

## ABSTRACTS

### COMPARING THE INCOMPARABLE?

Antisemitism in Austria and Slovakia between the World Wars

*Miloslav Szabó*

In my speech on the occasion of the awarding of the Collegium Carolinum Essay Prize in 2021, I sum up my years of research on the history of antisemitism in Central Europe. I begin by sketching the concept of populist antisemitism I have developed, an approach that analytically captures efforts aimed at distancing their proponents from political “racial antisemitism” while simultaneously insisting on the justification of the “Jewish question”. Such efforts emerged around 1900 in the circles of political Catholicism and the non-dominant national movements within the Habsburg Monarchy.

These strategies of a “better antisemitism” are initially carved out using the example of the Slovak national movement during the period of Austrian-Hungarian dualism. Building on this foundation, I subsequently expand the field of view to include a comparative perspective and discuss the antisemitic radicalisation in interwar Austria and Slovakia characterised by a Catholic-confessional imprint. In doing so, I foreground how the aporia of the national-Catholic self-images and attempts at distancing was undermined by the genuinely anti-emancipatory character of the antisemitic semantics and practice.