



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: VICTIMEUR – The New Politics of Victimhood in Post-Socialist Europe

FUNDING PROGRAMME: HORIZON 2020

CALL: H2020-MSCA-IF-2020 – Marie Skłodowska-Curie – Global Fellowship

DESCRIPTORS: Politics of gender, Race, Discrimination and inequalities, Identity politics, Collective memories, Identities, Lieux de mémoire, oral history, Comparative politics, Regional and territorial politics, Cultural History, History of collective identities and memories

HOST DEPARTMENT: Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage

SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE: Matteo Legrenzi

FELLOW: Barton Hronešová Jessie

FINANCIAL DATA:

Project total costs	Overall funding assigned to UNIVE
€ 269.002,56	€ 269.002,56

ABSTRACT:

VICTIMEUR takes a new and original approach to studying the political uses of constructions of victimhood in selected postsocialist countries of Central and South East Europe: Albania, the Czech Republic (also Czechia) and Serbia. Victimhood - as a sense of being victimized by crimes and (historical) injustice - has proliferated in the political discourse across postsocialist Europe in the past two decades. Political leaders, civil society and the public have used collective and individual victimhood to claim rights, new policies, and legitimize new political orders. VICTIMEUR grapples with the question: How has victimhood featured in politics and political competition of post-socialist Europe in the past two decades? Using three postsocialist, it studies different meanings, notions and constructions of victimhood and how they have featured in key moments of political contestation such as power transitions. The project breaks new theoretical and empirical ground by combining transitional justice, memory and identity studies with comparative politics to shed new light on how victimhood politics has featured in contemporary post-socialist Europe, with the ambition to contribute to the current worldwide debates about the role victimhood in politics. It introduces a novel understanding of social and political victimhood that clearly manifests itself in the contemporary post-socialist Europe and is linked to a long list of collective and individual grievances that go beyond demands and identities of direct victims. Such sources of victimhood vary from memories of historical injustice related to World War II, East-West divisions, socialist political persecution, war suffering, and a recent sense of marginalization by market economies. Informed by the existing research in cultural studies, history, politics and sociology, and collecting new fresh data, this project significantly advances our understanding of the uses of memory and identity in contemporary politics.

Planned Start date

Planned End date

1st October 2021

30th September 2024

PARTNERSHIP:

1 The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Chapel Hill (USA)	Coordinator
2 Università Ca' Foscari Venezia	Venice (IT)	Partner