**Susan Zimmermann**, *Central European University, Hungary*

**Hungarian Trade Union Women and the Struggle for Equality and Difference at the Workplace, 1965-1980s**

In 1970 the Hungarian National Association of Trade Unions issued a directive on ‘the political and economic situation of working women and the further tasks’. The directive, which involved a strong focus on women’s paid work and the workplace, signalled the beginning of a new era in workplace-related activism on behalf of women in Hungary. In this paper I discuss the contribution of trade union women to bringing about the 1970 directive, the organizational and activist dimension of the new era of workplace-related policies on behalf of women from 1970 onwards, and the ensuing struggles around equal pay and accommodating women’s working time, two core issues the evolving new policies addressed. The paper will also discuss why and how a focus on the relationship between issues of gender and issues of class in trade-union women’s activism in state-socialist contexts and elsewhere can make an important contribution to the advancement of global labour history. How did Hungarian trade union women make use of and possibly try to expand or alter the space of action for trade union policies in the state-socialist context? How was opposition to their policies and activism framed in this particular context, in which some of the arguments and strategies so well-known from other contexts – for instance about insurmountable reasons for ‘delay’ in fulfilling women’s demands – were less common?