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AROLDA ELBASANI, PhD

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB)
Reichpietschufer 50
D-10785 Berlin
Germany

Tel. +49-30-25491-598

E-mail: elbasani@wzb.eu

Web : <http://www.wzb.eu/zkd/rol/people/elbasani.en.htm>

CURRENT POSITION

A.SK Award Fellow, Social Science Research Centre (WZB), Berlin, Since May 2010

EDUCATION

- 2002-2007 **PhD, European University Institute (EUI), Florence, Italy**
Department of Social and Political Sciences, date awarded: 30 Nov. 2007
Dissertation: *The Impact of EU Conditionality Upon Democratisation: Electoral Competition and Civil Service Reforms in Post-communist Albania.*
Dissertation Committee: Prof. Philippe Schmitter (Supervisor), Prof. Laszlo Bruszt (Co-Supervisor); Prof. Antoaneta Dimitrova; Prof. Shinasi Rama.
- 2002-2003 **MR, European University Institute (EUI), Florence, Italy**
MR, Department of Social and Political Sciences
Thesis: *The External Dimension of Democratisation in the Balkans*
Supervisor: Philippe Schmitter
- 2001-2002 **MA, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey**
Department of Political Science and Public Administration
Thesis: *Constitutional Democracy in Transition: Hungary and Bulgaria*
Supervisor: Hootan Shambayati
- 2000-2001 **MA, Central European University (CEU), Budapest, Hungary**
Department of International Relations and European Studies
Thesis: *Peace-Building in Kosovo: The Role of UN*
Supervisor: Michael Merlingen
- 1995-1999 **BA, EGE University, Izmir, Turkey**
Department of International Relations (with Honours)
Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Relations; Democracy
Promotion; Europeanization; Eastern
Europe; Western Balkans

Institutional change; Comparative
Democratisation; Public Administration;
Political Islam

RESEARCH POSITIONS

- 09/2010-
Present **A.SK Award Fellow**
Social Science Research Centre (WZB), Berlin
Main Project: Europeanization and Public Administration Reform
- 10/2008-
08/2009 **Post-doctoral Fellow**
Otto-Suhr- Institute of Political Science, Berlin
Main Project: EU Enlargement and Institutional Change
- 10/2007-
06/2008 **Research Assistant**
Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS), Florence
Research Project: New Modes of Governance
- 08/2002-
11/2007 **PHD Researcher**
European University Institute (EUI), Florence
Project: EU Political Conditionality and Post-Communist Democratisation
- 04/2005-
08/2005 **Researcher and Project Manager**
International Organization for Migration (IOM), Tirana
Project: Irregular Migration in Albania and the Wider Region

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 09/2009-
05/2010 **Chair, International Relations Department**
European University of Tirana
Courses: Public Administration; Local Governance [in English and Albanian]
- Summer
2008 **Assistant Professor (Adjunct)**
University of New York Tirana (UNYT)
Course: Introduction to International Relations [in English]
- 09/2007-
04/2008 **Lecturer (Adjunct)**
Richmond University, Florence Study Centre
Course: Globalisation: A European Perspective [in English]
- 11/2006-
12/2006 **Lecturer and Curricula Development Support**
Department of Social Work, University of Prishtina
Block Course: Introduction to Comparative Social Policy [in Albanian]
- 09/2005-
12/2005 **Lecturer (Adjunct)**
Master in Eastern European Studies (MIREES), University of Bologna
Course: Research Methods in Social Sciences [in English]
- 09/2001-
07/2002 **Research and Teaching Assistant**
Department of Political Sciences, Bilkent University, Ankara
Course: Comparative Politics [in English and Turkish]

SELECTED AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, and RESEARCH FUNDING

