The Department of
Sociology and Social Anthropology
cordially invites you to

Populist or Communist Nostalgia? Peoples’ Economy in Post-Socialist European Union.

Public Lecture by
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as part of our Seminar Series

Date and Time: Monday, October 16 17:30
Venue: Nador u. 9. Gellner room

In this presentation I suggest we look deeper into people’s everyday economic practices and ideas under communism, their transmission, and/or re-invention by contemporary populism in order to understand a good part of the present day crisis of liberal economic and political system, particularly in post-communist East Central Europe. Using material gathered mostly in Slovakia, I argue for fuller understanding of ambivalent role that communist modernization had in developing of specific model of livelihood strategies, ideas, and practices I call post-peasant. This peoples’ economy is widely remembered regardless or as unintended consequence of communist modernization, not as an integral product of it. This economic model is further mobilized by skilled populist politicians. No memory of socialism, but in socialism, i. e. an understanding of peoples’ economy and politics I characterize as post-peasant has been transmitted across regimes regardless of how ‘successful/ unsuccessful’ the national communist system was. This peoples’ model has been mobilized as nostalgia by skilled populists regardless of their political stance about the late communist period.