

OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

László Borhi

*Department of Central Eurasian Studies
IU Bloomington*

“More than Victims? Popular Responses to National Socialist and Stalinist Dictatorships: The Case of Hungary”

Monday, February 22, 2016

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



Scholarship on totalitarian regimes moved away from the victimology model. Subjects of national socialist and communist dictatorships seem to have acted in dialogue with the powerful state. Many more Germans than a handful of die-hard Nazis were responsible for World War II genocide and the Holocaust; even more knew about mass murder and turned a blind eye in part because they agreed with it. In the Soviet Union, party and state agencies were supported by civilian informants seeking to redress grievances and denouncing enemies of the people to exact revenge and profit. Traditional attitudes and bonds survived, lower-level authorities defied directives from above. This paper will explore through case studies of the experience of individuals the notion of participatory dictatorship in repressive regimes motivated by totalitarian ideologies and argue that the balance between coercion and voluntary “participation” may tilt toward the former.



László Borhi is Peter A. Kadas Chair Associate Professor, Department of Central Eurasian Studies, School of Global & International Studies, IU Bloomington. His forthcoming book deals with the United States and East Central Europe from World War II to the end of the Cold War and will be published by IU Press this summer. He is currently working on a book on the history of the Dark Decades in East Central Europe, from 1933 to 1953 ([website](#)).

Presentations are open to the public and are live streamed (see our website for URL and papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch, and refreshments will be available. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855-3151).