



Center for European  
Neighborhood Studies

CENTRAL  
EUROPEAN  
UNIVERSITY

**FRIEDRICH  
EBERT  
STIFTUNG**  
Büro Budapest

The CEU Center for European Neighborhood Studies (CENS)  
and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) cordially invite you to the conference

## **“US VS. THEM”: POPULISM, THE REFUGEE OTHER AND THE RE- CONSIDERATION OF NATIONAL IDENTITY IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

**29 MAY, 2017 / 9.00 AM /  
CEU, NADOR 15 Building, ROOM 103**

### **Conference overview:**

Incoming refugees have created strong negative reactions across Europe, in both destination and transit countries. Such reactions were instrumentalized by some political actors in order to instill fear, and a rhetoric of “us” versus “them” is increasingly popular. One consequence of such political processes was the emphasis placed on the political community, and its re-conceptualization along mostly ethnic and/or religious lines. In this conference, we aim to find out how communities are being re-imagined in countries receiving refugees or being on the transit path. This conference takes on this difficult issue through a selection of research papers that offer a critical insight into identity politics along the Balkan route, and in the V4 region.

### **PROGRAM**

*9:00 Registration*

#### **9:30 Opening remarks**

- Péter Balázs, Director, CEU Center for EU Enlargement Studies
- Timo Rinke, Project Manager, "Flight, Migration, Integration in Europe" project, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

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#### **9:40 Panel I: Identity Politics along the “Balkan Route”**

- Populist, Radical and Extreme Right Parties in Visegrad Countries: In the Name of the People and the Nation in Central Europe  
**Vera Stojarova, Masaryk University**
- Defending European Values during the Refugee Crisis: Reconceptualization of a National Identity or the New and Improved Nationalism in a Transit Country?  
**Tamara Petrovic Trifunović & Dunja Poletić Čosić, University of Belgrade**
- Constructing National and Supranational Identities in Times of Crisis: A Comparison between the Greek “Bailout” Referendum and the Hungarian “Migrant Quota” Referendum  
**Anna Kyriazi, European University Institute**
- Negotiating East/West & North/South: Borders and boundaries in Austrian asylum politics 2015-16  
**Anna Wodička, Central European University**

*Discussant:* Bogdan Mihail Radu, Center for European Neighborhood Studies

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**11:10 Coffee break**

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- **11:30 Panel II: From State Discourse to Local Communities: Refugees and the Everyday**

- Refugees Like Us: Solidarity in Transition along the Western Balkans Route  
**Chiara Milan, Scuola Normale Superiore**
- Understanding the Host Populations at Europe's "New" Frontiers: The Case of the Greek Island of Lesbos in the Framework of the European Refugee Crisis  
**Effrosyni Charitopoulou, Oxford University**
- Political Discourse on Refugees Compared to Refugees' Individual Stories: The Case of Croatia  
**Rahela Jurkovic, University of Zagreb**
- Media Representations of Migration in Illiberal Times: The Case of Hungary and Austria  
**Jenna Althoff, Central European University**

*Discussant:* Andras Szalai, Center for European Neighborhood Studies

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**13:00 Closing remarks**

**RSVP to Gabi Göbl at [goblg@ceu.edu](mailto:goblg@ceu.edu)**

**For more information, see:**

**<https://cens.ceu.edu/events/2017-05-29/us-vs-them-populism-refugee-other-and-re-consideration-national-identity-central>**