

# Dr. BORBÁLA KOVÁCS

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

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**Reader in Public Policy** 10/2022 – 09/2025  
*Dept. of Political Science, Babeş-Bolyai University*

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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**TEACHING FELLOW, BA level** 10/2021 – 07/2022  
*Dept. of Political Science, Babeş-Bolyai University*

**POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW** 04/2018 – 02/2022  
*Dept. of Global Studies, Aarhus Universitet, OSTWEL project*

***Maternity & parental leave*** 09/2020 – 08/2021

**EURIAS JUNIOR FELLOW** 10/2018 – 07/2019  
*Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, Aarhus Universitet*

**VISITING FACULTY, MA level**  
*Dept. of Political Science, Central European University* 02/2018 – 03/2018  
01/2017 – 06/2017

***Maternity & parental leave*** 08/2016 – 01/2017

**VISITING FACULTY, MA level**  
*Dept. of Political Science, Central European University* 08/2014 – 08/2016  
09/2013 – 06/2014

**SOCIAL SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR**  
*Open Society Foundations summer school* 08/2013

**TUTOR AND TEACHING FELLOW**  
*University of Oxford*

Social Policy option course, BA level	2010 – 2011
Course convenor: Ms. Fran Bennett	
Comparative Social Policy / Welfare States, MSc level	2009 – 2010
Course convenor: Prof. Martin Seeleib-Kaiser	

## TEACHING FELLOW

*Brunel University*

Social Policy (mandatory), BA & MA levels

10 – 11/2010

## EDUCATION

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**DPhil in Social Policy (pass with no corrections)**

*University of Oxford, UK*

5/02/2013

**MSc in Comparative Social Policy Analysis (distinction)**

*University of Oxford, UK*

11/09/2008

**BA in Political Science (first class honours)**

*Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania*

06/2007

## RESEARCH CONSULTING

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**Dept. of Political Science, Babeş-Bolyai University**

Project: Cosmopolitan Turn and Democratic Sentiment [CONSENT]

06/2019 – 05/2023

**Median Research Centre**

Project: OpenPolitics.ro

2012 – 2020

## INVITED TALKS

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‘Care and Volunteering in Transformation’ online workshop

*Hannah Arendt Institute for Totalitarianism Research, TU Dresden*

07/2020

‘The Social Contract and the Welfare State in Comparative Perspective’ workshop

*Centre for International Studies, Sciences Po & Agence française de développement*

12/2019

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

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Kovács, B. (2022) ‘Barriers to claiming social entitlements: citizen-bureaucrat encounters as cultural disjunctures’, *ESPANet 2022*, Track 11 – Structural inequalities, non-take-up or discriminations? Multiple barriers of access to social rights in Europe, Vienna, Austria.

Kovács, B. (2022) ‘The Technologies of Claims-making in the Welfare State: Demeanour, Rules and Procedures’, *EASA 2022*, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Kovács, B. (2019) 'Three decades of fiscal welfare in Hungary, Lithuania and Romania: hidden redistribution towards the better off', *ESPANet 2019*, 28 – Open stream, Stockholm, Sweden.

Kovács, B. (2019) 'Bifurcated family policy in Hungary, Lithuania and Romania and implications for parents' work-care decisions', *ESPANet 2019*, 9 – Family policy, gender and modern work-family dilemmas, Stockholm, Sweden.

Kovács, B. (2018) 'Formal insecurity regimes? The peculiar logic of post-socialist welfare state retrenchment', *6<sup>th</sup> IOS Regensburg Annual Conference*, Regensburg, Germany.

Kovács, B. (2017) 'Explaining income-based differences in accessing full-time early childhood education and care services in urban Romania', *Transforming Care Conference 2017*, Politecnico Milano, Milan, Italy.

Kovács, B., Polese, A. and Morris, J. (2017) 'A different kind of retrenchment: the exclusionary politics of social policy adaptation in Hungary and Romania', *Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP)* workshop, University of Bergen & International Social Science Council, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.

Kovács, B. (2017) 'Explaining household-level childcare arrangements: The hierarchies of care ideals framework', poster presentation, *What people know and think: The Role of Attitudes and Information in the Process of Political Decision-making and Policy Use* workshop, Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences, Bamberg, Germany.

Kovács, B. (2015) 'The exclusionary politics of paid parental leave', *12<sup>th</sup> conference of the European Sociological Association*, RN13 – Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives, Prague, Czech Republic.

Kovács, B., Morris, J., Polese, A. and Seliverstova, O. (2015) 'Informality and the Welfare State in Eastern Europe', with J. Morris, *12<sup>th</sup> conference of the European Sociological Association*, RN36 – Sociology of Transformations East and West, Prague, Czech Republic.

Kovács, B. and Polese, A. (2014) 'Renegotiating Social Policy through Informality: A Post-Socialist Perspective', with A. Polese, *XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology*, Yokohama, Japan.

