



Workshop in Sociology at IU (WiSIU)

Friday, December 6
12:00 pm EST

Virtual (zoom link)
/SISR 100

Dr. Vera Messing

HUN-REN Center for Social Sciences,
Institute of Sociology, Budapest
CEU Democracy Institute

Co-author: Zsuzsanna Árendás



"Migration-making in the illiberal context of Hungary"

The presentation aims to contribute to the discussion on migration-making in authoritarian regimes with presenting the case of Hungary's migration governance under the right-wing populist FIDESZ government since 2015. In Hungary, anti-immigration and immigrant political discourses have become central to the strategy of the ruling Fidesz party, aligning with a political ideology rooted in protectionist nationalism. Still, migration governance in Hungary has not only been selective but also rapidly liberalized to adapt to the business, diplomatic and political needs of relevant economic and political actors. This has been done in parallel with a government-induced extremely harsh anti-immigration and immigrant political discourse. To explain this inherent contradiction, we will use the theoretical framework of the *illiberal paradox of migration governance*, developed by Natter (2018) as a follow-up and adaptation of the concept of the *liberal paradox of migration governance* (Hollifield 1982) to illiberal political regimes and economies. This conceptual framework is helpful to explain the seemingly contradictory regulatory, policy and discursive processes that characterize Hungary's migration regime.