



HUN-REN RCAES Geographical Institute

cordially invite you to a workshop titled

Current social processes in the Hungarian-Ukrainian border area

The workshop aims to initiate an information exchange and discussion between geographers conducting research in the Hungarian-Ukrainian border area, particularly Transcarpathia.

Date & place:

8th February 2024 at 13:30 - 16:00

HUN-REN Geographical Institute, RCAES

1112 Budapest, Budaörsi út 45. 1st Floor, Room 112-113 (small council room).

Program:

13:30 - 14:10 Martin Lepič: Internal variation and hierarchy within national minority regions in Europe as a source of political (self-)containment

14:10 – 14:30 Gela Merabishvili: Vernacular and national security at the Hungarian-Ukrainian border.

14:30-14:50 Péter Balogh: Small but salient: on the securitization of Ukraine's ethnic Hungarian minority

14:50 – 15:10 Ágnes Erőss, Katalin Kovály, Patrik Tátrai: War-induced ethnic dynamics in the Ukrainian-Hungarian border region

15:10- 16:00 Discussion

Biographies

Martin Lepič is a research assistant and lecturer in political geography at the Department of Social Geography and Regional Development, Charles University in Prague. In research, he focuses on state (dis)integration, regional nationalisms, the politicization of space, and inter-ethnic relations in contemporary Europe. His article on the geography of Catalan nationalism was published in *Political Geography*. Beyond Catalonia and the Basque Country (Spain), Martin has researched inter-ethnic relations in national minority regions of southern Georgia.

Gela Merabishvili is a postdoctoral researcher at Eötvös Loránd University's (ELTE) Department of Social and Economic Geography. His research lies at the intersection of critical geopolitics and border studies. His postdoctoral research project explores the geopolitical attitudes of borderland residents in Hungary and Georgia, covering views about the Russia-Ukraine War, foreign policy preferences, local sense of in/security and other border-related issues.

Péter Balogh is research fellow at the Department of Social and Economic Geography at Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest) as well as at HUN-REN CERS Institute for Regional Studies (Pécs). Péter holds a PhD in Human Geography from Stockholm University. His research revolves around Border studies, Political geography, and geopolitical narratives. Together with Katalin Kovály he has conducted fieldwork in the Ukrainian-Hungarian borderland in late 2021. Péter is now involved in the Horizon project B-SHAPES, in which he is focusing on the Slovak-Hungarian borderland. His work has recently appeared in *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, the *Journal of Historical Geography*, and other outlets.

Ágnes Erőss is a research fellow at the Geographical Institute Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, Budapest, Hungary. She studies the spatial representation of memory and commemoration, particularly regarding the politics of heritage in the ethnically-culturally diverse Central Eastern Europe. She is especially interested in understanding the gender aspect of transnational migration and its impact on the immobile/left behind communities in Transcarpathia, Western Ukraine. She has expertise in conducting qualitative, interdisciplinary, and comparative research in international research teams in diverse settings. Her research has been published in *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, *Migration Letters* and *Hungarian Geographical Bulletin*. She co-directed two documentary films.

Katalin Kovály, PhD, is a research fellow at the Geographical Institute Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, Budapest, Hungary. She graduated as a Geographer at the Uzhhorod National University (Ukraine) in 2011. She defended her PhD at the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest in 2021. She was a visiting fellow in the Institute of Geography, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv (2014) and Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic (2015). Her current research interests include the ethnic and economic geography of Ukraine and Transcarpathia, focusing on the Hungarian minority. She also investigates the Ukrainian-Hungarian border region.

Patrik Tátrai, PhD, is a senior research fellow at the Geographical Institute, Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, Hungary. His research interests concern the macro-level ethnic processes in East and Central Europe and how this picture is shaped by micro-level identification and categorisation phenomena. Besides, he is engaged in exploring how politics and the visualisation of place names interrelate in multiethnic settings. He also focuses on cross-border migration in the context of kin-state policies in Transcarpathia, Ukraine.