

more data and precise evidence could have supported the analysis. For example, some demographic studies show how different age cohorts, sometimes born within only a five-year span, experience different social fates, just because of a change in the shape of the economy or of policies governing access to higher education. One question that is touched upon, but that would have deserved deeper analysis, is to what extent the 'core values' of the different generations shape higher education or, conversely, are shaped by the prevailing conditions in higher education when they access it. In brief, an interrogation about what the causes and the effects are.

While this book does not offer the reader insights on how different generations have experienced higher education, whether as students or as faculty, it does provide interesting food for thought, drawing on the observations and insightful remarks and comments of distinguished US university leaders. The main interest of the book lies in the common thread that runs through almost all the chapters and the round-table transcripts, namely, the vivid and varied description of the responsiveness of higher education to changes in social and generational conditions. While common wisdom often depicts education (and higher education) as a conservative sector, prone to resist all social changes from the heights of its ivory tower, this book gives a totally opposite picture. Most contributing chapters show that it has been responsive to the ideal-typical needs and characteristics of different generations – or, more prosaically, of different social and economic times. This is, for example, addressed by a pragmatic analysis of how higher education institutions had (or have) to adjust their strategies to recruit and retain students and faculty for different generations. Similarly, the book helpfully reminds us that higher education changes all the time through a very natural process: the hiring and the teaching of people who are different and do not

share the same ideas or values, be it because they are part of the same generation or for other reasons. In many ways, to someone who does not belong to the 'baby boom' generation, the generational account offered by the book seems shaped by Baby Boomers' own ideas and prejudices about the other generations and, possibly, about higher education as well. However, this does not make the book less interesting, especially in light of the sustained influence of Baby Boomers on US higher education.

*Stéphan Vincent-Lancrin
OECD Centre for Educational
Research and Innovation*

**Mitchell A. Orenstein, Stephen Bloom,
and Nicole Lindstrom (eds.):**
*Transnational Actors in Central
and East European Transitions*
Pittsburgh, PA, 2008: University
of Pittsburgh Press, 260 pp.

This is an edited volume that revisits the pervasive influence of transnational and non-state actors on the politics of Central and East European states (CEE). It brings together studies on topics as diverse as transnational agendas on human trafficking in the Balkans, the IGOs in post-communist politics, the politics of Euro adoption, bank privatisation, the transnational church in national settings, political stability in Macedonia, and transnational actors. Research on such diverse topics meet in a common agenda, aimed first at contributing to the 'dual' [Przeworski 1991] and 'triple' [Offe 1997] transition literatures by reframing the debate on post-communist politics, and second at including new research on transnational politics that looks at the integration of the CEE states into an international system marked by complex interdependence. Hence, the authors introduce a new concept of quadruple transition.

The scope of the book encompasses how transnational actors influence domes-

tic politics and how much they are able to do. As the editors state (p. 3), the essays advance an agenda that combines concern for both the transnational and the national dimensions of governance. In this effort, the authors show that what used to be called 'domestic' politics must include a systemic recognition of transnational influences.

While the methodology of the book and the quadruple transitions argument are not extremely original – given the extent to which such concepts have been studied in the Europeanisation and democratisation literatures – some of the individual chapters offer very interesting case studies and original argumentation on the influences of the transnational actors on transitions in CEE. The book also runs into difficulties with over-generalisations such as 'the simultaneous introduction of democratic political institutions, market economies, and nation-states went more smoothly than analysts had predicted' (p. 5) and it over-estimates especially the importance of the rationalist/materialist approaches to the study of transnational influences. While the roles of transnational actors and the rationalist calculations of domestic actors seeking fast-track accession to the EU have been at the core of the study of Europeanisation in CEE, rationalist/materialist approaches cannot explain the difficulties of the new member states in carrying their EU integration further.

