

THE CROATIAN-HUNGARIAN SETTLEMENT OF 1868: A HYBRID FRAMEWORK AND MODERN GOVERNANCE



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**Public lecture held by
Prof. Dr. Dalibor Čepulo**

Professor Emeritus at the University of Zagreb
**on the occasion of his inauguration
as honorary professor of ELTE University**

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**ELTE Faculty of Law, Faculty Council Room
(1053 Budapest, Egyetem tér 1-3.)**

The Croatian–Hungarian Settlement of 1868 established the legal framework demarcating Croatian autonomy from joint affairs under central government control. This lecture offers a critical re-evaluation of the Settlement, arguing that its inherent hybridity—a synthesis of pre-modern constitutionalism and modern governance—created a doctrinal impasse that positivistic scholarship has failed to resolve. The analysis explores how this 19th-century interpretative paradigm persists through the unresolved debate over whether Croatia-Slavonia was a ‘state’ or a ‘province’. Such an academic *status quo* suggests that a shift toward a broader doctrinal perspective is essential for a comprehensive analysis of the era’s institutions. Consequently, the lecture argues that Croatian autonomy should be interpreted as a ‘hybrid zone’ rather than through a strictly positivistic lens. It further demonstrates how the Settlement, despite its constraints, provided the formal institutional space necessary for the formation of modern Croatian institutions. By placing Croatia in a comparative context with autonomous Finland and Iceland, this lecture elaborates a distinct ‘autonomous path’ of state-building within the broader European experience. Ultimately, this critical case study helps to understand similar processes shaping governance and sovereignty in a contemporary context.

Please register for the event [here](#).

The lecture will be held in English.



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