



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]
Introduction into the history of state socialism in Eastern Europe [2019/2020 Spring, 2018/2019 Spring]
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

2020 Women on a Mission - Hungarian State Socialist Female Expert Experiences in the Global South. GWZO Colloquium "Comparative and Transregional Research on Eastern Europe", Leipzig, 2. December.

Radio talks, podcast appearances

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

2020 Új beszédmodok a trianoni békeszerződésről [New Narratives about the Trianon Peace Treaty]. Moderator: Gábor Egry (ERC–NEPOSTRANS). Klubrádió, 24. January.

Popularizing lecture

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

CONFERENCES

Conference organized

2019 Communist Parties in East Central Europe: Frameworks of Knowledge Acquisition and Dissemination 1945–1989. Central European University, Budapest, 26. April.

Papers presented (selected, most recent papers)

2019 "Illékony történelmi monopólium. Trianon-diskurzusok a késő Kádár-korszakban" [The Volatile Monopoly of Historians: Trianon-Discourses in the Late Kádár Era], 1989 és a rendszerváltás: a társadalmi cselekvés lehetőségei [1989 and the regime change: the opportunities of social action], Szeged, November 28–30.

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.

2018 "Where is the Left?": The Revolution of 1956 in Hungarian Memory Politics 1960–2018", Making and Re-Making Europe: the Czech and Slovak Contribution, Toronto, November 7–9.

2017 "My History, Our History: The Institutionalization of Popular History in Late-Socialist Hungary", 49th Annual Convention of ASEES, Chicago IL, November 9–12.

2017 "Party Expectations and Popular Demand: The Rise of Popular History in Late-Socialist Hungary", The Making of the Humanities VI, Society for the History of the Humanities, Oxford, September 28–30.

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,

Bogdan C. Iacob. Discussant: Steffi Marung. Globalizing Eastern Europe – New Perspectives on Transregional Entanglements of an often Neglected Region, 2nd BASEES Regional Conference, Leipzig, September 15–19, 2020.

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
2020 Addressing the Trianon Peace Treaty in Late Socialist Hungary: Societal Interest and Available Narratives, Vol 9 No. 1. *Hungarian Historical Review*, 101–123.

Chapters in collective volumes

2020 “Kommunistaként az osztályharc frontján, valamint magyarként a nemzeti kérdésekben. Trianon és a határon túli magyarság kérdései a későszocialista történeti diskurzusokban [As a Communist on the Front of Class Struggle and As a Hungarian in National Issues: Trianon and the Issue of Hungarian Diasporas in the Carpathian Basin in Late Socialist Historical Discourses in *The Collective and Historical Remembrance of Trianon*, edited by Balázs Ablonczy, 2020. Forthcoming.
2013 “Nation-Characterology of Dinko Tomasić.” In *Us and Them: Symbolic Divisions in Western Balkan Societies*, edited by Ivana Spasić and Predrag Cvetičanin. Niš: Sven, 2013, pp. 57–72.

Book reviews

2019 Social Sciences in the Other Europe Since 1945. Edited by Adela Hîncu and Victor Karady. *Hungarian Historical Review*, 8 (4), 2019, 874–876.
2018 Of Red Dragons and Evil Spirits: Post-Communist Historiography between Democratization and New Politics of History. Edited by Oto Luthar. *Hungarian Historical Review*, 7 (2), 2018, 411–413.
2016 Az elképzelt köztársaság. A Magyarországi Tanácsköztársaság utóélete 1945–1989, written by Péter Apor. *East Central Europe*, 47 (3), 2016, 356–358.