

# Beyond the North/South and East/West Divides: Understanding Global Inequalities and Diversity

14<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Venue: The Mirror Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

## *Programme:*

09:30 – 10:00 Registration

### **10:00 – 10:05 Opening**

**Petr Kratochvíl**, Director, Institute of International Relations, Prague

### **10:05 – 11:15 Panel I: The outcomes of the RESAREAS project in the field of theory, methodology and reflection on non-European territories**

**Ondřej Horký-Hlucháň**, Head of Research Department, Institute of International Relations, Prague: *Theory*

**Vít Beneš**, Research Fellow, Institute of International Relations, Prague: *Methodology*

**Petr Drulák**, Professor, Charles University, and former Director of the Institute of International Relations, Prague: *Reflection*

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break

### **11:30 – 13:00 Panel II: Case studies on the North/South and East/West divides**

*Chair: Tomáš Profant, Institute of International Relations, Prague*

**Vladan Hodulák**, Department of International Relations and European Studies, Masaryk University, Brno: *The balance of payments crises in the light of North-South and West-East divide*

**Martina Varkočková**, Metropolitan University Prague and Institute of International Relations, Prague: *Agnology: The legacy of Soviet orientology and puzzles of contemporary post-soviet Central Asia*

**Nad'a Johanisová**, Department of Environmental Studies, Masaryk University, Brno: *Co-operatives in post-socialist Central Europe as a contested concept*

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

### **14:00 – 16:00 Keynote speech by Attila Melegh on the East/West slope and discussion**

*Chair: Pavel Barša, Professor, Charles University, and Institute of International Relations, Prague*

**Attila Melegh**, Senior Advisor, Central Statistical Office, Budapest and an Associate Professor, Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, Corvinus University, Budapest: *What is happening to the East/West slope*

16:00 – 16:30 A toast by **Vlastimil Fiala**, Head of the RESAREAS project, University of Hradec Králové, on the occasion of the conclusion of the RESAREAS project.



**Attila Melegh** is senior advisor at Central Statistical Office, Budapest and an associate professor at Corvinus University of Budapest. He also lectures in a teaching excellence program in Russia and has done so before in Russia and Georgia. His current research covers comparative demographic attitudes, discourses, demographic structures, international migration and global social change.

Among others he is the author of *On the East/West Slope. Globalization, Nationalism, Racism and Discourses on Central and Eastern Europe*. (Budapest, CEU Press, 2006). Melegh's work offers a powerful analysis of the sociological and symbolic meanings of East-West in Europe after the end of the Cold War. Melegh exposes the underbelly of liberal characterizations of East-West, highlighting the polarizing effect of extreme nationalism and ethnic racism. The theoretical underpinnings of this work involve the ideas of preeminent theorists such as Karl Mannheim, Michel Foucault and more recently Maria Todorova and Iver Neumann. The importance of this work lies in its ability to cast into fine relief how the "East-West Slope" oriented negatively from West to East has emerged from liberal characterizations of this project. In addition this is one of the first attempts to link post-colonial analysis to developments in Eastern Europe.