



Hungarian Studies Association

HSA Newsletter, Fall 2018

HSA News & Notes

ASEEES Convention, Dec. 6-9, Boston

The annual convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) will be held on the theme of "Performance" at the Boston Marriot Copley Place hotel. The Spring/Summer issue of the HSA Newsletter contained a list of panels relevant to Hungary. Additional information about the convention can be found at <http://aseees.org/convention>.

Hungarian Studies Association Annual Meeting

A meeting and reception of HSA will take place during the ASEEEES convention on Saturday, December 8 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Boston Marriott Copley Place, 3, Brandeis. Come and meet fellow scholars engaged in Hungarian studies. This is an excellent opportunity to network, socialize, share news, and learn about publication opportunities. Refreshments will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

Dues

The HSA meeting is a great time to pay your \$25 dues for 2018 (if you have not done so already) or for 2019. There will be an opportunity to pay in person at ASEEEES by cash or check, or online anytime at:

<https://hungstudiesassoc.com/membership/>.

Looking Ahead: ASEEEES 2019

Next year's ASEEEES convention will be held Saturday, November 23 – Tuesday, November 26, at the San Francisco Marriot Marquis. The third biennial ASEEEES Summer Convention will take place June 14-16 at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Studies, University of Zagreb (for more information: <https://www.aseees.org/summer-convention>).

Facebook

Don't forget to like us on Facebook! Many announcements, CFPs, etc. we receive have a short deadline that will have already passed by the next newsletter, but can be found on our Facebook page.

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Some Recent Publications by Hungarian Studies Association Members (2017)

Below are selected recent publications (primarily books and peer-reviewed articles) from 2017 that were submitted by HAS members. Keep an eye out in January 2019 for a call to share your 2018 publications!

Nandor Dreisziger, *Footprints: The Hungarian Legacy in Canada* (Kingston ON: HSR, 2017).

Katalin Fabian. "Parents Rebelling against the State: Emotions and Images in the Hungarian Home-Birth Movement" In Katalin Fábrián and Elżbieta Korolczuk eds. *Rebellious Parents: Parents' Movements in Central-Eastern Europe and Russia* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2017).

_____, "The Politics of Domestic Violence in Central Europe: International and Domestic Contestations" In Eve S. Buzawa ed. *Global Perspectives on Domestic Violence* (New York: Springer International Publishing, 2017).

Katalin Fabian and Elżbieta Korolczuk, "Introduction: Rebellious Parents in Central-Eastern Europe and Russia" In: Katalin Fábrián and Elżbieta Korolczuk (eds.), *Rebellious Parents: Parents' Movements in Central-Eastern Europe and Russia* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2017).

_____, eds., *Rebellious Parents: Parents' Movements in Central-Eastern Europe and Russia*. (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2017).

_____, "Regional and Theoretical Lessons: New Perspectives on Civil Societies and Ambiguities toward the State, the West, and Gender Equality" In: Katalin Fábrián and Elżbieta Korolczuk eds. *Rebellious Parents: Parents' Movements in Central-Eastern Europe and Russia* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2017).

Péter Krekó and Attila Juhász, *The Hungarian Far Right: Social Demand, Political Supply, and International Context* (Stuttgart: Ibidem-Verlag, 2017).

Péter Krekó and Mónika Kovács, "„Tesztoszteronpárt”-e még a Jobbik? Nemi különbségek és szavazási motivációk a néppártosodó Jobbik szavazótáborában" In: Kovács Mónika ed. *Társadalmi nemek. Elméleti megközelítések és kutatási eredmények* (Budapest: ELTE Eötvös Kiadó, 2017): 219-236.

Péter Krekó, Dániel Kovarek, Dániel Róna, and Bulcsú Hunyadi, "Scapegoat-based policy making in Hungary: qualitative evidence for how Jobbik and its mayors govern municipalities" In: *Intersections: East European journal of Society and Politics* vol. 3 no. 3 (2017): 63-87.

Péter Krekó and A. Polyakova, "Will Populist Leaders Make Voters Love Putin?" In: *American Interest*, (January 2 2017).

Péter Krekó, Krisztián Szabados, and Attila Juhász, "Fidesz und der Nationalpopulismus in Ungarn" In: Ernst Hillebrand ed. *Rechtspopulismus in Europa: Gefahr für die Demokratie*. (Bonn: Verlag J.H.W. Dietz, 2017): 97-105.

David S. Frey, "Echoes of the Shoah: the 1951 Resettlement of Budapest's Jews" In: Derek Rubin and Hans Krabbendam eds. *American Responses to the Holocaust: Transatlantic Perspectives* (Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2017).

_____, *Jews, Nazis, and the Cinema of Hungary: The Tragedy of Success, 1929-44* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2017).

