



University of Opole, Department of Sociology
Polish Sociological Association, Opole Branch

cordially invites you to a talk

**REGION ON THE MOVE:
RECENT SOCIAL DYNAMICS IN THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION
IN TRANSCARPATHIA, UKRAINE**

by

Ágnes Erőss,

PhD, research fellow, Geographical Institute RCAES, Hungary

7 November 2019, 12:00-13:15, venue: 119 Collegium Civitas, University of Opole

The presentation brings Transcarpathia into the spotlight, a region that has received limited scholarly attention so far. Transcarpathia has traditionally been characterised with intensive migration processes. However, since 2014 migration has become the “new norm”, a general individual and family livelihood strategy, inducing significant transformations in the local society.



Based on the analysis of fieldwork conducted since 2016, the presentation aims to explore the recent social dynamics in Transcarpathia in the context of migration. Applying the bottom-up perspective, it shows the ways individuals cope with external conditions (such as: geopolitical shifts, neighbour states' kin-state politics) imposed on them. The purpose is to link the international political and economic issues with the locally observed phenomena, such as migration, cross-border activities. Furthermore, special attention is paid to illustrate the micro-politics of identity and ethnicity in family and local level.

The presentation points to the individual agency, as well as the limits to the agency. It is argued that the political and social vacuum left by the weakened Ukrainian state (Blank

2004) on the one hand and the active policies of the neighbouring states on the other, create space for the locals to navigate through these conditions to their benefit.

Ágnes Erőss is a research fellow at the Geographical Institute Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, Hungary. She graduated from the Eötvös Loránd Science University in Budapest with an MA in History and MSc in Geography, and earned her PhD in Geography. Ágnes conducts research about the politics of symbolic space and urban heritage, with special regard to culturally-ethnically diverse and historically changing urban settings. She has been studying migratory processes in Transcarpathia, Western Ukraine since 2016. Her research focuses on the effects of kin-state politics, ethnicity and the 'left behind' local communities.

Dr. Eross is a visiting professor at the University of Opole. She co-teaches the course 'Sociological Imagination' in the Intercultural Communication programme at the Department of Sociology covering the topic of space.