



Baden-Württemberg
Institut für donauschwäbische
Geschichte und Landeskunde



RIRNM
THE ROMANIAN INSTITUTE FOR
RESEARCH ON NATIONAL MINORITIES

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SAPIENTIA
HUNGARIAN UNIVERSITY
OF TRANSYLVANIA
Faculty of Sciences and Arts
Cluj-Napoca

Conferință

Conference

Construcția națiunii și strategii minoritare
într-o ordine globală în schimbare

Nation-Building and Minority Strategies in
a Changing International Environment

16-17 octombrie 2026 / October 16-17, 2026

Universitatea Sapiientia, Facultatea de Științe și Arte / Sapiientia University, Faculty of Sciences and Arts

Cluj-Napoca, Calea Turzii 4.

Vineri, 16 octombrie 2026 – Ziua 1 / Day 1 – Friday, October 16, 2026	
8:00 – 9:00 Înregistrarea participanților / Registration of participants	
Sala / Room B301	
8:45 – 9:15 Cuvânt de deschidere / Welcome remarks Csaba Zoltán Novák (președinte, Institutul pentru Studierea Problemelor Minorităților Naționale / president, Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities - ISPMN/RIRNM) Daniela Simon (Deputy Director / director adjunct, Institute of Danube Swabian History and Regional Studies, Tübingen) Sergiu Constantin (Institute for Minority Rights, EURAC Bozen-Bolzano) Márton Tonk (Rector, Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania)	
9:15 – 11:00 Sesiune paneluri 1 / Panel session 1	
Sala / Room A303	Sala / Room B301
<u>Minorities and the State Socialist Power</u> Csaba Zoltán Novák (RIRNM): Intellectuals and Power. Sütő András's Journey between Ideology, Power, Faith, and Disillusionment Bence Keresztes (University of Debrecen): The Hungarian Democratic Opposition and the Situation of the Hungarian Minority in Romania in the 1980s Ágnes Kiss (RIRNM): Pogroms without a File: Anti-Roma Violence in Late Socialist Romania Moderator: Attila Gidó (RIRNM)	<u>The Ukraine War and Its Consequences</u> Hanna Vasilevich (Institute for Minority Rights, EURAC): National Minorities as Security Challenges? The Securitization of the Russian-Speaking Minority in Latvia after 2022 Anastasia Leshchyshyn (McGill): "The Toxic Residue of our Mother Tongue": Ukraine at War, Linguistic Estrangement, and Challenges to the International Minority Languages Regime Yuliya Biletska (Karabuk University): Two Boundaries, Two Logics: National and Host-Acquired Othering among Ukrainian Forced and Marriage Migrants in Turkey Moderator: Tamás Kiss (RIRNM)
11:00 – 11:15 Pauză cafea / Coffee break	

11:15 – 13:00 Sesiune paneluri 2 / Panel session 2

Sala A303	Sala B301
<u>Experiences and Perspectives on Interethnic Relations in Romania and Eastern Europe from the End of the Nineteenth Century to the Second World War /</u> <u>Experiențe și perspective cu privire la relațiile interetnice în România de la sfârșitul secolului al XIX-lea până la al Doilea Război Mondial</u> Flavius Solomon (“A.D. Xenopol” Institute of History, Iași): The Nation-State versus the Federal State in Central and Southeastern Europe in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries: A Perspective of the Romanian Socialists Tatiana Scurtu (“Gheorghe Șincai” Institute of Research for Socio-Human Sciences of the Romanian Academy, Târgu Mureș): Discursive Strategies in the Interwar Press of the Romanian Elites of Ciuc, Odorhei, and Trei Scaune Counties: Identity and Interethnic Relations Attila Gidó (RIRNM): On Different Paths: Hungarian Jews in Romania, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia During the Interwar Period Cristian Cercel (Institute of Danube Swabian History and Regional Studies, Tübingen): – Lorrainian Blood? The Extension of French-German Entanglements to Interwar Banat Moderator: Anca Filipovici (RIRNM)	<u>Minority Representation in Central and Eastern Europe</u> (Panel organized by ELTE Centre for Social Sciences, Institute for Minority Studies) András Bethlendi (Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania): Domosity: Equality Beyond Equal Access Katinka Beretka (Faculty of Law and Business Studies Dr Lazar Vrkatić, Novi Sad): Representing Many: Minority MPs and the Limits of Multi-Ethnic Parliamentary Representation in Serbia and Croatia Balázs Dobos - Ágnes M. Balázs (ELTE Centre for Social Sciences, Institute for Minority Studies): The Representation of Minorities in Parliaments or the Representation of Parliaments among Minorities? Vizi Balázs (ELTE Centre for Social Sciences, Institute for Minority Studies): The Right to Participation in Public Life and Minority Parliamentary Representation under International Law – Looking at Case Studies from Central Europe Moderator: István Székely (RIRNM)
13:00 – 14:15 Pauză de masă / Lunch break	

