Unemployment in a New Market Society:

A Qualitative Exploration of Transforming Citizenship Relations

in Post-State Socialism

The introduction of unemployment during the process of mainstreaming former communist societies towards a capitalist model of economy and society fundamentally redefines the triangular relations of solidarity and citizenship between the individual, the state, and the 'other' (here: the unemployed). In order to explore current interpretations of this triangular configuration, 30 interviews with young people were conducted in post-Soviet Lithuania, a post-communist context of radical socio-economic transformation. The presentation synthesizes the findings of this research into a heuristic, empirically-grounded typology. The five types are organized along the three dimensions of the image of the unemployed, the perceived citizenship relations, and the relevance of the option of leaving the country.