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From: Frederick Megler (frederic.megler@utoronto.ca)

Soon, Kim
School of Law, The University of Reading
Professor of Law and Social Theory and Head of the
CARL F. STRYCHN

The Changing Politics of Citizenship and Law Reform

Governing Sexuality
Introduction

Accession in Romania

Sexuality and European Union: We Want to Join Europe, Not Sodom

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Law express@ultronic.co.uk

Introduction
The current legal framework concerning the protection of sex-based discrimination and the rights of transgender people in Romania is complex and subject to ongoing developments. The legal framework is primarily based on the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Social Charter, and the national laws of Romania. The Romanian Constitution guarantees the equality of all citizens and prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex, race, ethnicity, language, religion, or social origin. However, the implementation of these principles is not always effective, and there are reports of discrimination against transgender individuals in various aspects of life, including employment, education, healthcare, and social services.

In recent years, there have been efforts to improve the legal framework and to provide greater protection against discrimination. In 2016, Romania adopted a new anti-discrimination law that expanded the list of grounds for discrimination to include sex orientation and gender identity. This law prohibits discrimination in employment, education, housing, and other areas of public life. However, the enforcement of the law is subject to challenges, and there are reports of continued discrimination.

In conclusion, while Romania has made some progress in recent years to improve its legal framework and to protect the rights of transgender individuals, there is still a need for further developments to ensure effective implementation and to address the ongoing challenges. Continued efforts are required to foster a more inclusive society and to ensure that all citizens are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their sex orientation or gender identity.
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The history of post-communist Romania underscores the importance of reasserting national identity in the face of economic and social challenges. The transition from communism to democracy and the establishment of a market economy were accompanied by a complex process of adaptation and change. The role of the state in shaping economic policies and the development of the private sector was a critical element in this transition. The process of integration into the European Union and NATO further reinforced these trends, leading to significant transformations in Romanian society.

In recent years, Romania has experienced rapid economic growth and significant social changes, but these have not always translated into improved living standards for all citizens. The challenge faced by Romanian policymakers is to balance the needs of economic development with the priorities of social welfare and environmental sustainability. This requires a continued focus on creating a new social contract that recognizes the contributions of all members of society.

In conclusion, Romania's journey towards a more prosperous and equitable society is characterized by both achievements and ongoing challenges. The country's leaders must continue to work towards a future that is inclusive, sustainable, and truly representative of the aspirations of all Romanian citizens.
Europe, the Eurodollar, and the Eurobond markets (all in 2001) is making the counterpoint of the Open Economy a reality.

In 2001, the ACCRETE program was launched to promote and support the construction of new ACCRETE centers. The program was designed to create a network of ACCRETE centers around the world, with the goal of fostering international collaboration and support for the construction of new ACCRETE centers.

The program was initially funded by a donation from the ACCRETE Foundation, which has been a major supporter of the ACCRETE program since its inception. In 2001, the Foundation donated $1 million to support the construction of the first ACCRETE center. Since then, the Foundation has continued to support the program, with additional donations in 2004, 2007, and 2010.

The ACCRETE program is currently active in more than 20 countries around the world, with new centers being added each year. The program has been successful in promoting international collaboration and support for the construction of new ACCRETE centers, and has received positive feedback from both the ACCRETE community and its supporters.

The ACCRETE program continues to be a major supporter of the ACCRETE community, and is committed to ensuring the continued success of the program. The Foundation is proud to support the ACCRETE program, and looks forward to seeing the many new centers that will be constructed in the years to come.
CONCLUSION

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actively on a lesbian and gay empowerment project in the Republic of Moldova. Will this be a force for ‘liberation,’ or should it be seen as an example of the colonisation of sexuality by the West?

Finally, in the Romanian context, legal recognition issues are starkly inseparable from the economic, a central theme of this book. Issues of recognition and redistribution can be seen to merge. To what extent can a cosmopolitan, or globalised, identity be meaningful, given the standard of living of the majority in Romania today? For many, a westernised identity can be little more than a dream; one which is linked to migration and a relationship with a westerner who might act as an immigration sponsor. Yet, as I suggested in chapter 5, those relationships can (but need not necessarily) replicate the relationship of inequality between East and West which this chapter has sought to document. It does clearly suggest that an analysis of sexual identities and social change must be linked to existing economic inequalities, a point which I have also tried to suggest throughout this chapter and, indeed, throughout all of the case studies.

In closing, an anecdote perhaps best encapsulates the paradox of Romanian gay politics. In the autumn of 2001, the new American ambassador to Romania, Michael Guest, arrived. A Bush appointment, and NATO expert, the openly gay ambassador arrived with his partner in Bucharest to much press attention, and was duly received by the government (Gall, 2001). Should this event be read as a capitulation of the weakened state to international pressure; underscoring the inequality in the relationship between West and East? Alternatively, does it provide evidence of a movement of social change, which marks a historical shift? My answer in this chapter has been to suggest that both readings provide partial truths about the emerging politics of sexuality and citizenship in a European legal and political order; and it is in the years ahead, as the drive for European accession intensifies, that the implications of sexual citizenship in this dynamic region will become increasingly apparent.

32 On the other side of the Atlantic, the appointment was sharply criticised by the American religious right!

Conclusions

I finish Governing Sexuality by mentioning a few of the many possible future lines of inquiry regarding European sexual citizenship that may be worth pursuing, and by providing some final thoughts on the project.

Within the European Union, we have witnessed a remarkably rapid development of a range of ways in which same sex identities and relationships have come to be recognised by Member States and EU institutions. These reforms have occurred much more quickly than I would have expected 10 years ago, which perhaps underscores why predicting legal change is a perilous endeavour. Nevertheless, it seems to me that some developments are worth ‘flagging’ for the future. What I find interesting, first, is the variation in the forms and modes of legal recognition that have occurred in different states. The Danish model differs markedly from the French, for example (on developments in Denmark, see Bech, 1997: ch 6). With pressure beginning to be felt for a harmonised family law in the European Union (see McGlynn, 2000), it will be fascinating to see whether and how these culturally distinct modes of governing sexuality through national law come to be harmonised and disciplined into a particular ‘European’ form of legal recognition in the future. Given that, historically, the model of the family that has emerged in EU law and politics has been highly conservative in many respects, I would urge that close watch be kept on what a ‘European homosexual family’ might actually look like as it develops in EU law and politics in the years ahead.

Secondly, I have argued in Governing Sexuality that we can see forms of transnational social movement activism around same sex sexualities emerging within and across the European Union. Whether and how such activism grows in the future will be worth observing. The extent to which it can embrace national and regional cultural variation (and, relatedly, how well it can recognise and include the vast differences between and amongst lesbian and gay Europeans), will be a fascinating example of social movement development across borders. Also of interest will be the extent to which transnational movements are ‘top down’ operations (thanks to EU financial support), or genuine ‘grassroots’ social struggles (and the focus of struggle will itself be an important issue).

Thirdly, within a UK context, the role of rights discourse—and the lawyerisation of social movement activism—in the wake of the Human Rights Act 1998, warrants close observation, and not only for lesbian and gay social struggles. Whether we should describe such a development (if, indeed, it is occurring) as a form of the Americanisation of politics, or (given that we are dealing with the semi-incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights) the Europeanisation of politics, is of little relevance. But it does strike me that what
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