



# Hungarian Studies Association

## HSA Newsletter, Fall 2016

### HSA News & Notes

#### **ASEEES Convention, Nov. 17-20, Washington DC**

The annual convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies will be held on the theme of "Global Conversations" at the Marriot Wardman Park hotel. See page 2 for a list of panels relevant to Hungarian studies. 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 Friday, November 18 from 6:15 to 7:45pm in room Mezzanine, Madison A. Come and meet fellow scholars who are engaged in Hungarian studies. This is an excellent opportunity for networking, socializing, sharing news, and learning about publication opportunities. The winner of the Mark Pittaway Article Prize will also be announced. We look forward to seeing you there!

#### **Dues**

Our Paypal and bank account are currently migrating, so if you have not yet renewed your membership for 2016 membership please wait until the payment options are updated on our website. There will be an opportunity to pay in person at ASEEEES by check or online at <https://hungarianstudiesweb.wordpress.com/membership/>

#### **Looking Ahead: ASEEEES 2017**

Next year's ASEEEES convention will be in Chicago from Thursday, Nov. 9 to Sunday, Nov. 12. Guidelines to submit abstracts will appear soon!

#### **Facebook**

Don't forget to like us at <https://www.facebook.com/hungarianstudiesassociation?fref=ts>.

#### **Lecture by Ambassador Rastislav Káčer**

Slovak ambassador to Hungary Káčer will lecture on "U.S. Relations with Central Europe: Love and Reason," on Friday, Nov. 18, 2016, 12:00-1:00 pm Flom Auditorium, 6th floor, Wilson Center. RSVP at [http://pages.wilsoncenter.org/11.18.16CzechandSlovak2016\\_Registration.html](http://pages.wilsoncenter.org/11.18.16CzechandSlovak2016_Registration.html)

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# Selected Panels Relevant to Hungarian Studies at the 2016 ASEES Convention

Full conference program with more information about panels & individual papers is available online at [https://convention2.allacademic.com/one/aseees/aseees16/index.php?click\\_key=1&obf\\_var=67337](https://convention2.allacademic.com/one/aseees/aseees16/index.php?click_key=1&obf_var=67337)

## Thursday, November 17

- Émigré Directors in Hollywood: New Perspectives on (Mutual) Influence, 3:00 to 4:45pm, Mezzanine, Taft
- State Socialism: Science, Politics, and Charisma, 3:00 to 4:45pm, Mezzanine, Truman
- Left Histories, Left Readings: Combined and Uneven Development, 3:00 to 4:45pm, Mezzanine, Madison B
- Variety Entertainment in East-Central and South-East European Cities at the Turn-of-the-Century  
5:00 to 6:45pm, Lobby Level, Park Tower Room 8211
- Trains and Travel in the Russian Empire, 5:00 to 6:45pm, Lobby Level, Park Tower Suite 8219

## Friday, November 18

- Fortress Hungary? Questions of Migration and Civilization on the EU Frontier, 8:00 to 9:45am, Mezzanine, Thurgood Marshall South
- Holocaust and Trauma in Global Conversation, 8:00 to 9:45am, Mezzanine, Madison B
- Illiberal Contagion?: Hungary and Poland Under Fidesz and PiS, 8:00 to 9:45am, Mezzanine, Marriott Balcony B
- Exploring Structural Changes in Heritage Languages of Ethnic Minorities and of Immigrant Communities, 8:00 to 9:45am, Mezzanine, Wilson B
- Hungary '56 at 60, 10:00 to 11:45am, Mezzanine, Thurgood Marshall South
- Contemporary East European Politics, 10:00 to 11:45am, Mezzanine, Thurgood Marshall East

- Hungary in the Global Exchange of People, Goods, and Ideas, 1:45 to 3:30pm, Mezzanine, Thurgood Marshall South
- Lustrations in the Post-Communist States: Past, Present or Future, 1:45 to 3:30pm, Mezzanine, Marriott Balcony A
- Minorities and Right-Wing Politics in East Europe, 1:45 to 3:30pm, Mezzanine, Marriott Balcony B
- Lives and Fate in a Stormy Century. In Defense of the Biographical Method, 1:45 to 3:30pm, Mezzanine, Madison A
- Hungarian Conversation about "The Other" After 1950 and Their Outcomes, 3:45 to 5:30pm, Mezzanine, Thurgood Marshall East