14.15 – 16:00 Sesiune paneluri 3 / Panel session 3	
Sala / Room A303	Sala / Room B301
<u>Nation-Building and Minority Building in Interwar Southeastern Europe</u> Erkjad Kajo (Aix-Marseille University): Three Vertices, One State: Albania as Nationalizing Power, Kin-State, and Ward of the League Alexandros Balatsoukas (University of Kyoto): Removal, Reciprocity, Performance: Three Faces of Greek Minority Policy Between the Wars Szabolcs Czáboczký (Forum Minority Research Institute, Šamorín, Institute of Social Sciences CSPS SAS, Košice): One Ideology, One City, Two Generations. A Comparative Case Study on Generational Conflicts and Hungarian Minority Nation-Building in Interwar Czechoslovakia Tamás Hajnáczy (Archiepiscopal College of Veszprém and Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary): The Origins of Gypsy/Roma Ethnic Mobilization in Hungary Moderator: Ágnes Kiss (RIRNM)	<u>Kin-State Politics, Minority Protection, and Minority Nation-Building -</u> Zoltán Kántor (Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Research Institute for Hungarian Minorities Abroad): Minority Nation-Building Revisited Sergiu Constantin - Alice Engl - Alexandra Tomaselli (Institute for Minority Rights, EURAC): Embedded Multilateral Kin-State Activism: Italy and its Historical Minorities in Southeast Europe Anna Wolf - Marc Röggla (Center for Autonomy Experience, Eurac Research): Minority Protection versus Good Governance? Lessons from South Tyrol's Autonomy Reforms since 2001 Tamás Szabó (Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania): Bilateral Minority Protection? Analyzing the Operation of Intergovernmental Commissions on National Minorities in CEE Moderator: Zoltán Csaba Novák (RIRNM)
16:00-16:15 Pauză cafea	
16:15 – 18:00 Sesiune paneluri 4 / Panel session 4	
<u>Germans in Transylvania/Romania: Interethnic and Interstate Relations</u> Andreas Sienz (Institute of Danube Swabian History and Regional Studies, Tübingen): Neighbour, Colleague, Friend or Enemy? War Experiences in Multiethnic Transylvanian Villages During the Second World War Patrick Schmitt (Institute of Danube Swabian History and Regional Studies, Tübingen): Family Reunification of Ethnic Germans from Romania – German Minorities as a Bargaining Chip in Bilateral Negotiations Andreea Zamfira (University of Bucharest): From <i>Zusammenhalten</i> and <i>Harmonie</i> to New Forms of Belonging: Reconfiguring Transylvanian Saxon Minority Strategies in Post-1989 Romania Moderator: Cristian Cercel (Institute of Danube Swabian History and Regional Studies, Tübingen)	<u>“New” and Old Minorities in Romania / Minorități “noi” și vechi în România</u> Mirel Bănică (Institute for the History of Religions, Romanian Academy): Trade, Change, and the Day-to-Day Integration of New Asian Immigrants in Bucharest: An Ethnographic Perspective Cătălin Berescu (Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy): Romanofores. How to Make a Roma Capital City Omer, Metin (Ovidius University Constanța): Kinship, Memory, and Mobilization: Crimean Tatar Forced Migrants in Romania after the 2022 Russian Invasion of Ukraine Moderator: Adriana Cupcea (RIRNM)

18.15-19:30 Keynote Lecture / Prelegere plenară

Sala/ Room B301

Börries Kuzmany (University of Vienna):

A History of Non-Territorial Autonomy: Accommodating National Diversity in Modern Europe, 1848-1939

