

**Dr. Róbert Gyóri (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)**

**'Scientific repudiation of the past' – Hungarian geography on the way of Sovietization,  
1945–1960.**

Following Hungary's serious territorial losses after World War I, geography became regarded as a major vehicle for the scientific substantiation of claims to territorial revision by the political elite. After 1945, however, Hungary became a part of the Soviet occupation zone. After the violent establishment of the Communist system, geography was found guilty of having served the interwar political regime. The old 'reactionary' and 'bourgeois' geography was obliterated and a new, Marxist-Leninist geography was established on Soviet principles. Several 'old' geographers were pensioned off or exiled from academia, while others were driven to the periphery or forced to compromise with the system. In turn, all important positions were given to politically loyal 'newcomers'. In this new geography, legitimate issues were those serving the needs of economic planning, such as the socialist redevelopment of the settlement network, the establishment of a new spatial framework for economic planning, and the transformation of nature to advance agricultural production. In addition, geography was also expected to participate in the active propagation of these new goals.

**Dr. Róbert Gyóri** ist wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter im Institut für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeographie der Eötvös Loránd Universität (ELTE) Budapest. Die Sowjetisierung der ungarischen Geographie gehört zu seinen Arbeitsschwerpunkten.

Die Masterclass findet im Rahmen des interdisziplinären Projektes „Digitaler Atlas politischer Raumbilder zu Ostmitteleuropa im 20. Jahrhundert – Geoimaginaries“ statt. Nach einem einleitenden Vortrag von Dr. Róbert Gyóri haben die Teilnehmer die Möglichkeit, ihre eigenen Forschungsarbeiten im Hinblick auf die von Dr. Róbert Gyóri entwickelten Thesen und Fragestellungen zu diskutieren. Vorbereitende Literatur wird den Teilnehmern im Vorfeld zur Verfügung gestellt. Die Masterclass findet in englischer und deutscher Sprache statt.

**25.03.2013, 14-17 Uhr, Vortragssaal des Herder-Instituts für historische Ostmitteleuropaforschung - Institut der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft, Gisonenweg 7-9 35037 Marburg**

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