



# The Catholic Church and the Political Oath from the Advent of the Modern State: Models, Practices, Conflicts

HUN-REN RESEARCH CENTRE  
FOR THE HUMANITIES  
1097 Budapest, Tóth Kálmán utca 4. 5th floor

## PROGRAM

5–6 June 2025

### 5 June 2025

10:00–11:00 Welcome Address and Keynote

Antal Molnár (HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of History, Budapest, director)  
Andreas Gottsmann (Austrian Historical Institute, Rome), *Clergymen between loyalty and resistance. The Catholic Church in the transformation of the Habsburg Monarchy from Josephinism to the liberal constitutional state*

11:00–11:30 Coffee break

11:30–12:45 Panel I — Chair: Nadia Kizenko (University at Albany SUNY)  
Katalin Pataki (HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of History, Budapest), *Negotiating the Oath of Allegiance in the Habsburg Realms between 1781-1848*  
Roberto Regoli (Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome), *Between God, the pope and men. The oaths of allegiance in the Papal States (1798-1814)*  
Discussant: András Forgó (University of Pécs)

12:45–13:45 Lunch break

13:45–15:15 Panel II — Chair: András Forgó (University of Pécs)  
Miklós Tömöry (HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of History, Budapest), *Ensuring Loyalty – Maintaining Discretion. The Procedure and Institutional Framework of Catholic Bishops’ Oaths of Loyalty in the Kingdom of Hungary, 1867–1918*  
Tomasz Hen-Konarski (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Warsaw; HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of History, Budapest), *Caught between the state and nation: Oaths of allegiance performed by Catholic clergymen in the territories of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 1860s*  
Siegfried Weichlein (University of Fribourg), *The political oath between monarchy and republic: Changes and conflicted issues in Germany 1880-1930*  
Discussant: Nadia Kizenko (University at Albany SUNY)

15:15–15:45 Coffee break

15:45–17:15 Panel III — Chair: Pál Hatos (University of Public Service, Budapest)  
Scott Kenworthy (Miami University in Ohio), *The Russian Orthodox Church between resistance and loyalty in Revolutionary Russia*  
Željko Oset (HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of History, Budapest), *Oaths of allegiance of catholic dignitaries in Yugoslavia (1919-1941)*  
Przemysław Pazik (HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of History, Budapest; University of Warsaw), *Between state and nation-building. Bishops’ oath of loyalty in Poland 1918-1939*  
Discussant: Éva Petrás (Office of the Committee of National Remembrance)

### 6 June 2025

10:00–10:45 Keynote

András Fejérdy (HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of History, Budapest), *The claim for loyalty in nationalist and trans-nationalist regimes. The political oath of the clergy in 20th-century Central and Eastern Europe*

10:45–11:15 Coffee break

11:15–12:30 Panel IV — Chair: Éva Petrás (Office of the Committee of National Remembrance)  
Agáta Šústová-Drelová (Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of History, Bratislava; HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of History, Budapest), *Bishops’ oath of Loyalty and the making of modern Czechoslovakia – cultural history approach.*  
Bernd Schaefer (Woodrow Wilson International Center, Washington DC), *Bishop Oaths and other Forms of Church Loyalty to the State in Germany form 1933 to the Present*  
Discussant: Pál Hatos (University of Public Service, Budapest)

12:30–13:30 Lunch break

13:30–15:00 Panel V — Chair: Szilvia Köbel (Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, Budapest)  
Emília Hrabovec (Comenius University, Bratislava), *Slovak Episcopate, the Holy See and the Oaths of Allegiance to the Czechoslovak Communist Regime as a Conflict over Loyalty and Sovereignty*  
Viktoriia Serhiienko (German Historical Institute, Warsaw), *To Punish or to Forgive? The Vatican and Oaths from Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Priests to the Russian Orthodox Church in the First Post-WWII Years*  
Anca Şincan (HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of History, Budapest), *An economic allegiance for the Catholic Church: state salaries in exchange of loyalty to the state in communist Romania*  
Discussant: Ágnes Hesz (University of Pécs)

15:00–15:30 Coffee break

15:30–17:00 Panel VI — Chair: Ágnes Hesz (University of Pécs)  
Stipe Kljaić (Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb), *Clergy associations as a model of swearing the oath of allegiance to the political authorities in Tito’s Yugoslavia*  
Jan Hlebowicz (Institute of National Remembrance, Warsaw-Gdańsk), *Priests’ oath of allegiance to the Polish People’s Republic as a tool of the communist authorities in the struggle against the Roman Catholic Church - causes, practices, consequences*  
András Fejérdy (HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of History, Budapest), *A tool for the preparation of a schism or a tolerable adaptation of a traditional practice of history? The Holy See and the Bishops’ Oath in Hungary (1949-1964)*  
Discussant: Szilvia Köbel (Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, Budapest)



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