



The CEU Center for European Neighborhood Studies (CENS) and the Institute of Political History cordially invite you to the conference:



The promise of Transition: a new polity?

23 APRIL, 2019 / 9 Am /

CEU, Nador U. 15, Budapest 1051 Nádor street. 15, 103 Tiered Room

The main promise of the regime changes were the economic and political freedom and better life of societies. Furthermore, the chain of events leading to the collapse often featured political methods and forms of participation (mass demonstrations, plebiscites, flashmobs etc.) that directly conveyed to the people what democratic political culture is supposed to be and how participation beyond mere participation in elections is fostered. This pillar is about a critical investigation and facing the promises of the transition on the political culture and system. It is to investigate what the new instruments in the transition (political campaigns, mass demonstrations, referenda) proposed in conjunction with the regime change and by comparison how these features of politics receded or were sometimes misused to enhance authoritarian tendencies. At the same time, the developments in Poland and Hungary, once the leaders in transition, raise the important question while these two countries took the most significant turn back.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

9:00 **Registration**

9:30 **Opening remarks**

Gábor Egry, Director, Institute of Political History

9:45 **Roundtable:** The political promise of 1989

Géza Jeszenszky, Historian, Head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian Democratic Forum (1989-90)

András Bozóki, Political scientist, Professor, Participant at the Hungarian National Roundtable Talks as negotiator delegated by the Opposition Roundtable (1989) and Spokesman of Fidesz (1990)

István Hegedűs, Sociologist, Member of the Board, FIDESZ (1988-1992)
Participant at the Hungarian National Roundtable Talks as negotiator delegated by the Opposition Roundtable (1989)

Chair: Zselyke Csáky, Freedom House

10:45 *Coffee break*

11:00 **Panel: Hope for a new Hungarian polity? Political participation in 2019**

Dániel Oross, Research Fellow, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA),
Institute for Political Science

Anna Unger, Lecturer, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Department for Political Science

Łukasz Janulewicz, Research Fellow, CEU CENS

Chair: Péter Balázs, Director CENS

12:15 **Concluding remarks:** Péter Balázs, Director CENS

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