

The Institute of Sociology, Centre for Social Sciences, HAS
cordially invites you to its fifty-first *Jour fixe* event:

Dorottya Kisfalusi – Béla Janky – Károly Takács

**Be the smart guy: The role of gender and ethnicity
in ability attribution processes in the classroom**

Academic symposium

Presenters: Dorottya Kisfalusi (Institute for Sociology, CSS HAS),
Béla Janky (Institute for Sociology, CSS HAS), Károly Takács (MTA TK 'Lendület' RECENS)

Discussants: Vera Messing (Institute for Sociology, CSS HAS), and
Márta Radó (MTA TK 'Lendület' RECENS)



Abstract

Girls and members of certain minority groups are often evaluated as less competent than boys and majority students. We contrast two theoretical explanations for why this might happen. Double standards theory predicts that people use different standards for making inferences about others' abilities based on social status. Social identity processes, however, suggest that people evaluate in-group members more positively than out-group members. We analyse cross-sectional dyadic peer nomination data from 21 primary school classes in Hungary (N=392, mean age= 13 years). We use exponential random graph models and control for grades as we posit that ability attributions are dependent on peers' opinions and teachers' public evaluations. Our findings are mostly in line with social identity theory: students are more likely to nominate in-group peers as clever compared to classmates from the out-group, in terms of both gender and ethnicity. Nonetheless, ethnic and gender bias in attributions differ in some important ways.

Keywords: ability attributions, social networks, ethnic classification, exponential random graph models, gender differences, Roma

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Venue:

Institute for Sociology, Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Budapest 9., Tóth Kálmán u. 4. B.1.15.

Time: 27 April, 2017 (Thursday), 1p.m.