

“A riot in Shoeton”: Violence, insecurity and post-socialist geographies of racism



In August 1990, a small industrial Slovak town Shoeton* experienced a bout of intense violence between a group of Slovak young men and Vietnamese male workers employed in a local factory. This incident was but one of many racially framed conflicts that took place across Eastern and Central European countries at the time. This paper explores the events in Shoeton and uses them as a backdrop for an analysis of the emerging geographies of race and racism in the post-socialist regions. With the focus on violence itself in personal and collective biographies of the young men involved in the riot, the paper suggests that rather than an act of conscious political violence, what happened in Shoeton needs to be seen as a displacement of endemic violence: intersecting with insecure landscapes of masculinity, disciplining power of the State, inter-scalar territoriality and imaginations of the future; and channelled by the fragmentation of the Communist State and societal infrastructures. The paper then takes the histories of Shoeton to draw an approach for understanding the post-socialist geographies of racism as they evolved over the last 30 years, connected to, yet different from the (post-)colonial histories of the West and Global South.

** Name has been changed*

**Presentation followed by
commentary, Q&A.**

Discussant:

- Dr. Filippo Menga, University of Bergamo & Visiting Research Fellow, University of Reading

For further information, contact
Ruth Evans
0118 378 7755
r.evans@reading.ac.uk

Dr Matej Blazek

Matej is Senior Lecturer in Human Geography, Newcastle University. His work spans social and political geography with separate but inter-connected interests in childhood and in marginalised migrants, with a focus on agency and commitment to collaborative praxis with partners from within and outside academia.

Thursday March 4th, 2021

1-2 pm MS Teams

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+44 20 3443 6294,,814204901#](#) United Kingdom, London

Phone Conference ID: 814 204 901#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

University of Reading