Recent research in history of knowledge has reevaluated the idea of how diversity was managed and lived in the 19th century in Central Europe. Be it postcolonial or translation turns, the previously dominating categories of research dominated by methodological nationalism, can be seen but obsolete. Our workshop takes these latest turns in historiography and cultural sciences as the point of departure and asks the question on how the newly emerging categories of linguistic/cultural/ethnic distinction have influenced knowledge production in the region. How were the new categories of belonging constructed, and what was their relation to the new statistic and sociological research? How in turn did the public sphere of the nationalizing center of imperial power (Budapest), itself culturally dominant and dominated by the German language, react to the new developments when facing the paradigmatic transnational, albeit also German-dominated sphere of scientific research?

Preliminary Program:

11.45 Till van Rahden (Montreal): The Genealogy of Minority and Majority as Asymmetrical Concepts. The Perils of Democratic Equality and Fantasies of National Purity

13.15 Lunch Break

14.00 Katalin Straner (Mainz): Science, controversy, and the public sphere in 19th century Hungary: Karl Vogt’s lectures and their audience in Pest 1869

15.00 Coffee Break

15.30 Eszter Gantner (Marburg): Wissensformate und Urbanität: 1880-1914 Budapest

16.30 Concluding Remarks and Final Discussion

Participation is free of charge. Please register until 18 June 2014 via e-mail:

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