

# **Privatization's Unequal Toll: Explaining Cross-Country Variation in Mortality and Health Outcomes After Post-Communist Transition**

## **Abstract**

**Keywords:** JEL codes:

**Statements and Declarations:** Authors state no Ethics Approval was required in this research.

# Introduction

## 2. Aim of the Study

- To investigate why post-communist countries experienced divergent mortality and health outcomes following privatization programs in the 1990s.
  - The investigation focuses not only on differences in the privatization programs themselves but also on the interplay of health systems, social policies, and cultural factors.
  - The study aims to identify why some countries **mitigated** privatization's negative health effects (e.g., Poland, Czech Republic) while others **suffered** mortality crises (e.g., Russia, Latvia).
- 

## 3. Research Problem

- Under what institutional and social conditions did mass privatization contribute to **divergent** mortality and health outcomes across post-communist countries?
  - Why did some states (e.g., Russia, Latvia) experience severe mortality crises following rapid privatization, while others (e.g., Poland, Czech Republic) avoided such outcomes despite similar economic reforms?
  - How did **mediating factors** – such as pre-existing health infrastructure, social safety nets, and alcohol regulation – shape privatization's role in these divergent trajectories?
-

## **4. Work Structure**

## **5. Theses / Hypotheses**

## **6. Work Plan**

1. Literature Review
  2. Data Collection
  3. Quantitative Analysis
  4. Drafting
  5. Final Revisions
- 

## **7. Data Sources**

## **8. Source Articles**

1. Mass privatisation and the post-communist mortality crisis: a cross-national analysis  
– David Stuckler, Lawrence King, Martin McKee
2. Mass Privatisation and the Post-Communist Mortality Crisis: Is There Really a Relationship? – John S. Earle, Scott Gehlbach
3. Did Post-communist Privatization Increase Mortality – John S Earle & Scott Gehlbach
4. Privatization and State Capacity in Postcommunist Society – Lawrence King and Patrick Hamm
5. The effect of rapid privatisation on mortality in mono-industrial towns in post-Soviet Russia: a retrospective cohort study – Aytalina Azarova, Darja Irdam, Alexi Gugushvili, Mihaly Fazekas, Gábor Scheiring, Pia Horvat, Denes Stefler, Irina Kolesnikova,

Vladimir Popov, Ivan Szelenyi, David Stuckler, Michael Marmot, Michael Murphy,  
Martin McKee, Martin Bobak, Lawrence King

6. Who Wants to Revise Privatization and Why? Evidence from 28 Post-Communist Countries
7. Politics and Policies in Post-Communist Transition: Primary and Secondary Privatisation in Central Europe and the Former Soviet Union – Károly Attila Soós