Nonetheless, the volume still makes novel contributions. Wade Jacoby's chapter on how IGOs matter is worth noting, as Jacoby suggests that transnational actors influence policy by allying themselves with domestic groups that have historically been on the losing end of policy battles. Juliet Johnson, in another timely study, shows how, along with the impact of the transnational actors, the liberal economic norms into which the domestic economic actors socialise enhance their enthusiasm for the adoption of the Euro in CEE. David Ost offers a crucial study on the independence

that the Polish political elites were seeking when they set Poland's foreign policy in reaction to the asymmetrical and deeply humiliating nature of the EU accession process. Ost's chapter is an interesting contribution to the debate on transnational influences as it shows that independent decision-making in areas such as foreign policy is a genuine possibility for CEE states.

The other chapters, however, do not live up to the volume's claims of introducing a new research agenda into the study of transitions. The chapter on the European Union by Milada Anna Vachudova is rather dated: the impact of the EU on the CEE transitions has by now been extensively researched. Vachudova's efforts to diversify this impact as passive leverage and active leverage are noteworthy, but not extremely unique. Epstein's comparative chapter on the politics of bank privatisation and the ways in which the transnational actors affected these processes over-estimates the value of the rationalist/materialist approach. Epstein's study relates to the early 1990s and the start of bank privatisations in Poland, Hungary, and Romania. The first two of these states had been trend-setters in Europeanisation and parallel transformation, while Romania had lagged behind owing to its domestic political difficulties, its geographical location, and the legacy of its exit from communism. Rather than presenting the case in terms of Romanian elites being less interested in membership in various European clubs and ignoring the advice of transnational actors, the chapter would have been more original had the author borne Romania's political legacies in mind. The Hungarian Fidesz-led government, in office from 1998 to 2002, was interested in membership in European clubs, but was not terribly welcoming to international economic influence. Finally, Hislope's chapter on corrupt exchange in divided societies is a remarkable study of how corrupt transactions between Macedonian and Albanian party elites created a

durable coalition government and a democratising regime. But the reaction from the transnational actors to this settlement could have received further attention in this chapter, given that political stability in Macedonia was a major priority for the EU, the OSCE, and NATO.

An extremely original piece of work in this volume, is Nicole Lindstrom's chapter on transnational agendas on human trafficking in the Balkans. Lindstrom applies a constructivist approach to transnational policy agenda setting in an effort to respond to the question of how and when ideas have a significant effect on policy outcomes. Referring to Peter Hall's earlier work on policy paradigms, Lindstrom qualifies the ways transnational actors package or frame an issue as a means of convincing each other that certain actions constitute a plausible and acceptable policy solution (p. 41). Regarding human trafficking, Lindstrom puts forward four approaches: the migration approach, the law enforcement approach, the human rights approach, and finally the economic approach. She investigates what modes of policy paradigms the transnational actors suggest. This is an original contribution to the existing literature on human trafficking and a laudable effort on the part of the edited volume.

To summarise, *Transnational Actors in Central and East European Transitions* revisits the role of transnational actors in CEE and suggests the new concept of quadruple transitions. It is an important work in reference to international relations approaches to the study of transition and transformation in CEE. The volume is a useful endeavour to update the literature on the topic and hence can be used as a supplementary text for undergraduate and postgraduate modules on East European politics, the politics of EU enlargement, and international actors and institutions.

Umut Korkut
University College Dublin

References

- Przeworski, Adam. 1991. *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Offe, Claus. 1997. *Varieties of Transition: the East European and East German Experience*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Manfred Huber, Ricardo Rodrigues, Frederique Hoffmann, Katrin Gasior and Bernd Marin: *Facts and Figures on Long-Term Care in Europe and North America*

Vienna, 2009: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, 140 pp.

Against the background of an ageing population, this volume aims to provide an overview of significant trends in the provision and funding of long-term care. It argues that in 'contrast to policy concern on the organisation and funding of an adequate care provision, the internationally comparative knowledge on basic indicators is currently fragmented and comparable international data sets and concepts are in the early stages'. (p. 18) By combining international and national datasets the report paints a comprehensive picture of significant trends in long-term care needs and services in Europe and North America. The publication is part of the Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation (MA:IMI) project of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission. It is intended as the first edition, which will be further elaborated and updated every two years.

The report comprises a wide spectrum of themes related to long-term care, which allows an analysis of trends in daily care provision tied to demographic and social changes, as well as the institutional regulations of care policies. It provides reliable comparative national and international sta-