Informal Economies in Post-Socialist Spaces
Practices, Institutions and Networks

Edited by

Jeremy Morris
University of Birmingham, UK

Abel Polese
Dublin City University, Ireland, and Tallinn University, Estonia
# Contents

*List of Tables and Figures* vii

*Acknowledgements* ix

*Notes on Contributors* x

**Introduction: My Name Is Legion. The Resilience and Endurance of Informality beyond, or in spite of, the State**

*Abel Polese and Jeremy Morris*

## Part I Thinking Informality and Development Writ Large and Small

1. **Evaluating the Validity of the Contrasting Theoretical Perspectives towards the Informal Economy in Ukraine** 25
   *Colin C. Williams and Olga Onoshchenko*

2. **Institutional Transformation and Informality in Azerbaijan and Georgia** 51
   *Huseyn Aliyev*

3. **Fighting the Shadows: Lithuania’s Informal Workers and the Financial Crisis** 70
   *Ida Harboe Knudsen*

4. **Formal Crutches for Broken Sociality** 95
   *Aet Annist*

## Part II Retheorizing Informality: Power, Culture, Kinship and History

5. **Field Notes on Informality’s Culture of Ubiquity: Recognition and Symbolic Power within Informal Economic Practices in Kosovo** 117
   *Anna Danielsson*

6. **The Importance of Having štela: Reproduction of Informality in the Democratization Sector in Bosnia** 139
   *Karla Koutkova*
Contents

List of Tables and Figures vii
Acknowledgements ix
Notes on Contributors x

Introduction: My Name Is Legion. The Resilience and Endurance of Informality beyond, or in spite of, the State 1
Abel Polese and Jeremy Morris

Part I Thinking Informality and Development Writ Large and Small

1 Evaluating the Validity of the Contrasting Theoretical Perspectives towards the Informal Economy in Ukraine 25
Colin C. Williams and Olga Onoshchenko

2 Institutional Transformation and Informality in Azerbaijan and Georgia 51
Huseyn Aliyev

3 Fighting the Shadows: Lithuania’s Informal Workers and the Financial Crisis 70
Ida Harboe Knudsen

4 Formal Crutches for Broken Sociality 95
Aet Annist

Part II Retheorizing Informality: Power, Culture, Kinship and History

5 Field Notes on Informality’s Culture of Ubiquity: Recognition and Symbolic Power within Informal Economic Practices in Kosovo 117
Anna Danielsson

6 The Importance of Having štela: Reproduction of Informality in the Democratization Sector in Bosnia 139
Karla Koutkova
Contents

7 Perceptions vs. Practices: Nepotism in Small Businesses in Bulgaria
   Tanya Chavdarova 154

8 The Importance of Personalized Relationships in Post-Socialist Rural Bulgaria: Informality of New Capitalist Entrepreneurs
   Christian Giordano 175

Part III Informal Public Sectors and Welfare: State Intervention or Withdrawal?

9 Informal Payments for Healthcare Services in Lithuania and Ukraine
   Tetiana Stepurko, Milena Pavlova, Irena Gryga, Liubove Murauskiene and Wim Groot 195

10 Nuclear Borders: Informally Negotiating the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone
   Thom Davies 225

11 Governing Informal Payments in Healthcare: Lessons from China
   Jingqing Yang 245

12 Informal Economic Practices within the Kyrgyz Police (militsiia)
   Liam O'Shea 270

Conclusion: Agency Strikes Back? Quo Vadis Informality?
   Jeremy Morris and Abel Polese 294

Index 300