## Saturday, November 19

- Touring Around and Outside the Bloc in Late Socialism, 8:00 to 9:45am, Mezzanine, Tyler
- Anti-Genderism, Women's Organizing, and LGBTQI Rights, 8:00 to 9:45am, Mezzanine, Madison A
- Thinking Through Science in Nineteenth-Century Central and Eastern Europe, 10:00 to 11:45am, Mezzanine, Wilson B
- Is Historia Vitae Magistra? The Lessons of the 1920s and 1930s for Eastern Europe Today, 1:45 to 3:30pm, Mezzanine, Madison A
- Kicked Out of Czechoslovakia: The Fate of Postwar German and Hungarian Refugees, Then & Now, 1:45 to 3:30pm, Lobby Level, Park Tower Suite 8223
- Before the Washington

- Consensus: The 1980s as the Age of Exchange between East and West, 1:45 to 3:30pm, Mezzanine, Marriott Balcony A
- "Health" and "Dis/ability" in State Socialism – Discourses and Practices of State, Science and Society, 1:45 to 3:30pm, Lobby Level, Park Tower Suite 8218
- Body, Gender, and Subjectivity in Eastern Europe, 1900-1930, 3:45 to 5:30pm, Lobby Level, Maryland B
- Human Intervention, Technology and the Environment: Changing the Danube in the Longue Durée, 3:45 to 5:30pm, Lobby Level, Park Tower Room 8211
- Historical Identities in Conversation, 3:45 to 5:30pm, Wardman DC Marriott, Lobby Level, Park Tower Suite 8218

## Sunday, November 20

- Surviving the Holocaust: The Refugee Crisis 1944-49, 8:00 to 9:45am, Mezzanine, Madison B
- Epilogue, Prologue, or Neither? Evaluating the "Interwar" as "Post-Imperial" in East Central Europe,  
8:00 to 9:45am, Mezzanine, Truman
- 1956 and Eastern European Literatures: Theories, Practices, People, 10:00 to 11:45am, Mezzanine, Thurgood Marshall West
- Notions of the Female Body in the Central-European Media in the Interwar Period  
12:00 to 1:45pm, Mezzanine, Madison A
- Democratic Deterioration in Central Europe, 12:00 to 1:45pm, Mezzanine, Marriott Balcony B

# The Eger Conference on 1956

By James Niessen, HSA Executive Board Member, Rutgers University

The sixtieth anniversary of the 1956 Revolution has prompted many conferences, with notable variation in the degree to which they produced new scholarship or have rather served the public, with talks by notable scholars or on the other hand public figures. The conference I attended in Eger, September 8-10, stands out from the others for the sheer number of announced speakers, the relatively modest press echo, and the complete absence of politicians. The conference was sponsored by the Eszterházy Károly University and the 1956 Institute Foundation and its title, *1956 and Socialism: Crisis and Rethinking*, suggests its underlying concept: that the Revolution had a complex relationship with socialism that merits continuous reconsideration.

All events took place in the university's main building, which dates to 1774 and for most of its history was the seat of a teacher's college. The thick walls of the old building made the warm weather relatively bearable, and the festive hall with its illusionistic frescoes provided an impressive setting for the opening session and two evening receptions. The director of the History Institute's recently established doctoral school, Ignác Romsics, opened the conference and introduced his program and the conference keynoter, 1956 Institute Director János Rainer. Rainer, whose works include a two-volume biography of Imre Nagy and an important collection of documents on the Revolution, noted that one of the first scholarly conferences on the Revolution in its aftermath, convened already Brussels in 1959, concluded that it was a socialist revolution. Rainer proceeded to examine competing understandings of socialism, and argued that the meaning of this term is far from closed and rigid.