05/2010- 08/2011	Social Science Research Centre (WZB), Berlin A.SK Social Science Award
01/2011 03/2011	Social Science Research Centre (WZB), Berlin Funding of research team for an edited book on Europeanization
11/2010 05/2011	Bertelsmann Stiftung, Berlin Country Assessment, Bertelsmann Transformation Index 2011
10/2008- 07/2009	Otto-Suhr-Institute for Political Science, Freie Universität, Berlin Post-doctoral Fellowship
08/2008- 10/2008	Center For Enlargement Studies, Central European University, Budapest Commissioned Research, Political Transformation in Albania
08/2002- 05/2007	Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome Scholarship in full support of doctoral studies at EUI, Florence
04/2005- 08/2005	International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Tirana Commissioned Research on EU Readmission Agreements
09/2001- 07/2002	Bilkent University, Ankara Research and Teaching Scholarship in full support of MA studies
09/2000- 07/2001	Open Society Foundation, Budapest Scholarship in full support of MA studies at Central European University
09/1994- 07/1999	Turkish Ministry of Education, Ankara Undergraduate scholarship in full support of BA studies at Aegean University

PROFESIONAL ACTIVITIES

Convener

2009-present Standing Group on South East Europe. European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), (with Dimitris Papadimitriou and Danica Fink-Hafner).

Founder and Co-editor

2004-2009 *Albanian Journal of Politics*, Chapel Hill: Globic Press
(with Altin Ilirjani and Ridvan Peshkopia)

Board member

2011-present International Journal on Balkan Policy Research (IJBPR)
2010-present Albanian Journal of Politics

Conference Organisation

2009 Organiser, Workshop II on 'EU Enlargement and Institutional Change in Western Balkans.' KFG Research College, Free University, Berlin: 10-11 July, 2009.
2009 Organiser, Workshop I on 'EU Enlargement and Institutional Change in Southeast Europe.' KFG Research College, Free University, Berlin: 5-6 February 2009.
2008 Member of the organising Committee, Conference 'Contemporary Albanian Societies in Transition.' New York University, New York: 19 December 2008.

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Monographs

- 2011 *EU Enlargement and Europeanization in the Western Balkans (ed)*. London and New York: Routledge. Forthcoming.

Peer-reviewed Articles

- 2010 'Europeanization in the Western Balkans: EU Incentives and Domestic Constraints.' *Transitions Vol L* (1): 13-29.
- 2010 'Albania: Vulnerable or Immune to Potential Risks from the Greek Crisis.' [Dossier on the Perceptions and Repercussions of the Greek Crisis in South East Europe.] *Südosteuropa* 58(4), (with Seimir Elbasani).
- 2009 'Enlargement Instruments and Domestic Constraints: Public Administration Reform in Post-Communist Albania.' *Südosteuropa* 57 (1): 70-90.
- 2008 'EU Enlargement in the Western Balkans: Strategies of Borrowing and Inventing.' *Journal of Balkan and Middle Eastern Studies* 10 (3): 293-307.
- 2008 'Mixed Member Proportional Systems and Post-Communist Contexts.' *CEU Political Science Journal* 3 (1): 72-92.
- 2004 'Democratisation Processes in Albania: Appropriation or Manipulation of International Norms?' *Southeast European Politics* 5 (1): 24-44.
Translated in French : 'Albanie: Les ratés de la transition et le futur européen.' *Courrier de la Planète* 85 (01-03/ 2008): 42-45. <http://www.courrierdelaplanete.org/85/article3.php>.

Other Journal Articles

- 2010 'Politics and the Moderating Role of Public Debates in the Pursuit of Transitional Justice after Communism.' *Central European Political Science Review* 11 (42): 28-58. (with Artur Lipinski)
Translated in Hungarian: 'A politika és a közéleti vita szerepe a rendszerváltozásban.' In Simon János (ed.) *Húsz Éve Szabadon Közép-Európában*. Kiadó: Konrad Adenauer Alapítvány. Forthcoming
- 2008 'Enlargement and State Institutions after Communism –Reforming Public Administration.' [Special issue on The Western Balkans between Europeanization and Nation-Building]. *L'Europe en Formation* (349): 115-132.