Arpad von Klimó, "The Victims of Mass Violence and the End of the Communist Regime in Hungary" In: Zita Horváth and János Rada eds. *Társadalomtörténeti tanulmányok Tóth Zoltán emlékére*. (Miskolc: Miskolci Egyetemi Kiadó, 2017).

Recent Publications (contd.)

Irina Livezeanu and Arpad von Klimó eds., *History of East Central Europe since 1700* (London, New York: Routledge, 2017).

Catherine Portuges, "Iconic Turns: Nation and Religion in Eastern European Cinema since 1989 (Brill 2014), Review" *REGIONS, Regional Studies of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia*, vol. 6 no.1 (2017): 167-169.

_____, "MÁRTA MÉSZÁROS, Reluctant Feminist" GoEast Film Festival Retrospective, (Wiesbaden, Germany April 2017).

Catherine Portuges and Kristian Feigelson, "Screen Memory: The Jewish Question," *Hungarian Studies* vol. 31 no.1 (2017), 19-38. <https://doi.org/10.1556/044.2017.31.1.2>.

Annemarie Steidl, Wladimir Fischer-Nebmaier, and James W. Oberly, *From a Multiethnic Empire to a Nation of Nations: Austro-Hungarian Migrants in the US, 1870-1940* (Innsbruck: StudienVerlag, 2017).

John C. Swanson, *Tangible Belonging: Negotiating Germanness in Twentieth-Century Hungary* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2017).



CONTRIBUTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Congratulations to HSA members Bettina Fabos (Creator), Leslie Waters (Editor and Advisor), and Kristina Poznan (Editor and Advisor) on the release of "Proud and Torn: A Visual Memoir of Hungarian History" at proudandtorn.org. A 'visual memoir,' the digital history project chronicles the vicissitudes of a Hungarian peasant family over multiple generations. By means of nearly a thousand images, many on publicly display for the first time, graphic maps, and drawings, it provides users of all ages with an accessible introduction to the complexities of Hungarian and Eastern European history.

- Indiana University Summer Language Workshop (SLW) offers intensive introductory Hungarian instruction June 3- July 26, 2019. Funding support is available. Deadlines: for funding application January/February 2019; for course application May 7, 2019. SLW also offers TITLE VIII OVERSEAS FELLOWSHIPS to support study of Hungarian at post-introductory level in Hungary by US citizen graduate students, area specialists, and scholars. Deadline for application: February 1, 2017. More at: Indianalanguageworkshop

Lessons from the “Dark Side” of Hungarian Politics with Dr. Péter Krekó, Budapest

Interview by Jessica Storey-Nagy, Indiana University

Péter, you are both a professor at ELTE University and Executive Director of Political Capital, a Budapest-based political think-tank in Budapest. We met when you were a Fulbright visiting professor at Indiana University, Bloomington for the 2016-2017 academic year. Can you tell me a bit about what landed you in these positions and about your personal research interests? When did you become interested in, as your site Politicalcapital.hu professes, “Russian ‘soft power’ policies and political populism and extremism in Europe?”

I was always simply more curious about the “dark side” than the “bright side”. I am a social psychologist and political scientist, and topics such as happiness, democracy, well-being, and trust I always found banal and boring as opposed to the far more interesting mistrust, conspiracy theories, anti-democratic tendencies, and extremist movements. Similarly, I found the negative characters in movies more interesting than the heroes.

But of course, as we define what is negative and conduct research on the negative side of mankind and political systems, we learn much about the positive side as well. You can understand best what democracy is when it is in danger, or when you do research on anti-democratic movements. And you can learn more about what trust is by researching endemic mistrust, as we do in our work on the science of conspiracy theories.

At Political Capital Institute, we deal a lot with malign soft power and institutional influence coming from Russia. In fact, the influence of the Kremlin and its proxies came into the picture while we were investigating the European far-right. After the Georgian conflict and then the Ukrainian conflict, it became obvious that there was an increasing sympathy towards Russia from the far-right (and sometimes the far-left). It is more than just an ideological attraction.

Currently, my research focuses of tribalism (which I think better describes political trends nowadays than the term populism), conspiracy theories and fake news, and Russian influence.

I have a quite unfortunate track record: every fringe negative phenomenon I have researched has become mainstream. I started to do research on the far-right in about 2008- when it was pretty weak in Hungary and without parliamentary representation. Now a far-right party, Jobbik, is in parliament with 20 percent of the votes and Fidesz, the governmental party with a two-thirds majority, is using the rhetoric and implementing the policies of the far-right in Hungary. Far-right parties are in government in many countries, including Italy and Austria. I started to do research conspiracy theories in 2009, when it was pretty fringe- and right now they are becoming official in many countries, with conspiracy believers in government in Hungary, Greece, Italy, Austria, and even in the US. When we started to do research on Russian political influence in 2009, it was also on the margins- and then it became a hot topic. I might start to do research on positive things such as world peace, hoping it will become mainstream as well.

