

THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

cordially invites you to a lecture by

Miklós Konrád

Institute of History, Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Nation, Denomination, Volk, Race?

Hungarian Jewish Self-Definitions in the Emancipation Era

In Hungary, as in many other European countries, the long nineteenth century was marked by a radical reconceptualization of what it meant to be a Jew. According to Jewish integrationists, their coreligionists were no longer members of a community that defined itself in both national, ethnic and religious terms, but Hungarians of Jewish faith. According to the liberal nationalism that remained until the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy the official ideology of the Hungarian political and cultural elites, this was certainly the only definition that allowed for their integration into general society. So much for the official slogans. Concurrently, however, both Christian Hungarian elites and Jewish rabbis and intellectuals voiced opinions – ethnic and racial definitions or self-definitions – that contradicted the official dogma. The lecture wishes to shed light on the motives behind the self-contradictory discourse of both parties, and to contribute, by emphasizing the importance of periodization, to the debate on the respective influences of external pressures and internal developments in the reconceptualization of modern Jewry.

**Tuesday, November 17 at 6 p.m.
In 102 Room, Október 6 str. 7**



Miklós Konrád, Research Fellow at the Institute of History, Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, received his Diplôme d'Études Approfondies (D.E.A.) from the Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV) in 1995, and his PhD from the University of Debrecen in 2011. In parallel to his work as a historian, he has been the editor-in chief of the *Magyar-Francia Nagyszótár* (Hungarian-French Advanced Dictionary) and of the *Magyar-Francia Kiszótár* (Hungarian-French Concise Dictionary), both published by the Akadémiai Kiadó in respectively 1999 and 2004. His research focuses on the identity dilemmas of acculturated Hungarian Jews in the age of emancipation. He has published about thirty articles in Hungarian, French and English reviews and edited volumes. His first book, titled *Zsidóságon innen és túl. Zsidók vallásváltása Magyarországon a reformkortól az első világháborúig* (Within and Beyond Jewishness. Jewish Conversion in Hungary from the Age of Reform to the First World War) was published in 2014. A second edition was published in 2015. His current research includes a book project about the discourse on, and the practice of Jewish-Christian mixed marriages.