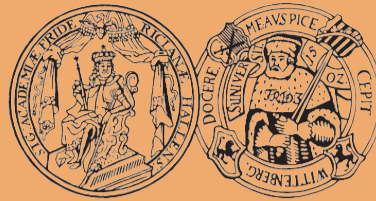




Max-Planck-Institut für ethnologische Forschung  
Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

MARTIN-LUTHER-UNIVERSITÄT  
HALLE-WITTENBERG



# Ethnography, History and the New Nomadism in Hungary

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The policy of the Hungarian state towards commemorations, rituals and historic pageantry is complex, ambivalent, and unpredictable.

The history of nomadism, which at first glance has little connection to modern Hungary, has been used by different social actors to interpret and organise social relations, the interaction between state and civil society and national identity. Hungarian „conquest-type” nomadism identifies historical and legendary elements of the 9-10th centuries. It also builds on previous nomadic incursions to Central Europe by Asiatic tribes, particularly the Scythians, Avars and the Huns. In contrast, some communities of central Hungary have been rekindling interest in a distinct Turkic and Iranian nomadic heritage which dates back to the 13-14th centuries.

Based on extensive fieldwork in Hungary in the past two decades, the lecture will explore the creative social engineering of various elites who reconstruct nomadic histories in order to fashion local identities and a new national one. At the same time the lecturer will draw out the implications of these results for historical and anthropological scholarship.



**Distinguished Lecture of the International Max Planck Research School  
for the Anthropology, Archaeology and History of Eurasia (IMPRS ANARCHIE)**

**| 12 October 2015 | 6:00 p.m. | Main Seminar Room**

**MPI for Social Anthropology | Advokatenweg 36 | 06114 Halle | [www.eth.mpg.de](http://www.eth.mpg.de)**