Can you tell us a bit about your new book: “The Hungarian Far-Right” co-authored with Attila Juhász? How did the project start and progress? Why did you feel compelled to write it?

We started to write it a long time ago, and back then it was a book that we aimed to write about only Jobbik, which was a genuine extremist, racist party back then. But then we had to finish the book on the government of Fidesz which has become even more radical than Jobbik, especially since the 2015 refugee crisis.

Since then, we have observed a parallel phenomenon: the mainstreamization of the extreme and the extremization of the mainstream. In mainstreaming the extreme and extremizing the mainstream, Orbán was able to instrumentalize Jobbik’s politics. Orbán himself did a great deal to radicalize a part of his electorate through harsh anti-communist, anti-liberal, anti-Western rhetoric. Orbán also knows he benefits from the political presence of Jobbik: it effectively divides the opposition to his regime between two poles. And Orbán’s ideology and politics are intertwined in serving his long-term strategic goal of establishing a consolidated illiberal system—they have not just been reactive steps to counter Jobbik’s rise. Orbán needs a radical nationalist ideology not to challenge Jobbik, but rather to justify the illiberal system he is building up. But anyway, the extremization of Fidesz and mainstreamization of Jobbik lead to a convergence between the ideologies of policies of these parties.

As the ideology and rhetoric of the Hungarian far-right became the mainstream, has the same thing happened in Poland?

What we have observed in the last few years in Hungary is that it has become a site of pilgrimage for the European far-right where their dreams have come true. Ruin writings (a symbolic marker of the far-right nationalism) indicate Hungarian city borders, anti-immigrant posters financed by the government are all around, and there are constant references to Hungary as a crusader defending Europe from Muslim immigration. Orbán’s friendship with Erdogan does not disturb these narratives. Hungary, as we discussed in a recent piece with Zsolt Enyedi from CEU, has become a laboratory of illiberal governance. And the experiment works well, so it is spreading to other countries.

Poland has learned and continues to learn a lot from Hungary, but the process began later there. It is a bigger and more decentralized country, and the NGO sector is stronger with more grass-roots mobilization potential. There is a great lesson for other countries to learn, including Poland from these examples: trust and defend your institutions.

Does Russia have a hand in Hungarian politics, and if so, how? Tell us more about the influence of Russian soft power.

Russia has had and continues to have an influence on Hungarian politics in three ways. First, it serves as an illiberal role model for Orbán. The occupation of the media and cracking down on the NGO-sector follows the Russian playbook, just in a more moderate manner given that Hungary is an EU and NATO member.

Second, Russia is an important source of ideology for Orbán. We can see that narratives from Russian propaganda (e.g. CIA and George Soros as organizer of the Maidan protests) found their way into Hungarian mainstream media. The “decline of the West” narrative that is

dominant in the (neo-) Eurasianist semi-official ideology of the Russian State, is pushed through government-controlled propaganda channels in Hungary, via fake news and conspiracy theories.

Third, Russia influences Hungary's foreign policy. Hungary is the only country that is blocking Ukraine's euro-Atlantic integration on the international level, and Orbán strongly argues against placing sanctions against Russia. Hungarian Foreign policy follows the line of Moscow in multiple and increasing dimensions.

Did you see the fall of Jobbik's party leader Gábor Vona as imminent, a possibility, or a surprise? How does the re-structuring of Jobbik supporters into multiple groups and the domination of Fidesz change the Hungarian far-right?

Jobbik has become weak and divided. The party expectation was that they could win the elections, but the reality was that they could never have come close. (Vona pledged to resign if Jobbik did not "win" the election.) The most difficult challenge for Jobbik since 2015 has been: what can a radical-right party do if the government in power implements your previous program? I think Jobbik will flip-flop between more centrist and radical positions, but in general, they have lost their mobilization potential. Still, they can keep their status as a middle-sized party. In the last elections, for example, they once again won 20 percent of the vote.

In this volatile political climate, what is it like to be an academic in Hungary today? What is the current mood at ELTE after losing the Gender Studies Department? Has it affected the way other university departments function? How do you feel academics in the United States can help the Hungarian academy?

I think Academics in Hungary have to continue to do their work as they did before, but at the same time, raise their voices at pivotal moments (e.g. right now, as homelessness is criminalized in Hungary). So far, I do not perceive any impact of the political climate on my professional academic life, but it can change quickly. My faculty has a good dean and my department has a good chair. Their moral integrity helps to keep independence in academic research in Hungary. But we do not know how long it will last. The Hungarian government launched a "cultural war," and universities and academic institutions will suffer from it as well.

