



Final Report Visegrad Fellowship at OSA

From March 1 to 30, I had the opportunity to do research at the Open Society Archive in Budapest. I'm a postdoctoral researcher at the History Department at Leipzig University, working on the establishment of academic relations between East and West after the end of the Cold War and the special role of East European Studies. 1989 marked a turning point for Area Studies on Eastern and Southeastern Europe. As political advisors and academic bridge-builders, experts from and about these regions took on ad-hoc and long-term tasks in the transformation process. At the same time, the end of the Cold War challenged them to renegotiate the institutional and discursive self-understanding of historical, contemporary, and future research on and in Eastern and Southeastern Europe. By looking at different European case studies, my historiographical project asks about the agency and agenda of scholars of Eastern and Southeastern Europe, and in particular of Slavic and historical studies, in post-Cold War Europe. For my research at OSA, I was interested in the foundation of the CEU as an academic hub between East and West. During my one-month stay, I therefore mainly looked at administrative files from the period between the end of the 1980s and the mid-1990s, in which the founding process of CEU is documented. Furthermore, I had the opportunity for background talks with various people. Through OSA, I have received great support in identifying and finding important sources for my project.

All in all, I can say that the Visegrad fellowship has been a great support for me. The program not only enabled me financially to spend a longer research period at the archive. It was also a great setting to exchange ideas with other researchers, OSA and CEU staff. Usually, archival work is a rather solitary activity and I really enjoyed the possibility to discuss first research impressions in an inspiring intellectual environment. For me, this also meant that I was able to do much more analysis already during the research process. Last but not least, the supporting program and the possibility to use the CEU library was also a great asset.

I only have one point to make as a suggestion for improving the program. As a researcher with care responsibilities, it was unfortunately not possible for me to come to Budapest for two months. The period of the fellowship is too short (and the amount of the scholarship too low) to organize school and kindergarten places in Budapest, but too long to be away from home for so long. A possibility to split or extend the scholarship and to apply for extra funds for childcare support, would strengthen equality and diversity among the fellows.

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Kein Zugang für elektronisch
signierte sowie für verschlüsselte
elektronische Dokumente

List of Records I looked at the OSA

CEU Administration Files 203-20-1

Records of the Office of Bill Newston-Smith 211-0-1

MTA Soros IUC Dubrovnik Administrative Files 11-13-5-8

The History of the CEU in Pictures and Documents & The History of the Soros
Foundation Hungary by Bela Nove

Records of Central European University: External Relations Office: Audio-visual
Recordings 203-13-1:1 (Inter-University Centre)

HU OSA 305-0-3:1109 Audio-visual Recording of the Graduation Ceremony 1995

Leipzig, April 8, 2023

Lisa Sahjuka