The Public Defense of the
Doctoral Thesis in Comparative History
by
Réka Krizmanics
on
“Fruitful Inconsistencies: Historical Knowledge Production in Late Socialist Hungary and Croatia”

will be held on

Friday, 11 December 2020, 1:00 pm

Due to the extraordinary measures introduced by CEU in regard to the Covid-19 virus situation, the doctoral defense will take place on-line. For further information, contact Margaretha Boockmann, PhD coordinator (boockmannm@ceu.edu).

Examination Committee

András Bozóki – Chair (Department of Political Science, CEU)
Balázs Trencsényi – supervisor (Department of History, CEU)
Francisca de Haan – CEU internal member (Department of Gender Studies)
Muriel Blaive – external member (Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, Czech Republic)
Ulf Brunnbauer – external member (University of Regensburg)

The doctoral dissertation is available for inspection. Should you wish to access it, please contact Margaretha Boockmann (BoockmannM@ceu.edu)
ABSTRACT

The dissertation investigates the historical knowledge production about recent history in Hungary and in Croatia in the 1970s and 1980s in a comparative framework. Engaging with earlier state socialist legacies as well as the survival of pre-1945 tendencies, I am analyzing the circumstances that characterized the work of professional historians of contemporary history, leading to academic and non-academic publications and other forms of dissemination, reading the institutional dynamics through the lenses of new institutionalism. I investigate convergences and differences between the two historiographies in terms of topical focus and approaches, reflecting on the international embeddedness of the respective scholarly communities. Reckoning with the fact that the historical narratives were not only conditioned by institutions and policies but by other public realms of discourse as well, I also reflect on the challenge that literature posed to historiography.

In my dissertation, I compare particular instances of policy-making and their (not necessarily anticipated) results, while engaging with the agency of historians in the process of policy-making and implementation.

My dissertation’s innovative aspects include the incorporation of party history into academic historiography (in the Hungarian case, as this is a more common approach in Croatia) and the explicit approaching of the question what the goal of party history was and whether it succeeded in any of the discussed contexts. The second innovation stems from the integrative approach towards academic and popular historical works, which was necessary in order to address broader questions of epistemic authority in historical knowledge production.
CURRICULUM VITAE

Réka Krizmanics

EDUCATION

2015–2020: PhD in Comparative History, CEU, Budapest
2014: MA in Nationalism Studies, Central European University (CEU), Budapest
2011–2012: Erasmus scholarship, Humboldt University of Berlin
2012: BA in History, Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest

WORK EXPERIENCE

2020 September –: Teaching Fellow, Global History Lab (GHL), Princeton University
2019– Lecturer, Universität Leipzig
2018–: Review editor, 20th century history, Hungarian Historical Review
2014 Visiting Fellow, Karl-Franzens Universität, Graz

RESEARCH PROJECTS

2017–: Collaborator in the project "Handbook of the Horthy Era" (funded by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences)
2016–: Collaborator in the project “Trianon 100 (funded by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

A History of the World since 1300 [2020/2021 Fall, teaching fellowship, in collaboration with Prof. Jeremy Adelman, Princeton University]
The Non-Aligned Movement: History, themes and current debates [2019/2020 Spring, co-teaching]
Central European University, teaching assistantship, MA course, seminar
Historiography: Themes in its history, and approaches to its theory [2017/18 Fall]
PUBLIC LECTURES

Public lecture

Radio talks, podcast appearances
2020 Félreértések, félelmagyarázások és legendák Trianon kapcsán [Misunderstandings, Misinterpretations and Myths Concerning Trianon]. Partizán (YouTube, podcast), 03. June.

Popularizing lecture
2019 Trianon a népszerű történetírásban [Trianon in Popular Historiography], Central European University: Bibó István Free University, 3. December.

CONFERENCES

Conference organized

Papers presented (selected, most recent papers)
2019 “Historical Scholarship in Late Socialism: Institutional Landscapes in Hungary and in Croatia”, South/Eastern and Central European Histories of Science and the Humanities (International Pre- and Postdoc Workshop), Erfurt, July 12.
2017 "My History, Our History: The Institutionalization of Popular History in Late-Socialist Hungary", 49th Annual Convention of ASEEES, Chicago IL, November 9–12.

Panel and paper accepted for presentation (postponed because of the pandemic)
2020 “Hungarian experts’ travelogues of the Global South” as part of the panel “Globalizing Eastern Europe: Methodological Challenges”. Panel members: Anna Calori, Vedran Duančić,

LANGUAGES

Hungarian (native)
English (fluent, primary working language)
German (fluent)
Croatian (excellent)

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed articles
Trianon in Popular History in Late-Socialist and Post-Transition Hungary: Memory politics and Shifting Institutional Landscapes of Historical Knowledge Production, East European Politics and Societies. Forthcoming

Chapters in collective volumes

Book reviews