The collapse of central empires that followed the First World War led to the reorganization of statehood in the region. Taking the Hungarian case as a springboard to tackle this transformation, the presentation will address the issue of minority protection as a new field of international governance that emerged from the Peace Treaties. Using this opportunity to discuss the recent scholarship on the post-imperial transition, I would like to question the practices and representations surrounding the minority protection and the communication channels between the young Hungarian nation-state and the League of Nations as international guardian of the new order. Beyond the much emphasized novelty of the legal notion of minority, how did the actors rely on old logics and representations to support their claims? What traces of imperial legacy of the Habsburg nationality politics can be found in the successor states, Hungary in particular?

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