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**PAPER PROPOSAL**

Karolina Lendák-Kabók

**NAME**:

Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

**AFFILIATION**:

Karolina.kabok@tatk.elte.hu

**EMAIL**:

**CO-AUTHOR**

**(if applicable):**

Róbert Badis

**NAME**:

University of Szeged, Hungary

**AFFILIATION**:

badisrobert@gmail.com

**EMAIL**:

Ethnic exogamy in the nation state era – a case study of Vojvodina

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**ABSTRACT** (500 words)

An essential element of social cohesion and contact between majorities and sub-state or autochthonous ethnic minorities are intermarriages, which are either welcomed as vehicles easing the tensions between nations and sub-state minorities or criticized as important drivers of assimilation and the ‘destroyers’ of ethnic minority communities. Serbia has been recovering from the trauma of nationalist conflicts since the 2000s, but twenty years on, nationalist ethnopolitics continues to permeate society and favours the further rise of the (Serbian) nation-state. Through the study of intermarriages and ethnic socialization within mixed families, our study examines the nature of the ethnic boundary between three minority communities: Hungarians, Slovaks, Romanians, and majority Serbs through intermarriages in Vojvodina, the multi-ethnic northern province of Serbia. We will examine the factors that influence exogamy based on statistical data over a twenty-year time frame, from 2002 to 2021, by presenting statistical indicators of mixed marriages for the territory of Vojvodina. We will also present the data analysis for six municipalities of particular interest for our abovementioned ethnic groups as they are autochthonous minorities with a considerable size in the municipalities of our focus. In our study, we seek to answer the following questions: (1) how ethnic exogamy relates to ethnic boundaries; (2) what the gender relation in mixed marriages and which gender is more prone to exogamy; (3) how ethnic-cultural reproduction within intermarriages developing. The results show that (1) a decrease in the number and proportion of a national minority (dispersal) increases the likelihood of heterogamy; (2) minority women choose a spouse of a different nationality to a greater extent than men; (3) cultural, ethnic reproduction within mixed marriages is asymmetric, tilted towards the majority nation. In the paper, the results will be related to the theoretical underpinnings and Serbia’s continiously developing nation-state efforts.

**BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT** (100 words)

Ass. prof. Karolina Lendák-Kabók is affiliated with the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad (Serbia) and she is a Marie Sklodowska-Curie Individual Fellow 2022-2024 at the Faculty of Social Sciences, ELTE (Hungary). She obtained her PhD degree from the University of Novi Sad in 2019. The focus of her research is the position of ethnic minorities, language barrier, gender differences in academia and ethnic intermarriages. She recently published a book titled: Ethnic Minorities in Serbian Academia – the Role of Gender and Language Barrier, Palgrave Macmillian (2022).

**CO-AUTHOR BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT (if applicable)** (100 words)

Róbert Badis is a sociologist who studied at the University of Szeged. Currently he is working on his PhD thesis researching the position of Hungarians living in Vojvodina. After graduating, he worked as a journalist for the Hungarian newspaper Magyar Szó and then as a sociology teacher at the Bolyai High School and Dormitory for Gifted Students. He was the coordinator and responsible for several research projects in Vojvodina. He is responsible for the organization of research and the management of sociological data collection. His fields of interest are the structure of minority society, minority sampling, and analysis of national identity.