



## Editorial Preface

The present issue provides a thematic overview of the history of sociology in Romania and Hungary over the past century. Although the individual studies in this volume are not intended to be explicitly comparative, the common features, research themes, goals, and scientific quests that characterize the sociology of the two countries together are clearly visible when the entire content is considered. In both countries, the challenge is the same: how to thematize sociology as an axiologically neutral science in the context of the two world wars, and then, in the face of the socialist regime, how to sustain sociological research that is tolerated by a totalitarian regime. Finally, a common element is how the sociology of our time rescues, recreates, and ultimately preserves the sociological legacy of the last century. These questions are answered in this volume as follows.

First of all, Zoltán Rostás's paper explicitly outlines the common features of the history of sociology in Central and Eastern Europe, as mentioned above, so that we can view the challenges of Hungarian and Romanian sociology in a broader regional context. Next, we are given an insight into the workings of the Gusti School in Bucharest, where Ionuț Butoi's paper documents the ideological, and in many cases even personal, conflicts that often accompany institution building and development. Theodora-Eliza Văcărescu examines the position of women researchers at the Gusti School, highlighting the age-old issue of gender inequality and the need to address the issue of the gendered nature of the research process.

Afterwards, Péter Harsányi will look at the history of sociology in Hungary, examining the content of the Hungarian Review of Social Sciences in the period of 1908–1918, in search of the answer to the question of how the issue of nationality was thematized in contemporary sociology. Éva Ale examines the development of sociography in Hungary, its scientific and institutional challenges, and its survival. Vera Szabari's paper also looks at the challenges of institutionalization in post-1956 Hungarian sociology in the specific contextual climate of the socialist system. Erzsébet Takács's study outlines approaches to the Hungarian sociological discourse up to the present day in the context of a specific topic, natalism. Lastly, Balázs Telegdy's review of Levente Székedi's book shows how Hungarian sociology in Transylvania formulated typical themes and survival options in the post-1945 period.

Reading these papers together, the issue thus aims to provide a snapshot of this characteristic slice of Central and Eastern European sociology while also highlighting how the schools of the time tried to address national, more specific themes in a way that could be integrated into the wider international scholarship.