

**The Fall of the Communist, the Rise of the Entrepreneur:
Explorations into the Capitalist Spirit of ex-Communists**

This paper aims to contribute to the literature on the emergence of post-Socialist entrepreneurship through the process known as “Political capitalism” - that is, the process whereby members of former Communist elite converted themselves as new propertied elite. The analysis is based on life story interviews conducted in 2005 in Lithuania and Belarus with former employees of the Central Committee of republican Komsomol organisations. The paper contributes to the existing debate by studying the under-researched topic of actors’ willingness to move in particular life/career directions.