How can academics in the U.S. help? Come to Hungary and deliver talks. Support petitions, invite Hungarian academics to the United States so they can tell their stories, deliver lectures, and teach their courses to students. I think the story of Hungary is interesting, important and can teach the United States many lessons on multiple planes.

Péter Krekó is an assistant professor at ELTE University, where he teaches in the Department of Social Psychology and the Institute of Psychology and serves as a member of the Political Psychology Research Lab. A list of his numerous publications on Hungarian and broader Central European politics can be found at: https://vm.mtmt.hu/search/slist.php?nwi=1&initd=1&ty_on=1&url_on=1&cite_type=2&orderby=3D1a&location=mtmt&stn=1&AuthorID=10028059&Scientific=1.

Jessica Storey-Nagy is a doctoral student in the Department of Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University with a concentration in Hungarian Studies. Her dissertation addresses discursive processes of national identity construction in modern Hungary.

Academic Opportunities

Hungarian Studies Association of Canada (HSAC)

CALL FOR PAPERS for the 2019 Annual Conference

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada June 1-3, 2019.

Beszélgetések/Conversations: Hungarian Studies for the Twenty-First Century

The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada invites proposals for individual papers, posters, roundtable discussions, workshops, complete panels, and other innovative presentations and sessions for our annual conference to be held in conjunction with the Congress of Social Sciences and Humanities at the **University of British Columbia, June 1-3, 2019**. Submissions should include a **maximum 300 word abstract and a brief 100 word bio which can be used to introduce the speaker**. Since both the abstract and the bio will be published online, they should be prepared in Word format using Times New Roman font 12. **Abstracts should be sent electronically both** to the Chair of the Program Committee, Steven Jobbitt (sjobbitt@lakeheadu.ca) and to the Secretary of HSAC, Judy Young (judyyoung@drache.ca). Proposals are preferred in English or French but will also be accepted in Hungarian if an English language abstract is also provided. Presentations at the conference are no longer than 20 minutes with an additional 5-10 minutes for discussion. The deadline for submission is **December 15th 2018**. We will notify authors of the Committee's decisions by January 4th 2019. For more information, visit: <http://hungarianstudies.org/blog/2018/10/20/call-for-papers-2019/>.

American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA)

CALL FOR PAPERS for the 44th Annual Conference April 4-6, 2019

University of Pittsburgh, Center for Russian and East European Studies (CREES)

The American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA) will hold its 44th Annual Conference from **April 4 - 6, 2019 at the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**. We welcome participation by academics, independent scholars, educators, and graduate students who are devoted to the teaching, research, and dissemination of Hungarian culture, history, folklore, literature, language, fine arts, and music. Presenters must be or become members of AHEA. The Program Committee invites proposals for papers focusing on the presenters' individual research and findings connected with this year's theme: **Identify: Hungarian, European, Global?** Proposals should consist of an abstract of 200-250 words, a title (no more than 135 characters in length including spaces); a brief scholarly biography, including degrees and scholarly fields (50-100 words) and email contact information. Proposals must be submitted online at <http://ahea.net/conferences/2019/submit-paper> by **January 31, 2019**. For more information, visit: <https://ahea.net/conferences/2019-university-of-pittsburgh>.

AHEA Scholarship Announcement

On behalf of the AHEA Executive Committee, we are pleased to announce the Steven Béla Várdy Legacy Scholarship. This Scholarship has been established to recognize a scholar in the field of history who exemplifies the high standards of original research and historical writing set by Steven Béla Várdy for members of the historical profession. Eligible candidates must be (or become) a member of AHEA whose degree and research focus is in history. This Scholarship is made possible by a donation from Helena History Press, LLC. Additional information and details on how to apply is available at: [Steven Béla Várdy Legacy Scholarship](#).

Romanian Studies Organization/ Hungarian Cultural Association at IU Bloomington

CALL FOR PAPERS for the Romanian Studies and Hungarian Studies Junior Scholar Conference

Indiana University Bloomington March 22-24 2019

The RSO and the HCA at Indiana University are pleased to announce their joint scholars conference taking place March 22-24, 2019, on the Bloomington campus. We encourage submissions from scholars working on topics that engage with both fields. We welcome proposals from graduate students and recent PhDs on any topic related to Romania, Moldova, or the Romanian diaspora, in any discipline or methodology. Please submit abstracts of 250-300 words, along with your contact information and a brief biography, to Leah Valtin-Erwin at romso@indiana.edu by **December 20, 2018**. For more information, visit: [http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/newsEvents/2018/Funding/Joint%20HCA%20RSO%20conference%20announcement%20\(MT\)%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/newsEvents/2018/Funding/Joint%20HCA%20RSO%20conference%20announcement%20(MT)%20(2).pdf).