Refereed Working Papers

- 2011 'Public Contestation and Politics of Transitional Justice: Poland and Albania Compared' *EUI Working Paper* 2011/02. Florence: European University Institute.
<http://cadmus.eui.eu/handle/1814/15805>
- 2009 'EU Administrative Conditionality and Domestic Downloading: The Limits of Europeanization in Challenging Contexts.' *KFG Working Paper no 2*. Berlin: Free University; http://www.polsoz.fu-berlin.de/en/v/transformeurope/publications/working_paper/WP_02_July_Elbasani.pdf
- 2008 'The Stabilisation and Association Strategy in the Balkans: Overloaded Agenda and Weak Incentives?' *EUI Working Paper* 2008/3. Florence: European University Institute; <http://cadmus.eui.eu/handle/1814/8447>

Commissioned Reports

- 2011 'Country Assessment Report.' In *Bertelsmann Transformation Index 2011*. Berlin: Bertelsmann Stiftung.
- 2009 'Political transformation and Implementation of EU Democratic Requirements in Albania.' In *Integration Perspectives and Synergic Effects of European Transformation*. Budapest: Centre for EU Enlargement Studies.
http://web.ceu.hu/cens/assets/files/publications/Albania_Political

Book Chapters

- 2011 'Differentiated Transitional Justice in Albania and Poland.' In Raluca Grosedcu (ed.) *Transitional Criminal Justice in Post-dictatorial Societies*. Forthcoming.
- 2011 'Europeanization Goes Western Balkans: EU Enlargement, Domestic Challenges and Patterns of Institutional Change.' In Arolda Elbasani (ed.) *EU Enlargement and Europeanization in the Western Balkans*. London and New York: Routledge, Forthcoming.
- 2011 'EU Administrative Conditionality and Domestic Compliance: Weak States in the Balkans.' In Arolda Elbasani (ed.) *EU Enlargement and Europeanization in the Western Balkans*. London and New York: Routledge, Forthcoming.
- 2008 'EU Enlargement in the Western Balkans: Extensive Conditionality Combined With Weak Incentives?' In Jasien Leszek (ed.) *EU Policies in the Making*. Kraków: Tischner European University, 83-100.
- 2006 'Migration, Return and Readmission Agreements.' In *Return and Readmission: The Case of Albania*. Tirana: IOM, 14-32. (with Sonila Danaj).

Book Reviews

- 2011 'Stable Outside, Fragile Inside? Post-Soviet Statehood in Central Asia.' Edited by Emilian Kavalski, London: Ashgate, 2010. In *CEU Political Science Journal*, Forthcoming.
- 2011 'Conversion after Socialism: Disruptions, Modernisms and Technologies of Faith in the Former Soviet Union.' Edited by Mathijs Pelkmans, Oxford & New York: Berghahn Books, 2009. In *Europe-Asia Studies* 63 (2): 348-349.
- 2009 'Democracy Incorporated: Managed Democracy and Inverted Totalitarianism.' By Wolin, Sheldon S, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008. In *European Political Science* (8): 412-415.
- 2009 'European Integration and its Effects on Minority Protection in South Eastern Europe.' Edited by Emma Lantschner et al., Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2008. In *Südosteuropa* 57 (2/3): 329-332.
- 2009 'Aspects of the Orange Revolution III: The Context and Dynamics of the 2004 Ukrainian Presidential Elections.' Edited by Igmarr Bredies, Andreas Unland and Valentin Yakushik, Shtuttgart: Verlag, 2007. In *Europe-Asia Studies* 61 (9): 1665-1667.
- 2005 'Albania and the European Union: European integration and the Prospect of Accession.' By B. Mirela and J. Loughlin, Tirana: Dajti, 2004. In *Albanian Journal of Politics* I (1): 87-90.
- 2004 'Redeeming the Communist Past: The Regeneration of Communist Successor Parties in East Central Europe after 1989.' By Grzymala-Busse, Anna M., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002. In *Southeast European Politics* V (1): 96-99.

Work in Progress

- 'Religion and Post-Communist Democratisation: Is it Possible to Be Islamic, Democratic and European at the Same Time?' Under Review.
- 'Islamic Actors' Compliance with EU Political Criteria
- 'Reforming Public Administration after Communism' Under Review.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2011 *Islamic Actors and Democratisation: Is it possible to be Islamic, European and Democratic at the same time*. Paper accepted for presentation at the APSA annual meeting, Seattle: 1-4 September 2011.
- 2011 *Identity and Compliance: How and When do Islamic Actors Comply with EU Democratic Criteria?* Paper presented at the Biennial Conference of the European Union Studies Association. Boston: 3-5 March 2011 (with Beken Saatcioglu).
- 2011 *Democratising with the 'Baggage' of Islam*. Invited presentation at Sudost-Institute. Regensburg: 28 January 2011.
- 2010 *Politics and Debates in the Pursuit of Transitional Justice*. Invited presentation at the

