



INVITATION

to the first event of a new English language discussion series with leading authors, on the political economy of Hungary in the European context, in cooperation between **Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Budapest** and **Új Egyenlőség (New Equality) Magazine for Social Theory**

on February 09, 2021 at 6 p.m. – 7.15 pm online

**At the event the author and the invited experts discuss
GÁBOR SCHEIRING'S BOOK THE RETREAT OF LIBERAL DEMOCRACY –
AUTHORITARIAN CAPITALISM AND THE ACCUMULATIVE STATE IN
HUNGARY**

published by Palgavre in 2020.

The neoliberal competition state lead to Orbán's rise. Hungary missed the chance after 1989 to become either a developmental state, or a social welfare state. The working class revolted against this system, and Orbán successfully used nationalism to mobilise against neoliberalism, forging an association with foreign, mainly German capital. Yet once in power after 2010, Fidesz turbocharged neoliberalism, dismantling the remainder of the welfare state, and introducing a workfare regime. Scheiring calls Orbán's system an accumulative regime based on authoritarian capitalism. Descriptions such as 'mafia state' miss the point that it is 'national capital' that is widely enriched by Orbán. This fits into an international trend symbolised by Brexit, Trump, Bolsonaro, Erdogan and others.

Programme:

18:00 Opening remarks by **Jörg Bergstermann**, head of FES Budapest

18:05 Discussion with author **Gábor Scheiring** (Bocconi University)

Participants:

Dorottya Szikra - social policy expert, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Krisztina Sőreg - economist, University of Malaga

Don Kalb - social anthropologist, University of Bergen

Moderated by: **Zoltán Pogátsa**, economist, editor-in-chief of Új Egyenlőség (New Equality) Magazine for Social Theory

Simultaneous interpretation in Hungarian will be provided.

Registration is available on the link below:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_y7puvKU1Qdy7PIxxmi8pLg

The event can be followed live on the Facebook page of Új Egyenlőség and FES!

Editorial board of Új Egyenlőség

Leading staff of FES

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