Living under populism: Interpretive-structural coding and semantic network analysis of Czech and Polish ethnographic interviews

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22 MAY 2025 THURSDAY 15.00-17.00 CET INSTITUTE OF ETHNOLOGY, CAS

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This presentation draws on two interrelated projects: a multidisciplinary study of right-wing populism in East Central Europe and a comparative analysis of Czech and Polish populisms. Together, the projects aim to develop a comprehensive theory of right-wing populism that accounts for both top-down (supply) and bottom-up (demand) processes. The talk focuses on the bottom-up cultural dimension, informed by extensive interview data collected in Czechia and Poland. In analysing this material, two methodological

approaches are being developed - the interpretive-structural coding and semantic network analysis - with the goal of constructing a robust ontology of everyday meaning-making categories. The research follows an abductive logic, integrating empirical findings with existing theories of populism to uncover how everyday meaning-making contributes to the broader populist landscape in the region.

The event is supported by the ERC Starting Grant 'Memory and Populism from Below' (MEMPOP) #101076092