- 2010 Conference 'Twenty Years Freedom in Central Europe.' Budapest: 25-27 November 2010.
Politics and Debates of Transitional Justice. Invited Presentation at the Conference
- 2010 Albanian Social Sciences in Transition.' Tirana: 22 November 2010.
- 2010 *Democratising with the 'Baggage' of Islam*. Presentation at the Social Science Research Centre. Berlin: 15 November 2010.
- 2010 *Politics and Debates in the Pursuit of Transitional Justice*. Paper presented at the conference on 'Transitional Criminal Justice in Post-Dictatorial Societies.' Romania: 29-30 October 2010.
- 2010 *Enlargement Conditionality and Games of Compliance: Restructuring Public Administration After Communism*. Paper presented at the UACES 40th annual conference 'Exchanging Ideas on Europe: Europe at a Crossroads'. Brugge: 6-8 September 2010.
- 2010 *EU Administrative Conditionality and Domestic Compliance*, paper presented at the Conference 'EU and the Western Balkans: Between Limbo and Enlargement Fatigue.' Tirana: 15 March 2010.
- 2010 *Politics of Enlargement in the Western Balkans: Extensive Conditionalities and Weak Incentives?* Paper presented at the Conference 'The Balkans and Caucasus: Parallel Processes on the Opposite Sides of the Black Sea.' Romania: 12-13 April 2010.
- 2010 *Religious Actors and Democratisation in Albania*. Paper presented at the Workshop 'Religious Actors in Democratisation Processes: Evidence from the Five Muslim Democracies.' Princeton University: 4-5 February 2010.
- 2009 *EU Administrative Conditionality and Domestic Downloading*. Paper presented at the KFG Research College 'The Transformative Power of Europe.' Free University, Berlin: 10-11 July 2009.
- 2009 *Europeanization Goes Western Balkans: EU Enlargement and Domestic Challenges*. Paper presented at the Workshop 'EU Enlargement and Institutional Reform in Western Balkans.' Free University, Berlin: 10-11 July 2009.
- 2008 *The Impact of EU Assistance in the Balkan Countries: The Case of Public Administration Reform*. Paper presented at the Research Conference 'Solutions for a complex world – Governance, Conflict, Crisis and Aid Effectiveness.' Maastricht Graduate School of Governance: 24-25 November 2008.
- 2008 *The Role of Informal Institutions in Determining the Path of Public Administration Reform*, Invited presentation at the PHD School of Management and Governance. University of Twente: 15 May 2008.
- 2008 *EU Enlargement in the Western Balkans: Extensive Conditions Combined with Weaker Incentives?* Paper presented at the conference 'EU Policies in the Making.' Tischner European University, Krakow: 18-19 April 2008.
- 2007 *The Impact of EU Conditionality on State institutions: Building Civil Service Systems from Scratch*. Invited presentation at the Baltic and East European Graduate School, Sodortorn University College, Stockholm: 4 December 2007.
- 2007 *The Role of Stabilisation and Association Process*. Paper presented at the workshop 'A Roadmap for Western Balkans: the Role of IPA and Other EU Funds to Accelerate Convergence and Integration.', Brussels: 11 October 2007.
- 2007 *EU conditionality and Civil Service System in the Western Balkans*. Paper presented at the 8th Annual International Postgraduate Conference, 'Life in Motion, Shifting Spaces, Transcending Times, Crossing Borders. Masaryk University, Brno: 26-28 June 2007.
- 2006 *Balkans' Path towards EU Integration*. Invited presentation at the workshop 'Human Rights in the Balkan Region. University of Bologna, Forli: 14 April 2006.
- 2004 *EU conditionality and Challenges of Democratisation*. Paper presented at the workshop 'EU and Southeast Europe after 2004.' University of Stirling: 24 April 2004.
- 2004 *Democratisation Process in Albania: Appropriation or Manipulation of International Norms*. Paper presented at the 6th Annual Graduate Student Workshop. Harvard University, Boston: 14 February, 2004.