

The Institute of Sociology, Centre for Social Sciences, HAS  
cordially invites you to its forty-ninth *Jour fixe* event:

**Gábor Erőss:**

## Is empirical sociology still feasible?

**New methods and new approaches in public education research in Hungary**

**Presenter:** Gábor Erőss (MTA TK SZI)

**Discussants:** Andrea Schmidt (MTA TK SZI) and János Zolnay (education researcher)



### Abstract

Using Merton's „specified ignorance” concept, my presentation seeks to identify and analyze the ways researchers do research in a context where institutions obstruct research.

Current education policy in Hungary is criticized in scientific discourse of constructing a barrier for those who would like to conduct classical research of schools: researchers feel that they are not likely to break through the „walls” of the central educational maintaining office, the KLIK.

How can educational research still be done in the 2010ies in Hungary, how can we produce knowledge about schools if we cannot enter them? In my presentation I'll discuss researchers' strategies of using different substitute knowledges, alternative methodologies in order to collect information on education, such as: big data, private schools, protest movements, lay discourses, public discourse and narratives on education, international surveys, social theory, long-term anthropology, etc.

Based on an exploratory research conducted with Eszter Berényi, I will present a preliminary typology of contemporary substitute research strategies in Hungary in education research, with reference both to similar strategies in Hungary during communism and to other contemporary authoritarian or hybrid regimes, and also by using the theory of non-knowledge (Beck 1996, Weingart 2003, Wehling 2006, Erőss 2009).

**Key words:** evidence-based knowledge, sociology of science, education, authoritarian and hybrid regimes

### Venue:

Institute for Sociology, Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences  
Hegedüs room, Budapest I. Úri u. 49.

**Time:** 8 December, 2016 (Thursday), 13:00