

Title	Law and Politics in the Era of Climate and
	Ecological Crisis
Lecturer(s):	Dr. Attila Antal, ELTE Faculty of Law, Institute of Political Sciences
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Brief description	This course is about the impact of the various crisis trends of recent years (the protracted crisis of liberal democracy in the North Atlantic political space, the challenges of populism, the global ecological and climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic and the war crises) on Western legal systems. In times of emergency, crises, ecological, public health and social crises (polycrisis), the strengthening of executive power is therefore a natural phenomenon, both historically and politically, as is the (constitutional) desire of legal and political systems and communities to limit the use of extraordinary measures of governance. It follows that, in modern constitutional systems, the temporary suspension of normality, of the constitutional normal state, cannot in principle be considered undemocratic, since the purpose of this drastic step is precisely to protect the status quo. In any objective emergency (especially in the case of a pandemic that is in many respects uncertain and gives rise to doubts), the question of whether governance by extraordinary means is democratic is a very difficult one. Even more so since there can be legitimate disagreements between societies and within societies about the balance between civil liberties and public health. I think that COVID-19 (and the embedding of emergency models in the ideological and historical debates of the 20th century and beyond) has shown that we need to fundamentally rethink the paradigm of exceptional governance and that we can by no means rely on absolutes. In other words, the concentration of executive power is not anti-democratic in principle, but it can easily become so without active (and of course extraordinary compared to the normal state of affairs) controls.
Schedule	Law and Politics in the Era of Climate and Ecological Crisis - CHARM-EU

16	
Materials/Recommended	ANTAL, Attila: Hungary in State of Exception Authoritarian
readings	Neoliberalism from the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy to the
	COVID-19 Crisis. Lanham, 2022.
	ANTAL, Attila: The Rise of Hungarian Populism. State
	Autocracy and the Orbán Regime. Bingley, 2019., DOI:
	https://doi.org/10.1108/9781838677510
	ANTAL, Attila: Emergency Power in Hungary and the COVID-
	19. Canadian Journal of European and Russian Studies, 16 (3):59-
	77. https://doi.org/10.22215/cjers.v16i3.3727.
	https://ojs.library.carleton.ca/index.php/CJERS/article/view/3727
	ACKERMAN, Bruce: The Decline and Fall of the American
	Republic. London, 2013., DOI:
	https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctvjnrw2p
	AGAMBEN, Giorgio: Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life. Transl.: D. Heller-Roazen. California, 1998.
	, ,
	AGAMBEN, Giorgio: Remnants of Auschwitz: The Witness and
	the Archive. Transl.: D. Heller-Roazen. New York, 1999.
	AGAMBEN, Giorgio: State of Exception. Chicago, 2005., DOI:
	https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv1134d6w.16
	AGAMBEN, Giorgio: The Invention of an Epidemic. Quodlibet,
	2020.02.26., https://www.quodlibet.it/giorgio-agamben-l-
	invenzione-di-un-epidemia
	BENJAMIN, Walter: Critique of violence. In BULLOCK,
	Marcus – JENNINGS, Michael W. (eds): Selected Writings. Vol.
	1. 1913–1926. Cambridge, 1921., 1996.
	BJØRNSKOV, Christian – VOIGT, Stefan: The architecture of
	emergency constitutions. International Journal of Constitutional
	Law, 16. (2018) 1., 101–127., DOI:
	https://doi.org/10.1093/icon/moy012
	COPPEDGE, Michael: Eroding regimes: What, where, and when?
	Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Institute Working paper, (2017)
	57., https://www.v-dem.net/media/publications/v-
	dem_working_paper_2017_57.pdf
	CORRADETTI, Claudio – POLLICINO, Oreste: The "War"
	Against Covid-19: State of Exception, State of Siege, or
	(Constitutional) Emergency Powers?: The Italian Case in
	Comparative Perspective. German Law Journal, 22. (2021) 6.,
	1060–1071., DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/glj.2021.48
Assessment/Exam	Presentation at the end of the course.