

Nationalism and Authoritarianism: Genealogies and Morphologies

Proposed Joint Doctoral Fellowships (funded by the Intellectual Themes Initiative)

The rise of authoritarian and populist politics in the last decade has called for new theoretical and methodological approaches in the study of nationalism. In the past, social science literature on authoritarian politics had been compartmentalized along disciplinary as well as regional lines. Scholarship in the field had been marked by the absence of crossdisciplinary and crossregional dialogue. History and political science approaches were often regarded as separate fields of study which significantly limited the comparative analysis of authoritarianism and nationalism.

These proposed joint doctoral fellowships are intended to bring together students and faculty researching nationalism from different methodological perspectives, with a particular focus on the complex and ramified relationship between authoritarianism and nationalism. The main objective of the interdepartmental cooperation is to integrate different disciplinary approaches in order to facilitate the comparative, global and interdisciplinary study of authoritarian and populist variations of nationalist politics. The study plan is designed to help students to inventively combine conceptual and methodological tools to generate genuinely new insights into the genealogies and morphologies of authoritarian and nationalist politics through cutting-edge comparative research.

Nationalism Studies is an inherently interdisciplinary field, combining a variety of approaches in order to probe specific questions from different, often complementary, angles. At the master's level, the Nationalism Studies Program mediates between many disciplines, including History and Political Science, and these proposed joint doctoral fellowships aim to reinforce this mediating role at the doctoral level, enabling students to explore the role of nationalism in framing, constituting, and bolstering authoritarian political systems.

We envision the creation of two fellowships, one for a doctoral student wishing to explore these questions primarily within the discipline of Political Science, the other for a doctoral student wishing to explore these questions primarily within the discipline of History. Each student will have two supervisors, one from his or her "home" department, and the other from the Nationalism Studies Program. They will take core courses in the Nationalism Studies Program, including a Ph.D. seminar on populism and neo-nationalisms, with the aim of familiarizing the students with various historical and normative approaches to a common field of inquiry. Candidates should have an interest in comparative approaches to nationalism and authoritarianism.

Credit requirements

Students in the Joint Doctoral Fellowships program are required to take a minimum of 4 credits in the Nationalism Studied Program and a minimum of 4 credits in the other affiliated department, in addition to meeting all the credit requirements in their home department.

Nationalism Studies Program:

Understanding neo-nationalism: theories, concepts and methodologies (2 credits)

Critical Approaches to the Study of Nationalism (2 credits)

Doctoral School of Political Science, International Relations and Public Policy

Authoritarianism (2 credits)

Political Institutions (4 credits)

Department of History

Totalitarianism and Mass Politics (2 credits)

Crisis and Ethno-Populism in the Interwar Period and Beyond (2 credits)

Participating Units and Project Managers

Nationalism Studies Program (Michael L. Miller, Mária M. Kovács, Szabolcs Pogonyi)

Department of History (Balázs Trencsényi, Constantin Iordachi)

Doctoral School of Political Science, International Relations and Public Policy (Inna Melnykovska, Marina Popescu)