

*McDaniel College, Budapest
Migrants Help Association, Hungary*

Human Rights Forum:
Inclusion, Mobility, and Cultural Encounters
Friday, November 21, 2014
McDaniel College, Bethlen Gábor tér 2
Budapest, Hungary

The McDaniel College Budapest-Migrants Help Association Human Rights Forum of November 21, 2014, provides a platform for undergraduate students in Budapest and neighboring countries to present original research on issues concerning human rights, migration, and multiculturalism. In addition, it brings together experts from different countries to discuss the human rights situation in the Visegrad region. Most importantly, it provides a chance for an exchange of ideas, and a chance for people from different countries, continents and walks of life to meet and gain a better understanding of one another's interests, values, and the spirit each of us brings to our human encounters.

Schedule of Events,

9.00 – 9.30: Registration

9.30 – 10.45: Interculturalism, Intergenerational Immigration and Immigrant Populations (Session chair: Federica Simone, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)

Emma Jasmin Viscupic (Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts, Slovakia)
Interculturalism in Visegrad, or how would Geert Hofstede see us through his five dimensions?

Nicholas Pongratz (McDaniel College, Budapest campus)
Intergenerational Integration into the Host Culture: A Hungarian-American Example.

Keegan Duesterhaus (McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland)
The Dada Art Movement and the Culture of Immigrant Populations.

10.45 – 11.00: Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.15: Majorities and Minorities in Slovakia (Session chair: Samuel Ogundero, McDaniel College, Budapest campus)

Max Steuer (Central European University, Budapest)
Satisfying the Majority? Case Studies of the Minority Policy of the Slovak Republic after 2006.

Katarina Lehoccka (Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts, Slovakia)
Politics of convenience? Roma human rights issues in Slovakia.

Viktor Fudala (Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts, Slovakia)
*The Struggle of the Hungarian Minority in Slovakia: A Battle to which Country They
Belong To.*

12.15 – 13.15: Lunch

13.15 – 14.30: The Past, Present, and Future of Multiculturalism (Session chair:
Younna Ben Maymoun, McDaniel College, Budapest campus)

Leanna Jasek-Rhysdahl (McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland)
*Monumental Memory: The Contributions of the Living Memorial to Post-Memory in
Budapest, Hungary.*

Kelsey Mannix (McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland)
*Under the Influence: How Newspapers Affect Our Perceptions—Examples from the
United States.*

Daniel Beane (McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland)
Classroom Biodiversity: Finding Diversity in the Biology Classroom Environment.

14.30 – 14.45: Coffee Break

14.45 – 15.45: EU and International Law on Migration (Session chair: Clarissa Balint,
McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland)

Verena Zyla (University of Birmingham)
The European Union, the Charter of Fundamental Rights, and Immigration.

Cristina Ciobanu (McDaniel College, Budapest campus)
Hungary, Dublin Convention, EU Legislations on Migrants and Refugee Rights.

15.55 – 16.40: Expert Panel on Minority and Migrant Issues in the Visegrad Countries.
Panelists include:

- Dr. Tibor Várady (Central European University, Budapest)
- Dr. Christianna Leahy (McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland)
- Dr. Dagmar Kusa (Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts, Slovakia)
- Dr. Robert Sata (Central European University, Budapest)

Moderated by Michael Simmons (Human Rights Activist and Scholar, Budapest,
Hungary)

19:00 – 21. 00: Reception and open-mic event, Bharata Kulturtér, Tivadar u. 3.

McDaniel College Budapest is the branch campus of McDaniel College in Westminster,
Maryland, USA. Founded in 1994, McDaniel Budapest brings the best American liberal

arts tradition to the heart of Central Europe, providing an educational home for students from over 20 countries.

Migrants Help Association is an independent NGO founded in Hungary in 2009 by Mr. James Peter. Its mission is to assist migrants and refugees in their struggle to integrate into Hungarian and European society, and to increase awareness of the human diversity around us.

Since 2011, McDaniel College Budapest and Migrants Help Association have worked in cooperation to provide Web Design and Database Management courses that bring together migrants and refugees looking for marketable skills, McDaniel professors willing to lend a hand, and McDaniel students interested in expanding their skills and cultural horizons. The 2014 Human Rights Forum represents another, important step in this ongoing collaboration.

