

Hierarchy and Turmoil: POL-IR Workshop, 18-19 April 2024

Annual Workshop of ELTE Institute of Political and International Studies

Event website: <https://polir.elte.hu/polirworkshop>

Venue: ELTE Lágymányos Campus, Northern Building (H-1117 Budapest, Pázmány Péter sétány 1/A)

0.100C Faculty Council Room (Plenary, Panels 1 and 3, Reception)

0.100B Cseh-Szombathy Room (Panels 2 and 4)

ABOUT

The Annual Workshop of the Institute of Political and International Studies (POL-IR) at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) is being organized for the second time. It is a tradition that started in 2023 and is aimed at bringing together scholars linked to our Institute, from PhD student to professor emeritus.

This time, we have chosen “hierarchy” as the central motif of the workshop. It is an essential concept of the area that the newly founded Department of Global and Development Studies, one of the three departments of the Institute, works with. However, colleagues from other departments can also easily relate to it. We observe social, cultural, and gender hierarchies, as well as European and global political and economic hierarchies. We aim at launching an interdisciplinary dialogue that can point towards new research ideas, publications, or other academic activities.

CONCEPT NOTE

Hierarchies stratify, rank, and organize relations among states but also society. There are many different kinds of hierarchy with differing logics and strategy, influencing the social, moral, and behavioural nature of the world we live in. Hierarchy can be understood as a relationship of legitimate authority; and or the manifestations of organized inequality and oppression.

National, global, political, social and cultural hierarchies are in a state of flux. New economic, media and political forces are emerging less rooted in the traditions of post-war social justice, human rights, and liberal democracy which challenge older hierarchies and social contracts. The public are feeling increasingly disempowered by some of these processes but at the same time some are attracted and persuaded by the reactionary narratives of these forces despite the fact these political agendas are/will lead to a loss of political, human and social rights.

These new forces are in some cases propelled by forms of authoritarian populism that manipulate socio-economic and ethnic tensions that arise from faltering neoliberalisation championing reactive counter movements that either promise forms of protectionism and chauvinistic nationalism, or forms of hyperglobalisation that could herald a race to the bottom, a downward spiral of competitiveness. Deceptively some populist leaders promise a combination of the two despite the inherent contradictions.

These new hierarchies are able to mobilise and galvanise large sections of the public in speech acts that orchestrate and incite moral panic in a corrupted public sphere serving the narrow interests of powerful elites. In the mobilisation of public opinion nostalgia, tradition and conservative moralism offer certainties in a world in chaos, hence new political elites stoke reactive, misogynistic and nativist identities in what has been described as a culture war. Increasingly state hierarchies in non-democratic societies are resorting to populist discourses.

The tectonic plates of the international order seem to be shifting with new economic powers emerging among the BRICS, correspondingly the US is in economic and political decline and less able to impose its vision of international order. In an increasingly multipolar, fractious and anarchic world what are the prospects for peace and human rights? What will be the repercussions of the war in Ukraine and growing US/China tensions? Is China destined to be the new global hegemon?

The workshop will explore the nature and causes of these phenomena and how responses centered on social justice and economic solidarity, inclusive development and rights and the legitimate authority of international law could present a response to the growing crisis we face. Are there alternatives and remedies that can counter the new hierarchies?

A running thread through all the discussions in the Workshop should be points of comparison and reference to Hungary.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Head of the organizing committee: Béla Soltész bela.soltesz@tatk.elte.hu

Panel coordinators:

- Panel 1: Katalin Turai turai.katalin@tatk.elte.hu
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18 APRIL, THURSDAY

13:30 – 15:00 Plenary session

Venue: 0.100C Faculty Council Room

13:30 Opening: Andrew Ryder and Béla Soltész

13:40 Keynote lecture

Miklós Hadas: Intersecting hierarchies and plural habitus

14:20 Discussion

14:40 Short intro of the panels by the rapporteurs (moderator or coordinator)

15:00 Break

15:30 – 18:30 Panels 1 and 2 (parallel)

