Irina Donciu, Director for Western and Central Europe, Romanian Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs

Dr Károly Gruber, University of Győr, Hungary

Mr Shavarsh Khachatryan, Department of National Minorities and Religious  
Affairs, Republic of Armenia

Mrs Raduta Matache, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Romania, London

Mrs Jelka Travnik, Minister Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Slovenia, London

Themes for Discussion

Issues of multiculturalism and national minority rights have elicited considerable  
discussion across Europe over the past decade and a half, with the Central and Eastern  
European countries in particular being required to demonstrate 'respect for and

protection of minorities' within the context of the EU enlargement process. One model of minority rights that appears especially salient in today's Central and Eastern Europe is non-territorial cultural autonomy (NTCA), which forms the focus of Hiden and Smith's current AHRC-funded research project (2004-2007) based at the Department of Central and East European Studies of the University of Glasgow. NTCA has either been adopted or is under consideration in a number of states in the region, including Estonia, Hungary, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and is increasingly on the agenda of organisations such as the Council of Europe and the OSCE. The origins of the NTCA concept can be traced back to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the writings of the 'Austro Marxists' Karl Renner and Otto Bauer. The latter argued that a territorially-based approach could not in itself lead to a durable regulation of the "national question", and thus advocated the creation of minority cultural self-governments whose jurisdiction extended not to particular territories, but to groups of persons, voluntarily enrolling as part of a public legal corporation.

The roundtable discussion forms part of the dissemination agenda of this project, and will bring together diplomatic representatives from the region with academic specialists from CEES Glasgow, the wider Central for Russian and Central and East European Studies and their partner institutions in Central and Eastern Europe. Participants will be invited to reflect upon some of the key findings of the AHRC project and their possible relevance to the region today. More broadly, the roundtable will discuss: the main factors shaping the relationship between states, national minorities, external national homelands and international organisations in today's Europe; and the question of how to reconcile classic liberal principles with collective demands for recognition of particular cultures, within a normative agenda of forging stable and democratic political communities.

Participation in the roundtable discussion is free, but places are limited. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Ann Mulholland, CRCEES Administrator ([a.mulholland@lbss.gla.ac.uk](mailto:a.mulholland@lbss.gla.ac.uk)) as soon as possible, and no later than 15 January 2007. Some funding is available to support attendance by CRCEES staff and postgraduate students from partner institutions outside Glasgow, and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. A buffet lunch will be provided for participants at the end of the discussion.