Abstracts

SESSION 1: INTERCULTURALISM, INTERGENERATIONAL IMMIGRATION AND IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS

INTERCULTURALISM IN VISEGRAD, OR HOW WOULD GEERT HOFSTEDE SEE US THROUGH HIS FIVE DIMENSIONS?

Emma Jasmin Viscupic
Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts, Slovakia

In today's modern times, we don't think in terms of only one nation anymore. The fast pace of technology, market, economy and politics made intercultural communication inevitable part of each country and each and every individual. The effect of such intercultural expansion is the elimination of borders, merging of countries to seek economic and political benefits creating fiscal and monetary unions. Benefits can seemingly outreach the possible negatives of such agreements, but nevertheless one must be aware of the effects on particular nations.

In this paper I would like to focus on the Visegrad countries, precisely Slovakia, Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic. I would like to explore these countries via the cultural similarities/differences, examining them through the five dimensions introduced by Dutch social psychologist Geert Hofstede, namely *power/distance*, *individualism*, *masculinity*, *uncertainty avoidance index*, *long-term orientation*. One would expect these dimensions to show similar results for all four countries for being in the same region, considering the relatively similar past and current status quo, but that is not always the case. I will be mostly focusing on the long-termism of those cultures, considering it a crucial aspect of today's society due to the scarcity of resources, as well as the masculinity rate of different nations. My hypothesis isn't radical nor is my research going to point out serious flaws in the system; rather, I would like to show differences within a

close community of countries that may not be visible at the first sight and for some could be real eye-openers.

INTERGENERATIONAL INTEGRATION INTO THE HOST CULTURE: A HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN EXAMPLE.

Nicholas Pongratz
McDaniel College, Budapest campus

When people are transplanted into another country and culture, whether it be by war, political persecution or economic desperation, a transformation tends to occur between the first and second generation of the immigrant family. I seek to show different examples, from the mid-to-late 20th century, of how integration, both into and out of American culture, occurs between the generations; from the older, perhaps more traditional outlook of the first generation to the interpretation of that outlook, combined with a different culture and setting, by the next generation. Also by looking at what the first generation sought to gain by immigrating, compared with what the next generation may have already taken for granted and how they personally identify themselves nationally.

THE DADA ART MOVEMENT AND THE CULTURE OF IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS.

Keegan Duesterhaus
McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland

This essay is an exploration of how art movements and migration trends of people are related. Understanding what an art movement is and how it begins is an important aspect explained in the essay. An equally important part of the essay is why people migrate. Once these pieces have been laid out, the correlations can be drawn. First generally, then more specifically, the essay relates migration around the time of World War One and the eruption of Dada art. It includes a close look at some Central European influences of Dadaism.

SESSION 2: MAJORITIES AND MINORITIES IN SLOVAKIA

SATISFYING THE MAJORITY? CASE STUDIES OF THE MINORITY POLICY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC AFTER 2006.

Max Steuer
Central European University, Budapest

One of the prime characteristics of a democratic state is the protection of its minorities within the general principle of majority rule. Slovak Republic commits itself to this conception of democracy by providing a framework for protection of its minorities in the Constitution, ordinary legislation, and by ratifying international human rights conventions, such as the Framework Convention on National Minorities. However, on the level of practice, its minority policy is being criticized for being exclusive rather than inclusive towards (not only) national and ethnic minorities. In order to test this assumption, the paper analyses selected outcomes of Slovakia's minority policy in the recent years in terms of political declarations and concrete legislative measures. By conducting a content analysis of the last three government manifestos (2006, 2010, 2012) and explanatory statements of three significant legislative measures from this period (the amendments of the Citizenship Act and Act on Minority Languages and the new Act on Assistance in Material Need), it argues that the measures approved by two out of three governments (2006, 2012) aimed to satisfy the alleged demand of the majority for more restrictive measures towards minorities, or at least for maintaining the 'status quo' in minority rights by not increasing them in time. The short-lived government of 2010, in contrast, made some effort towards more inclusive measures but its wavering political support prevented their effective implementation. In addition, attention is paid to the changes in the political and advisory institutions being in charge of monitoring and offering proposals within minority policy, especially the Government Council for Human Rights and its Committee of National Minorities. It is assumed, that the changes in development of these bodies and the efforts for making them (dis)functional coincided with the character of measures in minority policy, leading to improving or reducing the level of minority rights.

