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### **From Increasing Medicalization to Class Struggles in Hospital Wards: Doctor-Patient Conflicts in Budapest, 1880s–1930s**

My paper examines patients' complaints about medical treatment written by working class or their employers and submitted between 1896 and 1937 to the Mayor of Budapest or to the chiefs of medicine of public hospitals. Recent historical research (e.g., the works of Claire Barillé or Serenella Nonnis-Vigilante) has increasingly focused on these types of sources particularly from hospitals in Paris, London, Brussels, and Amsterdam, revealing the conflictual nature of doctor-patient relationship in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. These studies highlight that although medical care imposed unfamiliar norms regarding the human body on working-class patients, many of these patients were sufficiently aware of the moral value of their labor to voice complaints about their discomfort. As a result, medical norms frequently conflicted with patients' expectations of modesty and propriety and became subjects of complaints. These issues were not professionally justified, however, doctors' direct responses to them enabled practitioners to communicate the principles and goals of medical treatment personally to these individuals, which was more persuasive than general health propaganda. The targeted messages were considered vital because the increasing medicalization of the urban population was also a means of developing workforce and productivity in industrializing societies.

I argue that in the Hungarian context, such conflicts were not solely shaped by political, economic, and social transformations tied to capitalist industrialization. Instead, my research suggests that these complaints and more their resolutions became means to the doctors to cut in a systematic resistance to the governments (bio)political ambitions and reinforce their professional autonomy. This resistance operated on two levels. Firstly, it increased the professional autonomy of Hungarian physicians at the local/institutional level, which had been weakened by the (Austro-)Hungarian government in comparison to Western European countries in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Secondly, the complaints reveal how the specificities of Hungarian industrialization shaped the doctor-patient relationship differently from other industrializing countries in Europe and how these dynamics hindered patients in advocating for their own interests against their doctors.

**Socializing Access to Environment Across Transitions: The Progressive Heritage of the (Post-)Habsburg Health Resorts, 1890-1930**

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Abstract

The presentation deals with the early initiatives pertaining to socializing the access to environment, by actors such as progressive physicians and pioneer welfare activists, in the late Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and interwar Yugoslavia. Focusing on the establishment of the first health resorts (*Kurorte*) in both Austrian and Hungarian (Croatian) Littoral, it examines the joint development of tourism businesses and institutions dedicated to providing therapy by exposing their residents to the curative environment.

Departing from the understanding that the proponents of these two phenomena were in conflict, the presentation uncovers evidence showing that many of the medical claims that the progressive physicians put forward, had to do with curtailing the influence of the rise of tourism in the local context. The nascent balneotherapy, thalassotherapy and climate therapy, thus both had to earn their positions both within the expert community and in the local political landscape. This was all the more demanding, given the ongoing rivalry between the two imperial realms, in regard to the touristic and economic development of the coastal settlements—such as the Austrian Opatija (Abbazia) and Hungarian Crikvenica.

Using the writings of notable physicians, such as Kálmán Szegő, Johannes Frischauf and Bela Gróo, the presentation will showcase different arguments around environment- and climate-based therapy, promoted by those who sought to socialize it, as well as those who aimed at maintaining it within the framework of elite tourism. Their booklets, expert articles on medial treatments, as well as brochures promoting the local sanatoria, comprise the main body of sources for the study, alongside the relevant articles from the daily press.

Finally, the presentation will contrast this debate with the status of these institutions that had transitioned into interwar Yugoslavia, becoming projects of Czech women welfare activists, Marija Steyskalova and Berta Drgáčová, who used them to establish a Czechoslovak “children's colony”, paving the way to the nationalization of this network of institutions, that was to happen at the advent of state socialism.

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The Early Ambulance Movement:  
Roots and Ties in Central Europe, 1880s–1910s

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At the close of the nineteenth century, central European cities had ramped up their social welfare networks. Institutions to care for the sick, poor, and elderly sprouted. As did efforts to regulate childcare and educate the public on sanitation and personal hygiene. Cities like Munich (1894), Prague (1890), and Vienna (1883) also saw volunteer-based ambulance services emerge who assumed responsibilities in many of these policy fields; yet they primarily sought to provide emergency medical care and transportation of the sick and accident stricken. This paper explores the interconnected nature of and exchanges between the early ambulance movement in central European cities.

Instead of focusing on first aid's lineage in the military sphere, this paper establishes ambulances as key components of modern urban infrastructure. Ambulances compressed both space and time in rapidly expanding cities and provided state of the art medical care. The spread of public transportation, automobiles, and early experiments in aviation and the bodily damage these technologies could cause, also brought new challenges for first responders. While they adapted and improvised, medical professionals frowned upon these volunteer-based organization or outright resented them.

Between the 1890s and the 1910s, organizations that emulated Vienna's Voluntary Ambulance Association (VVAA), mushroomed across central Europe. At times connected to the Red Cross movement, not seldom taken over by and incorporated into the municipalities that they served, and often enmeshed in bitter rivalries with other emergency health care providers, these organizations took a different trajectory yet shared a similar origin story. Using a variety of sources from meeting minutes and annual reports to case files and newspapers, this paper addresses the key role that ambulances played in shaping central European cities at the turn of the century.