THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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DEPICTIONS OF THE CHINESE IN THE HUNGARIAN PRESS: IDEOLOGICALLY-MOTIVATED OR ECONOMICALLY-DRIVEN?

presented by

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Abstract: Chinese migration into Europe has steadily increased since China began opening up in the 1980s. One country that has absorbed a surprising large number of these migrants is Hungary. Yet there has been little empirical work done to understand how the Chinese – who have been shown to be the least integrated of all migrant groups – are perceived by the Hungarians. Extant research on migration argue government policies and social attitudes towards newcomers are shaped by political ideology and economic factors. To test this argument, the presenter uses content analysis of the two most widely-circulated newspapers (Magyar Nemzet and Népszabadság) in Hungary 2004-2014. The results indicate a conditional story on whether the newspaper’s affiliated political party is in office.

Amy H. Liu is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her area of scholarly interest is comparative politics, with a substantive focus on language politics and Chinese migration. She has done research on the Chinese community in Hungary, Bulgaria, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore. Her first book Governing Tongues: The Political Economy of Language Regimes (2014, University of Pennsylvania Press) examines language regime choice and the economic effects of this choice in Asia.