POLITICS OF CONVENIENCE? ROMA HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN SLOVAKIA.

Katarina Lehocka

Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts, Slovakia

The Slovak Republic, on paper, belongs among progressive human rights upholders. It has signed and ratified the vast majority of international human rights treaties, charters, and covenants. Exceptions are few, yet very telling.

In 1998 the Slovak Republic ratified the European Social Charter. However, the government did not adopt all of the articles included in the Charter (only the first 18 articles were ratified). One of the articles left out concerns housing rights. Moreover, in 1999, the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family during his visit to the Council of Europe signed the Additional Protocol to the European Social Charter Providing for a System of Collective Complaints. Nonetheless, to this day the Slovak government did not ratify this additional protocol.

Over the years Slovakia had received many critiques from various NGOs regarding the Roma minority. One of the critiques involves the violation of the right to decent housing (evictions, inadequate housing environment, discrimination etc.). Since the Slovak government did not ratify the additional protocol concerning the possibility of

collective complains, it is more difficult to draw repercussions for hasty evictions and resettlements, as had happened in France when after expulsion of a large Roma group. By not ratifying the additional protocol the Slovak government left the door open for the mistreatment of the Roma minority regarding their right to housing, or for the possibility to deal with this problem in the most convenient way without the fear of facing legal repercussions. In addition, this approach from the government—this politics of convenience—creates a favourable space for discrimination not only by the state institutions but also by the majority of the population. Given a complete lack of a basic human rights discourse and education, discrimination and its justification through securitization of the issue of evictions within the political discourse meets with widespread approval of the public. Unless the broader human rights culture develops, there is little hope for change.

THE STRUGGLE OF THE HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN SLOVAKIA: A BATTLE TO WHICH COUNTRY THEY BELONG TO.

Viktor Fudala

Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts, Slovakia

Slovaks and Hungarians share a long history within one state. However, for the past two hundred years, the relation between these two nations has been shaken. After the dissolution of Austria-Hungary in 1918, many Hungarians ended up in new states where they no longer had a dominant position, thousands of Hungarians who became citizens of Czechoslovakia. One of the main efforts of Horthy's Hungary during the interwar period was to bring back these 'lost' Hungarians to their motherland. It was partially done after the Vienna Award in 1938 when Hungary took the southern part of Slovakia, which was mainly populated by the Hungarian minority. After the Second World War the Benes decrees treated many Hungarians as collaborators with fascism and they were deported to Hungary. Nevertheless this did not solve anything and many ethnic Hungarians remained in Czechoslovakia. During the socialist era in Czechoslovakia no kind of nationalism was supported, thus talking about minority rights was impossible. Despite this, the Hungarian minority got some rights, like use of their language in schools and offices. After the Slovak independence in 1993 the 'Hungarian Question' became the broth of both Slovak and Hungarian nationalists. The Slovak nationalists feel threatened by the fact that there are two active Hungarian parties in Slovakia, with a relatively high electorate. The current Hungarian minority take Slovakia as their homeland, despite their different ethnicity. The tension between Slovakia, its Hungarian minority and Hungary is created only by populist and chauvinistic declarations and actions of various subjects in both Slovakia and Hungary. Hungarians who live in Slovakia finally deserve treatment as the people who belong to Slovakia civically, and to Hungary culturally and ethnically, without unnecessary artificial exaggeration of the 'Hungarian question'.

SESSION 3: THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF MULTICULTURALISM

MONUMENTAL MEMORY: THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LIVING MEMORIAL TO POST-MEMORY IN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY.

Leanna Jasek-Rysdahl
McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland

This paper examines the “Living Memorial” in Budapest, Hungary and analyzes how this particular approach to monumentalization is creating a unique type of memory vessel. This paper will attempt to explain how the Living Memorial, with its focus on dialogue (compared to a monument with the traditional physical presence) is reforming the community’s memory creation. This post-memory creation not only embraces a reflection of the past, but also has the potential to become an influential forum for current issues in the community, assisting in establishing an increasingly open space for discussion and potential reconciliation and understanding.