15:30 PANEL 1: CULTURAL AND SOCIAL HIERARCHIES IN A POSTCOLONIAL WORLD

MODERATOR: Richárd Papp

Panel coordinator: Katalin Turai

Venue: 0.100C Faculty Council Room

15:30 Katalin Turai: Homo Hierarchicus

15:45 Márta Wollner: Purity / impurity in Islam – Changing sacred hierarchies

16:00 Sumit Kumar: Decolonizing Panchayats in India. Exploring Gandhian decentralization as a mechanism for grassroots involvement

16:15 Suha Shidratul Moontaha: The Intersection of postcolonial dynamics: Implications for street children in Bangladesh

16:30 Karunanithi Gopalakrishan: People in lowest rung of social hierarchy: Dalits in India

16:45 Diana Vallejo: Colonialism today: An ethnographic analysis of Quijano's Colonial Matrix of Power through the case-study of Afro-Ecuadorian women life stories

17:00 Break

17:15 Discussion

18:30 End of Panel 1 and Day 1

15:30 PANEL 2: GENDERED HIERARCHIES

MODERATOR: Anikó Gregor

Panel Coordinator: Ráhel K. Turai

Venue: 0.100B Cseh-Szombathy Room

15:30 Nazan Eren: The changing hierarchies in terms of intersectionality; imagining autonomy in subaltern gender

15:45 Anna Ujlaki: Reshaping the discourse: The role of gender in social justice. The cases of migrant women and artificial intelligence robots

16:00 Elizabet Végh: "I don't want to pay taxes in a country like this" - The experiences of gender and sexual minorities as citizens in Hungary

16:15 Ráhel K. Turai: International adoption and surrogacy - Blind spots in the Hungarian discourse

16:30 Barbara Menyhárt: Overview of the reproductive rights and health of women with disabilities

16:45 Ágnes Lux: Are some children's rights more important than others? The Hungarian ombudsman's engagement with the children's rights to a healthy environment

17:00 Break

17:15 Discussion

18:30 End of Panel 2 and Day 1

19 APRIL, FRIDAY

13:30 – 16:30 Panels 3 and 4 (parallel)

13:30 PANEL 3: EUROPE AS A HIERARCHICAL CONSTRUCTION?

MODERATOR: László Andor

Panel coordinator: Andrew Ryder

Venue: 0.100C Faculty Council Room

13:30 Andrew Ryder: A Polanyian approach to a social Europe

13:45 Zoltán Gábor Szűcs: Do we have political obligation towards the European Union?

14:00 Gábor Halmai: Quo vadis European Union? Is there a constitutional moment for the EU rule of law?

14:15 Ágnes Kovács: Enhancing judicial autonomy? The ECtHR on judges' freedom of expression

14:30 Imen Khemakhem: Roma civil society and community-led local development and monitoring in Hungarian and EU Roma policies

14:45 Ayşenur Polater: Navigating the refugee crisis: The role of NGOs in Sweden's integration strategies and policy responses

15:00 Break

15:15 Discussion

16:30 End of Panel 3, break

13:30 PANEL 4: CONFLICTING GLOBAL HIERARCHIES

MODERATOR: Judit Ricz

Panel coordinator: Béla Soltész

Venue: 0.100B Cseh-Szombathy Room

13:30 Áron Tábor: Caught in a war of identities: Domestic polarization and the loss of U.S. consensus about the Ukraine conflict

13:45 Tamás Peragovics: When talking peace favors the aggressor: The discursive construction of appeasement in Viktor Orbán's conception of Russia's war in Ukraine

14:00 Ivetta Délczegh: Everyday empathy: Reimagining conflict narratives between Russia and Ukraine

14:15 András Schweitzer: Blind Davids versus imaginary Goliaths: Flawed narratives of the Israel/Palestine conflict and their defective policy outcomes

14:30 Kinga Soós: China's "global community of shared future" in the world of zero-sum thinking – how does Xi Jinping handle the "major changes unseen in a century"?

14:45 Béla Soltész: Latin American development perspectives and their foreign policy implications

15:00 Break

15:15 Discussion

16:30 End of Panel 4, break

16:45 – 18:00 Plenary session

Venue: 0.100C Faculty Council Room

16:45 Summary of each panel by a rapporteur

17:15 Q+A, comments

17:45 Closing remarks

18:00 Reception