## CO-EDITOR

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Polese, A., Kovács, B., Morris, J. and Rekhviashvili, L. (eds.) (2017) *Post-Socialist Informalities: Power, agency and the construction of extra-legalities from Bosnia to China*, Abingdon: Taylor & Francis.

**Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe**, 2016, vol. 24, issue 3  
Special issue: "States" of informality in post-socialist Europe (and beyond)

## PEER REVIEWING

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**PEER REVIEWER** 2015 – ongoing

*Journal of European Social Policy*  
*International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*  
*European Societies*  
*Romanian Journal of Political Science*

**EXTERNAL SCIENTIFIC REVIEWER** 2015 – 2016

*Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Centre for Social Sciences – Institute for Political Science*  
(Budapest, Hungary)

Project: Hungarian Policy Agendas, Comparative Agendas

## COOPERATION PARTNERS

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**Prof. Jeremy Morris**, Dept. of Global Studies, Aarhus Universitet (2014 – ongoing)

**Prof. Gabriel Bădescu**, Dept. of Political Science, Babeş-Bolyai University (2019 – ongoing)

**Prof. Maria Roth**, Dept. of Sociology and Social Work, Babeş-Bolyai University  
(2019 – ongoing)

**Dr. Marina Popescu**, Median Research Centre & formerly Dept. of Political Science, Central European University (2013 – ongoing)

## PUBLICATIONS

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### ARTICLES in PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Kovács, B. (2021) 'When a crisis undermines quality public service provision: Romanian early childhood education and care through the SARS-Cov-2 epidemic', *Global Social Policy*, 21(3): 508-528. DOI: 10.1177/14680181211011369.

Kovács, B. (2021) 'Different, yet the same: Three decades of family policy change in Hungary, Lithuania and Romania', *Social Policy & Society*, FirstView.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1474746421000828>.

Kovács, B. (2021) 'Flat-rate personal income tax in Lithuania, Romania and Hungary: A revolutionary policy idea without revolutionary outcomes', *Journal of European Social Policy* OnlineFirst. DOI: 10.1177/09589287211035707.

Polese, A., Kovács, B. and Jancsics, D. (2018) 'Informality 'in spite of' or 'beyond' the state: evidence from Hungary and Romania', *European Societies*, 20(2): 207-235.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14616696.2017.1354390>

Kovács, B., Morris, J., Polese, A., Imami, D. (2017) 'Looking at the 'sharing' economies concept through the prism of informality', *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, 10(2): 365–378. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cjres/rsw046>

Kovács, B. (2016) 'Socio-economic deficits and informal childcare services in Romania: the policy drivers of the commodification of care from a micro-level perspective', *Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe*, 24(3): 239-254.  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0965156X.2016.1260868?scroll=top&needAccess=true>

Polese, A., Morris, J. and Kovács, B. (2016) 'Introduction: "States" of Informality in post-socialist Europe (and beyond)', *Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe*, 24(3): 181-190.

Kovács, B. (2015) 'The Totality of Caring': Conceptualising Childcare Arrangements for Micro-level Empirical Research', *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 35(9/10): 699-719. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/IJSSP-06-2014-0050>

Kovács, B. (2015) 'Managing access to full-time public daycare and preschool services in Romania: planfulness, cream-skimming and 'relations'', *Journal of Eurasian Studies*, 6(1): 6-16.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.euras.2014.09.001>

Polese, A., Morris, J. and Kovács, B. (2015) 'Introduction: The Failure and Future of the Welfare State in Post-Socialism', *Journal of Eurasian Studies*, 6(1): 1-5.

Polese, A., Morris, J., Kovács, B. and Harboe, I. (2014) 'Welfare States' and Social Policies in Eastern Europe and the former USSR: Where Informality Fits In?', *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, 22(2): 184-198. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14782804.2014.902368>

## **SINGLE-AUTHOR MONOGRAPHS**

Kovács, B. (2018) *Family Policy and the Organisation of Childcare – Hierarchies of Care Ideals*, London: Palgrave Macmillan.

## CHAPTERS in EDITED VOLUMES

Kovács, B., Polese, A. and Morris, J. (2017) 'Adjusting social welfare and social policy in Central and Eastern Europe: growth, crisis and recession', in Kennett, P. and Lendvai, N. (eds.) *Handbook of European Social Policy*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, pp. 194-217.

Polese, A., Morris, J., Kovács, B. and Harboe, I. (2016) "Welfare States' and Social Policies in Eastern Europe and the former USSR: Where Informality Fits In?", in Polese, A. (ed.) *Limits of a Post-Soviet Space: How Informality Replaces, Renegotiates and Reshapes Governance in Contemporary Ukraine*, Stuttgart: Ibidem-Verlag, pp. 43-66. (Reprint.)

