

"Modus operandi of the illiberal polypore state: lessons from Hungary?"

Andrea Peto

Hungary moved from a poster country of successful transition from communism in 1989 to a black sheep of the international community in the past 30 years. The paper argues that Hungary serves as a “laboratory” of illiberal policies in constructing a new form of state and gives examples of policies and illiberal policy transfers internationally. The illiberal [polypore state](#) (Grzebalska, Pető 2018) is fundamentally changing the spaces where academics work and activists. This laboratory revoked the license of study programs in gender studies, without explanation and consultation with professional institutions in Hungary. It is attacking science as knowledge, as a profession, and as a practice by making statements about scientific matters without consultation with representatives of the profession. The paper ends with listing possible strategies progressive forces can use against illiberal polypore states.