

THE SECURITISATION OF MINORITIES

10 July 2016

Tom Lantos Institute, Bérc utca 13-15, 1016 Budapest

The workshop is open to the public and to the press.

The language of the workshop is English.

The Tom Lantos Institute cordially invites you to a workshop on the Securitisation of Minorities, to be held on Sunday, 10 July, organised as Day 0 of our Global Minority Rights Summer School 2016.

"Securitisating ethnic diversity issues means presenting minority groups as existentially threatening and thereby justifying extraordinary political measures. By invoking exceptional circumstances, securitisation is fundamentally non-democratic: the voices of securitised minorities are cancelled out of the democratic process. Indeed, once diversity is successfully securitised, the democratic principles of recognition, equality and participation in the democratic process are overruled. (...)"

The workshop will initiate a joined up discussion of how the securitising of ethnic diversity across Europe discloses a common erosion of democratic values and respect for minorities." (Jennifer Jackson-Preece)

WORKSHOP AGENDA

14:00 – 14:30	Keynote speech by Jennifer Jackson-Preece, Associate Professor, London School of Economics, London, United Kingdom
14:30 – 14:50	Comments by Boriss Cilevičs, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Deputy of the Saeima, Riga, Latvia Angéla Kóczé, Assistant Professor, Department of Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Wake Forest University, USA Enikő Szigeti, Executive Director, Civic Engagement Movement, Marosvásárhely / Târgu Mureș, Romania Henrik Villadsen, Director, OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities, The Hague, Netherlands
14:50 – 15:30	Q&A session
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>

16:00 – 17:20	<p>Presentations by</p> <p>Boriss Cilevičs: <i>Bad behaviour is rewarded? Comparison of minority policies in the Baltic states</i></p> <p>Angéla Kóczé: <i>Securitisation of Roma</i></p> <p>Enikő Szigeti: <i>Language rights litigation and advocacy in a multi ethnic Region of Romania, the country with a "genuine model in the matter of promoting interculturalism"</i></p> <p>Henrik Villadsen: <i>National minorities and conflict prevention: an HCNM perspective</i></p>
17:20 – 17:30	Response by Jennifer Jackson-Preece
17:30 – 18:00	Q&A session

ABOUT THE PANELISTS

Boriss Cilevičs was educated in physics and worked as a computer scientist. In the late 80s, he took part in founding first human rights groups in Latvia. He led human rights NGOs, participated in a number of international projects, published dozens of research papers on non-discrimination and equality, minority rights, democracy in plural societies. In 1998, Boriss Cilevičs was elected member of Latvian national parliament and was re-elected five times since then. Vice-chair of the Standing Committee on Human Rights. Cilevičs is an active member of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE), prepared more than 20 reports (including several report on minority rights), is a permanent Assembly observer in the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI). Chaired PACE Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities, currently is a chairperson of the Committee on Election of Judges of the European Court on Human Rights. Boriss Cilevičs stays involved with civil society, regularly participates in NGO projects, in particular, as a trainer and lecturer.

Dr Jennifer Jackson-Preece is Associate Professor of Nationalism at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her career has had a sustained engagement with policies directed at minorities and migrants from the moment these issues first appeared on the European political agenda in the early 1990s up to and including the present time. She is the author of two leading academic monographs in this area, *National Minorities and the European Nation-States System* (OUP, 1998) and *Minority Rights: Between Diversity and Community* (2005), and more than twenty articles and book chapters. Dr Jackson-Preece also works closely with leading international and non-governmental organizations working in this policy area, including the OSCE's High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Council of Europe, the European Centre for Minority Issues (Germany), and the Tom Lantos Institute (Hungary).

Dr Angéla Kóczé is a sociologist. Currently she is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Wake Forest University. She is also research fellow at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Sociology and affiliated research fellow at the Central European University, Center for policy Studies. Dr. Kóczé has done several research mainly focused on social and legal inequalities of Roma in the various European countries as well as the intersection of gender ethnicity and class regarding minority and migrant population in Europe. She has written extensively about the racialization and the unequal access to social, economic and political rights of Roma in Europe. Some of her work was published in

various books by Palgrave, Ashgate as well as international organisations such as UNDP. Besides her academic career Dr. Kóczé also worked as a senior policy adviser in the Hungarian government (2004-2008). Previously to gain her PhD, she worked as a funding director of the European Roma Information Office (ERIO) in Brussels (2003-2004), as well as the former director of the human rights education program at the European Roma Rights Centre (1998-2003) in Budapest, Hungary. Moreover, she was the founding director of the Romaversitas program (1996) in Budapest which offers a scholarship and mentorship for underprivileged Roma minority university students.

Enikő Szigeti decided to change career due to her strong commitment to human rights more than a decade ago. As a result, after many years in banking and communication, she started working in human rights organisations. She believes in positive change, works for a change that brings more peace and equality, constantly makes efforts to reach inner and outer peace, but most importantly believes that "We must be the change we wish to see in the world" (Gandhi). Her first step in human rights field was when she joined United Nations, an experience that has strongly marked her career. After many years spent in international human rights, and public interest law organisations, she decided to change the international perspective into a local context. Her wish was to experiment the dynamics and the impact of a local organisation that is committed to social change within a multiethnic environment. After almost 20 years abroad (mainly in Hungary) she moved back to my hometown Tîrgu Mureş/Marosvásárhely, a multiethnic setting in Romania, where she founded a local grass roots advocacy organisation called Civic Engagement Movement which advocates for human rights, minority rights and language rights of ethnic minorities. She has a strong commitment to human rights and strongly believes in the strength of the civil society. She spent many years in international human rights organisation and also worked in insecure environments, having a track record of work in and good knowledge of Central Eastern Europe, including post conflict areas such as Kosovo and Serbia and she has vast experience in creating and implementing advocacy strategies with the aim of influencing decision makers.

Henrik Villadsen has been director of the office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities since December 2014. He holds a master's degree in law with specialization in human rights under armed conflicts and has been a qualified barrister with the Danish Ministry of Justice since 1997. Mr. Villadsen served with the European Union Monitoring Mission to the Former Yugoslavia in 1993-1994 and has, since 1997, served with various intergovernmental organizations, such as the OSCE, the United Nations and the European Union in Croatia, Serbia, Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, mostly working on issues related to the countries' minorities and the rule of law. He also served as Head of Mission of the Danish Refugee Council in the Russian Federation. *Inter alia*, Mr. Villadsen was chief of staff of the OSCE Co-ordination Centre in Vukovar, Croatia, when the OSCE took over police monitoring responsibilities from the United Nations in 1998. In Kosovo, he held management positions in the Kosovo Trust Agency (<http://kta-kosovo.org/html/index.php>). He also served as Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Kosovo and subsequently as chief of staff of the European Union's rule of law mission in the region. Prior to re-joining the OSCE, he served as the European Union's General Legal Counsel and Head of Legal Affairs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, working with the European Union integration process and the restructuring of Bosnia and Herzegovina's legal system.