

The Labor of Commoning: Women Against Authoritarian Populism in Hungary

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Motivation

- This project proposes that dismantling the commons of the state socialist period (1945-1989) was instrumental to cementing authoritarian populism in post-2010 Hungary.
- It examines women's vital role in consolidating an opposition to authoritarian populism by using analog media to mobilize communities to build new commons.

Project Description

- I will analyze prominent forms of analog and digital media activism, which include
 - counter-billboard campaigns
 - street art
 - internet memes
 - independent theater
 - political vlogging

Context

- Rightwing populism is predominantly studied by political scientists who analyze the political programs of populist parties and the constitutive elements of these programs such as exclusionism.
- By contrast, I investigate rightwing populism ethnographically by focusing on the lived experience of exclusionism and the forms of opposition it animates.



Women removing the government's anti-immigration billboards in Budapest, Hungary.

**This project
investigates how
women use analog and
digital media to fight
authoritarian
populism in Hungary.**

Project Deliverables

- By end of the 1-year funding period, I will have completed a book manuscript and submitted it for review. I will have also submitted an article based on this project.
- Within 1-2 years after the funding period has ended, the book and the essay will be close to publication.
- The mid-term and final goals of this project will be to have a book manuscript and the essay under review and, finally, to have these works published.

Potential Impact

- Exploring the place of media in rightwing populism will shed light on the intensely mediated nature of populism, which inspires a conceptualization of populism not only as a political program, but also as a political style.
- Analyzing authoritarian populism through the lens of gender will provide insight into understanding how rightwing populism flexibly exploits and reinforces locally prevalent forms of discrimination and structural violence.

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