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Unequal Exchanges and the Radicalization of Demographic Nationalism Structures, policies and discourses: the case of Hungary

Demographic nationalism, the stress on anti-immigration and the better use of own demographic resources is gaining a momentum in Hungary and the region amidst the dramatic openness of East European societies within and around the EU. How should we understand such changes? How should we understand and very importantly interpret demographic and migratory discourses which combine selective anti-immigration discourses and regulations with straightforward selective state-sponsored pronatalism and the radicalized defense of Europeaness and nationhood? This approach we term here as radical, East European demographic nationalism, which is a specific form of competitive political demography aimed at controlling and developing a specific group of the population which is seen as a source of economic and cultural advancement, the strength of the nation, as opposed to other groups which represent danger in this respect. This tradition has an intellectual history going back as far as the early 19th century, including authors like Herder. The Hungarian case discussed in this lecture is one of these demographic competitions, but it has some special features, which we analyze. This lecture argues that within this complex dynamic there is an interaction between various global and local changes among which factors we now focus on the historical interplay between an evolving radical demographic nationalism, and the demographic and migratory structural context.

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PREDAVAČ

ATTILA MELEGH, sociologist and historian. Senior researcher, Demographic Research Institute at the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, associate professor at Corvinus University, Budapest, professor at Pal Tomori College as the founder of international studies program. He has taught in the United States, Russia, Georgia and Hungary. Director of the Karl Polanyi Center for Global Social Studies. He has been the project manager of several major international projects including SEEMIG. He is the current president of the European Network of Global and Universal History. He does research on population discourses, migration, migration statistics and on global social change in the 20th century. Author of 3 books in English and Hungarian, and over a hundred scientific publications.