

A FEW WORDS TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE...

The International Relations Multidisciplinary Doctoral School of Corvinus University of Budapest, established more than a quarter century ago, is not only one of the largest doctoral schools in the country but, in fact, the only doctoral school in the area of International Relations in Hungary. The school is a unique combination of three different programmes, i.e., International and Security Studies, World Economy, and Geopolitics. The three tracks are represented and authorised by three institutes of CUB's Faculty of Social Sciences and International Relations, namely the Institute of International Studies, the Institute of World Economy, and the Institute of Economic Geography, Geoeconomy and Sustainable Development, respectively.

With three distinct programmes, the doctoral school is the home of several different fields of ideas, thoughts and methodologies. It is exactly this multi-coloured nature and the unconditional respect of these diverging approaches, views and methods that makes the school unique not just in the country but also in the region. The diversity is made evident by the fact that by joining the doctoral school, students have the opportunity to earn a PhD degree in either economics (by engaging in the World Economy programme) or in Political Science (by taking any of the other two programmes). Furthermore, students can choose from a wide range of courses with a special focus on Area Studies, including the European Union, Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, the Far East, Latin America or the US. As a consequence, the school hosts talented students from all over the world, from China through Brazil and Nigeria to the US.

Our academics and our doctoral students have now joined forces to demonstrate their research excellence on the pages of *Köz-gazdaság*, one of the leading academic journals of Hungary. The collection of scholarly works in this special issue reflects both the diversity of research activity and the commitment to high quality scholarly work. Topics cover a wide range of hot topics in international relations from financial crises, economic governance or FDI to the politics and/or political economy of international trade, climate change, or energy. It also offers a critical view on bilateral and multilateral relationships in the context of China, Russia, Morocco, Turkey, etc. Our authors have also chosen to reflect upon the latest developments in higher education and the academia itself, along with the possible challenges in the sector. I hope that our readers will take great pleasure in browsing among these pieces.

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