



SEBASTIAN RAMISCH-PAUL

DIGITAL BOOK LAUNCH

ON HISTORICAL SECURITY STUDIES (SFB/TRR 138)
+ HERDER INSTITUTE RESEARCH ACADEMY (HIRA)

FREMDE PERIPHERIE - PERIPHERIE DER UNSICHERHEIT?

Sicherheitsdiskurse über die tschechoslowakische Provinz Podkarpatská Rus (1918-1938)

(Verlag Herder-Institut, 2021)

CHAIR: Peter Haslinger (Marburg–Giessen)

INTRODUCTION: Sebastian Ramisch-Paul (Dresden)

COMMENTARIES: Ana Ivasiuc (Marburg) and Balint Varga (Leipzig)

VIRTUELL MEETING | APRIL 27, 2021, 6 PM (CET)

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UNKNOWN PERIPHERY–PERIPHERY OF INSECURITY?

Security Discourses about the Czechoslovak Province Podkarpatská Rus (1918-1938)

The demise of the empires in Eastern Europe led to the formation of nation states. In this process, the First Czechoslovak Republic (1918-1938) was composed of various territories of the former Habsburg monarchy. So, one can find strong differences in terms of constitutional, social, cultural and economic aspects in the respective parts of the country—particularly in the Podkarpatská Rus on which Sebastian Ramisch-Paul focusses. This region was characterized by a population structure in which members of the titular nation of the new national state—i.e. Czechs and Slovaks—were predominantly present in the administrative centers and in the surrounding areas in their function as state employees.

Using the methodological approach of historical security studies, the author shows how ideas of security were shaped by the knowledge of the respective actors and vice versa how security discourses were influenced by the (lacking) knowledge on focussing on Podkarpatská Rus. For them, the “unknown periphery” and its inhabitants in the East of the country were the subject of numerous discourses of securitization due to their geostrategic location between Poland, Romania and Hungary. Hence, this book contributes on the question how minority-majority relations and their juridical frame influenced both identity building and ‘security’ as a societal value in these contexts.

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