Kovács, B. (2014) 'Nannies and informality in Romanian local childcare markets', in Morris, J. B. and Polese, A. (eds.) *The Informal Post-Socialist Economy: Embedded Practices and Livelihoods*, London: Routledge, pp. 67-84.

Kovács, B. (2014) 'Romanian Families: Changes and Continuities over Recent Decades', in Rajkai, Zs. (ed.) *Social Change in Socialist and Post Socialist Societies: Change and Continuity in East Europe and East Asia*, Leiden: Brill, pp. 250-299.

Kovács, B. (2008) 'Mothering and Civic Participation: Constraints and Rewards', in Bădescu, G. (ed.) *Civic Engagement and Democratisation in Romania*, Cluj Napoca: Cluj University Press.

## EDITED VOLUMES

Polese, A., Kovács, B., Morris, J. and Rekhviashvili, L. (eds.) (2017) *Post-Socialist Informalities: Power, agency and the construction of extra-legalities from Bosnia to China*, Abingdon: Taylor & Francis.

## BOOK REVIEWS

Kovács, B. (2015) 'Steven Saxonberg – *Gendering Family Policies in Post-Communist Europe: A Historical-Institutional Analysis*, London and New York: Palgrave Macmillan', *Analele Universității București – Științe Politice*, XVII(1): 143-147.

## PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES in OTHER LANGUAGES

Polese, A., Kovács, B. and Jancsics, D. (2016) 'Practici informale nocive sau inofensive? „În pofida” și „dincolo de” stat: cazul Ungariei și României' [Harmful or harmless informal practices? 'In spite of' and 'beyond' the state: the case of Hungary and Romania], *Studia Politica*, XVI(2): 219-242.

Polese, A., Kovács, B. and Jancsics, D. (2016) 'Az „állam ellenére” és az „államon túl” megvalósuló informális gyakorlatok ártalmas és ártalmatlan természete: magyarországi és romániai példák' [The harmful and harmless nature of informal practices happening 'in spite of' and 'beyond' the state: Hungarian and Romanian examples], *Szociológiai Szemle*, 26(2): 44-70.

## **POLICY ANALYSIS FOR THE WIDER COMMUNITY [in Romanian]**

### **Children during the SARS-Cov-2 epidemic [with the CONSENT project team]**

- **2020:** <https://www.contributors.ro/ce-facem-cu-copiii-in-perioada-pandemiei/>

### **Early Childhood Education and Care Services during the SARS-Cov-2 epidemic**

- **2020:** <https://www.contributors.ro/politicile-publice-in-inva%c8%9bamant-pe-timp-de-sars-cov-2-un-mare-plan-na%c8%9bional-%c8%99i-nici-urma-de-solidaritate-sociala/>

### **Personal income taxation in post-socialist Romania**

- **2020:** <https://www.contributors.ro/3-credite-fiscale-%c8%99i-deduceri-in-regimurile-de-impozitare-post-decembriste/>
- **2020:** <https://www.contributors.ro/2-varia%c8%9bii-ale-cotelor-reale-de-impozitare-in-romania-post-decembrista/>
- **2020:** <https://www.contributors.ro/analiza-impozitarea-veniturilor-salariale-in-romania-post-decembrista/>

### **Poverty and Romanian anti-poverty strategies:**

- **2014:** <http://www.openpolitics.ro/ce-inseamna-saracia-in-romania-si-de-ce-fel-de-interventii-avem-nevoie-sa-o-combatem/>
- **2013:** <http://www.openpolitics.ro/strategia-politicilor-sociale-2013-2020-rezumat/>
- **2011:** <http://www.openpolitics.ro/strategia-politicilor-sociale-2013-2020-o-analiza-a-schitei-propuse-de-iccv-tot/>

### **Family policy instruments:**

- **2015:** <http://www.openpolitics.ro/concediul-platit-pentru-cresterea-copilului-siguranta-sociala-in-familiile-eligibile-fara-cresterea-natalitatii/>
- **2015:** <http://www.openpolitics.ro/obiectivele-implicite-ale-concediului-platit-pentru-cresterea-copilului-in-ultimii-10-ani-de-la-dezactivare-la-activare/>
- **2014:** <http://www.openpolitics.ro/o-noua-veche-baza-de-calcul-a-indemnizatiei-pentru-cresterea-copilului-care-echitate/>
- **2012:** <http://www.openpolitics.ro/concediul-platit-pentru-cresterea-copilului-despre-ce-nu-vorbim-dar-ar-trebui/>

Ivan, C. M., Radu, R. G. and Kovács, B. (2011) *Țintește sus! Ai tot sprijinul! Raport final al proiectului „Burse de studiu pentru elevii romi din licee”* [Aim high! You have the support! Final report of the project ‘Scholarships for Roma students in secondary schools’], Cluj Napoca: RCRC & Roma Education Fund.