



## RESEARCH

### *How Eastern European Roots Shape The Way We View Money, Corruption and Success*

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**Research:** My name is Iskra Mandić, and I am a freshman at Smeal school of business, Pennsylvania State University. The research I am conducting is how being raised in/or having ties to Eastern European region influences the financial mindset, financial goals and financial fears an individual has.

As the project develops, I aim to incorporate a comparative component by including responses from U.S born students with no connection to the region, in order to highlight cross-cultural differences in values around money, corruption and success. The U.S born students without regional ties would present the “control group.”

**Mission:** Approaching history not as something that is behind us, but as something that lives *inside* us - shaping the way we understand and seek money.

- Which political systems influence in Eastern Europe are being researched :

- 1) Socialism
- 2) Communism
- 3) Post-Communism Capitalism
- 4) Authoritarian Governance and Corruption

- Eastern European Events that influenced inherited narratives :

- 1) The fall of Yugoslavia
- 2) The fall of Soviet Union
- 3) Transition-era privatization and the rise of oligarchs

- 4) The Balkan Wars and post-war rebuilding
- 5) Holocaust
- 6) Migration and economic diaspora

- Participant Criteria

- 1) All genders
- 2) All ages
- 3) All professions or/and majors
- 4) All sexual orientations
- 5) Raised in the region
- 6) Come from a family that originates from/ has ties to the region
- 7) Scholars/experts or individuals interested in Eastern European and Eurasian studies
- 8) Scholars/experts or individuals interested in history, politics, corruption, psychology

- Research methods that will be used:

- 1) **In person interviews** (voice recorded interviews or note taking interviews), each person would be asked to answer 6 questions.
- 2) A **Google Form** including multiple choice and short answer questions.
- 3) **Small group discussions** (3-6 participants) to allow for informal debate and shared reflections.
- 4) **Zoom interviews** with individuals in academia or experts in Eastern European studies, history, politics and economics. ( each lasting approximately 30 minutes )