Education reforms in post-communist Romania. Ideological trends, agency and governance.

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The research question

How were the neoliberal policies in the education field imported in the Romanian context? How were they grafted on local intellectual ideas, histories, institutions and subjectivities?

Phase 1. Education Reform Project. Staff Appraisal Report. March 16, 1994

Overview: Proposed neoliberal policies; touched all core elements of the educational enterprise; WB product: finance, ideas, conditionality

Research question: How was the reform articulated? How was the structure of knowledge constructed?

Methodology: discourse analysis

Findings: use of binaries to impose certain understandings of the problem that would sustain their particular neoliberal solution. The stake was to impose new forms of governance.

BUT....

- 1. Văcăroiu's 'populist, neo-developmentalist' cabinet (Ban 2014, 2016)
 - 2. IES (Institute of Educational Science) experts

Phase 2: The context

Research question: What were the conditions of possibility to propose and implement neoliberal policies in education?

Methodology: Document analysis and semi-structured interviews

Preliminary findings: The political and social situation in Romania was defined by instability and conflict:

- political division (the rupture between PDSR and the liberals and conservators-PNL and PNTCD)
- social unrest that culminated with the miners acting violent on the streets of Bucharest,
- interethnic conflicts,
- raising levels of unemployment and poverty,
- exuberant labour force,
- lack of basic products for consumption.

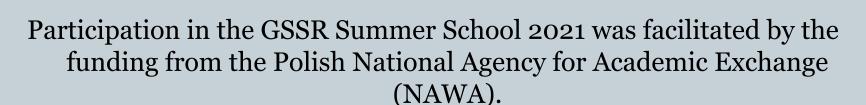
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