

Zoltán Kántor, PhD: **Nations and National Minorities: Kin-state policies in Europe**

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In my presentation I will develop an interpretative framework for the study of the Hungarian national minority in the neighboring states that could help one understand the ongoing social and political processes, and explain the process of nationalization of a national minority. My ambition is, nevertheless, broader. I hope that this theoretical framework can also be utilized for the analysis of analogous cases. I will focus on the conception and on the practice how national minorities are engaged in nation-building and identity reproduction. I will present this in a larger European framework, highlighting how European states support their kin-minorities.

The politics of national minorities is rooted in the principle of nationality. Also, their organizations are based on national or ethnic grounds. In order to understand the nationalizing policy of a national minority, one must analyze the process through which a particular group became a national minority, and the institutionalization of that national minority on ethnocultural basis.

Beside the focus on the institutionalization process of the minority, I will also touch upon on the role the kin-state plays in fostering the nation-building process of the kin-minorities. I will show that kin-state support for minorities is rather the rule, and not the exception.

Zoltán Kántor holds a PhD in Political Science. He studied in Timisoara, Budapest, and Edinburgh. His research interests are kin-state politics, theories of nationalism, national minorities, ethnic parties, Hungarians in Romania, citizenship, out of country vote. He is editor of several books on nationalism, national minorities, and kin-state politics. His articles were published in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Japan, USA, Russia, Germany, and Slovenia.

At present he is the director of the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad, a think tank that focuses its research on the Hungarian minorities living in the neighboring states. He is also a lecturer (political sciences) at the Pázmány Péter Catholic University