MUSLIMS AND THE MEDIA: PORTRAYAL, STEREOTYPES, AND DISCRIMINATION.

Kelsey Mannix
McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland

The mass media has a significant influence on how we view and perceive the world. Media portrayals of individuals or a group of people often depict stereotypes which then are implanted in the minds of the public. This has occurred with a number of ethnic groups, such as the Nazis and Japanese during World War II. In more recent years, Muslims and those of Middle Eastern descent have been victims of negative media images, especially after September 11, 2001, though these types of images were circulating the media even before 9/11. The act of terrorism increased the frequency of negative Muslim stereotypes in the media. This paper examines the portrayals of Muslims in the mass media before and after 9/11 and how societal stereotypes are reinforced through these images. In addition, the discrimination Muslims have experienced is explored, while also looking at the potential effects of such actions.

CLASSROOM BIODIVERSITY: FINDING DIVERSITY IN THE BIOLOGY CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT.

Daniel Beane
McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland

This study analyzes multiple American state biology secondary education curriculums and studies on students’ views on diversity. It aims to find if the current American style curriculum takes the time or stresses the importance of diversity in not just the classroom and the laboratory, but the world. If the available data does not find the current curriculum can accommodate teaching multiculturalism, then the topics of genetics, evolution and biological diversity would be good places that teachers can begin to

incorporate the teaching of multicultural ideas without making significant changes to the existing curriculum. While this study is based on American schools the conclusions and applications of this work may be used worldwide for biology education.

SESSION 4: EU AND INTERNATIONAL LAW ON MIGRATION

THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, AND IMMIGRATION.

Verena Zyla
University of Birmingham

The following paper will discuss the values of the European Union, based on a moral interpretation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the Treaty of Lisbon in regard to immigration. Firstly I will show that the European Union is cosmopolitan in nature. Then, I will focus on two points that challenge the current situation of how the EU treats immigrants from third countries, particularly those termed 'illegal immigrants'. The first point will be the incoherence in action towards people of third countries that are less fortunate. While the EU recognizes that one needs to help those living in poverty and not given the chance to improve their lives significantly, it seems to ignore this value of humanitarianism when it comes to immigration. Secondly, the core values of the EU are based upon cooperation and free movement. The EU gives an unreasonable claim as to why this freedom of movement should only be for European citizens, hence, for those privileged by birth. Finally I will point out possible objections. I will particularly look at nationalism and how it is used as an argument against immigration in the EU.

HUNGARY, DUBLIN CONVENTION, EU LEGISLATIONS ON MIGRANTS AND REFUGEE RIGHTS.

Cristina Ciobanu
McDaniel College, Budapest campus

My paper aims to touch upon different laws concerning migrants and especially refugees in Europe with a focus on Hungary. I want to take specific laws in particular and analyze them, showing what's the theory and what's the actual practice of them.

Hungary is known as an anti-immigration country. But even before the election of the present government (who have gained a reputation for anti-immigrant rhetoric), the country's immigration policy was 'anti-immigrant' in its orientation. How so? We can look at the number of the detention camps and the number of refugees detained in the prisons where convicted criminals are intended to be kept. Moreover, families are also detained, as are minors. A refugee-family has to be given from the first application a place to stay in an open refugee camp until all the bureaucratic and legal procedures are ready. It is the same situation with a minor refugee without an adult parent or sibling; he or she has to be given a place in the open camp and also a refugee status, not be put in prison. One finds that the national policy and asylum system is the problem, not

specifically the government. Despite and because of EU influence, the system does not work as was planned.

Part of my aim is to analyze the European laws that might be the origin of the failure of the system and its inefficiency. I will examine the ideals behind and the reality of the Dublin Regulation. Refugees pass through transit countries such as Hungary, and Hungary becomes a victim of sorts of the EU legislation in this matter. It is the same with Bulgaria, Greece or Italy; many refugees pass through these countries that they do not want especially to stay in, but because of the Dublin Regulation, those countries are responsible for their asylum procedure. Refugees find themselves stranded, without freedom of movement.