Moderator: Daniela Simon (Institute of Danube Swabian History and Regional Studies, Tübingen)

followed by

Recepție / Reception

Sâmbătă, 17 octombrie 2026 - Ziua a 2-a / Day 2 – Saturday, October 17, 2026	
9:00 – 10:45 Sesiune paneluri 5 / Panel session 5	
Sala / Room A303	Sala / Room B301
<u>The Second World War: Early Aftermath and Long-Term Consequences</u> Rene Bailey (University of Sheffield): Being ‘Felvidéki’: Identity Constructions in Southern Slovakia Eighty Years after the Beneš Decrees Péter Vukman (University of Szeged): South Slavic Minorities in Hungary in a Changed International Environment: Opportunities, Minority Strategies, and Local Conflicts (1945–1948) Luca Trevisan (Andrássy University, Budapest): Between Recognition and Statecraft: The Ladin Question and Italy’s Ufficio per le Zone di Confine Karolis Dambruskas (Vilnius University and Lithuanian Centre for Social Science): Ethnicity and Property in Post-Socialist Land Restitution: Hungarian and Polish Minorities in Romania and Lithuania Moderator: Andreas Sienz (Institute of Danube Swabian History and Regional Studies, Tübingen)	<u>Ethnic Nationalism, Minorities and Contemporary Developments in Eastern Europe</u> Sabrina Pačariz (Northeastern University, London) - Grassroot Mobilization of Minorities in Pro-Democratic Protests: Bosniak Participation in Student Protests in Serbia Yuxiang Lin (Tianjin University): DPS as a Vehicle of Democratic Backsliding or Resilience? Selective Service Provision as Mechanism Michał Warchala (Institute of Sociology, Philosophy and Cognitive Sciences, University of National Education Commission in Kraków) - Populism and Ethnic Nationalism: The New Far-Right Wave in Poland (and Elsewhere) Nóra Kovács (ELTE Centre for Social Sciences) - Embodied Regional Integration: Intimacy, Mobility and Cross-Border Inter-Ethnic Tango Relationships from a Hungarian Perspective Moderator: László Fosztó (RIRNM)
10:45 – 11:00 Pauză de cafea / Coffee break	

11:00 – 12:45 Sesiune paneluri 6 / Panel session 6

Minority Language Rights in Europe

Andrea Carlà - Mattia Zeba (Institute for Minority Rights, EURAC): Language Rights and Judicial Practice in South Tyrol: Multilingualism, Implementation, and Challenge

Rudina Duraj (Center for Arbëresh Studies and Publications, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Albania): The Limits of Recognition: Legal Frameworks, Social Inclusion, and the Future of the Arbëresh Minority in Italy

Jeroen Zandberg (Wetenschappelijk Bureau NSC/Global Diplomatic Council, The Hague): From Regional Language to Institutional Nationhood: Comparing Frisian and Low Saxon Minority Strategies in Fryslân

Ewa Pogorzała (University of Rzeszów): Challenges for the Teaching of Minority Mother Tongues as a Form of Ethnic Mobilisation in the 21st Century – the Case of Poland

Moderator: Tibor Toró (Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania)

Current Challenges in Romania and Beyond. Theory and Practice / Provocări contemporane în și dincolo de România. Teorie și practică

Adrian Szelmenczi (cercetător independent): Politici identitare de stat vs. competențe pentru cultură democratică. Un conflict nerezolvat la nivelul programei educaționale oficiale din România

Attila Iakob (Muzeul de Artă Cluj-Napoca): Transformarea culturii în armă. Comunitatea maghiară din Transilvania în multiplul reticul al evoluțiilor de la începutul secolului XXI -

Gyula Fábíán (Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai): Negarea sau ignorarea Holocaustului de către unele instanțe judecătorești din România

Moderator: Tamás Szabó (Universitatea Sapientia)

12:45 – 14:00 Masă / Lunch –

14:00 – 15:45 Sesiune paneluri 7 / Panel session 7

Sala / Room B301

Minority Agency and Democracy

Sherrill Stroschein (University College London): Ethnic Minority Parties and Resisting Backsliding in Regional Legislatures

Zsuzsa Csergő (Queen's University): The Architecture of Minority Democratic Agency in Majoritarian States

Tamás Kiss (RIRNM): Cultural Recognition, Self-Determination & Ethnic Authoritarianism. The Case of Romania's Hungarian Minority

Tibor Toró (Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania) – **Tamás Kiss** (RIRNM): Dual Power Structure or Road to Ethnic Authoritarianism? Local Level Politics in a Hungarian Majority Town in Romania

Moderator: Sergiu Constantin (Institute for Minority Rights, EURAC)

16.00 – 17:15 Keynote Lecture / Prelegere plenară

Sala / Room B301

Jan Rovny (Sciences Po):
When Do Ethnic Parties Cooperate with Illiberals?

Moderator: Tamás Kiss (RIRNM)

Sfârșitul programului / End of the program