

***Everyday Illiberalism: How Hungarian Subnational Politics Propel Single Party
Dominance***

Laura Jákli^a and Matthew Stenberg^a

Draft Date: July 5, 2017

Contact Information:

Corresponding author: Laura Jákli

^aUniversity of California, Berkeley
210 Barrows Hall #1950
Berkeley, CA 94720
United States

E-mail addresses:

laurajakli@berkeley.edu

Stenberg@berkeley.edu

Phone:

+1-510-642-6323

*Everyday Illiberalism: How Hungarian Subnational Politics Propel Single Party
Dominance*

This study considers the more “mundane,” subnational procedural mechanisms behind Hungary’s illiberalism, utilizing in-depth elite interviews (n=26) across five major Hungarian regional centers as well as election data and local policy analysis. Viktor Orbán’s establishment of illiberal democracy has increased subnational capacity to implement policies that constrain political contestation and bolster single party dominance. The local procedural mechanisms we examine constrain the re-emergence of political contenders in Hungary, calling into question the local resilience of democratic practices and procedures. Our research contends that the relative autonomy of subnational actors has enabled single party consolidation and exacerbated post-Communist countries’ authoritarian tendencies.