Gendered History and Memory Politics of Illiberal States

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Abstract:
In her lecture, Andrea Pető discusses a new analytical concept, the illiberal polypore state, when talking about recent developments in history writing, with new forms of controlling hegemonic forms of remembrance. The translation of history and its application, and thus their identity-shaping effect, have become a geopolitical factor and memory politics plays a key role in this process. The memory politics of the “polypore state” is to duplicate institutions, depoliticize research and to empty the narrative about women’s presence and agency in order to attribute meanings of victimhood and anti-communism. Bringing in examples of the history of 1956 and the Holocaust, the lecture claims that memory politics of illiberal polypore states are creating a challenge not only to gender studies scholars, but to academia itself.