Following the opening session, there were seven blocks of panels in eight parallel sessions, with more than 250 speakers in all. Many of the established scholars of the Revolution participated as chairs, discussants, or presenters, but most presenters were junior scholars. Several sessions covered the experience of refugees, local history, religion, workers, and women, in fact the session on refugees in which I participated was reported by Sándor Révész in *Népszabadság*. There were several papers on the foreign reception and domestic aftermath of the Revolution and its portrayal in the visual arts, literature, and memoirs. The conference site at <http://1956-2016.uni-eszterhazy.hu/> provides not only the full program, but also abstracts, photos, and videos of the opening session and many of the other presentations. Péter Kende, a participant in the Brussels conference, was able to respond to a junior scholar's paper about the early years of the emigration in Western Europe with his own experiences. This conference successfully challenged junior as well as established scholars to prepare original research, receive feedback from their mentors and colleagues and, in the words of Ignác Romsics, apply the principles of their craft to return home with a better understanding of the Revolution. Implied thereby is the ability to receive critically the anniversary's generous dosage of ceremonial rhetoric. *[All articles reflect only the views of the author, not the HSA.]*

## Notes from Abroad: The Institute for Political History

*At the suggestion of long-time HSA member Peter Pastor, the Newsletter will occasionally feature updates on ongoing and recent projects at scholarly organizations in Hungary. Below is the first installment.*

The Institute of Political History is a private research institution devoted to research on the history of the workers' movement and contemporary history. It hosts vast archival and library collections from worker parties, trade unions, and leftist personalities, including János Kádár's personal library and the most complete series of the newspaper *Népszabadság*. The head of the institute is György Földes. Current projects include:

**Hungarians in Russia and the Soviet Union 1914–1941:** The database consists of more than 40000 records of people who became POWs or spent some time in the Soviet Union for other reasons. The records display personal data, time and reason of arrival, biographic details of life in the Soviet Union, whether and how injustice affected them, circumstances of return to Hungary. The construction of the database is still being finalized, but targeted searches for individuals are possible. The project is supervised by Eszter Kaba. *[continues p.4]*

# Calls for Applicants: Conference and Publication Opportunities

The American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA) and the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada will hold jointly their Annual Conference from May 27 through May 29, 2017 at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada. The theme is Sovereignty, Compromise, and the Making of Modern Hungary: 1867 and Beyond. Proposals must be submitted online at <http://ahea.net/conferences/2017/submit-paper>. Due date is January 5, 2017.

Call for Papers: Populisms in Central and Eastern Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The workshop will take place at École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) in Paris, on 11 and 12 May 2017. The workshop will be held in French and in English. Publication of the proceedings will be published in *Connexe*. Submit your proposal by 30 November 2016, to Roman Krakovsky ([roman.krakovsky@ehess.fr](mailto:roman.krakovsky@ehess.fr)). More information available at <https://networks.h-net.org/node/19384/discussions/149720/cfp-populisms-central-and-eastern-europe-20th-century>

The conference "Ambivalent Legacies: Memory and Amnesia in Post-Habsburg and Post-Ottoman Cities" will be held on April 26th through 28th of 2017 at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Goettingen, Germany. It aims to bring together an interdisciplinary group of scholars working on post-imperial legacies in Vienna, Istanbul, Budapest, Sarajevo, Trieste, Thessaloniki, Zagreb, and Belgrade. Conference participants will be provided with lodging and will be reimbursed for their travel. Please send abstracts to [Cziesielsky@mmg.mpg.de](mailto:Cziesielsky@mmg.mpg.de) by December 1st, 2016. Further information is available at <http://www.mmg.mpg.de/departments/max-planck-research-group-empires-of-memory/>

To submit an announcement or an article for the next newsletter, write [HungStudiesAssoc@gmail.com](mailto:HungStudiesAssoc@gmail.com).

*[continued from p. 3]*

**Cultural Transfers: East-East-West:** This research focuses on the cultural phenomena of the cold war, cultural contacts and cultural transfers between the countries of the Soviet bloc and the Western world after Stalin's death. Róbert Takács is responsible for this theme, and he is also an expert of the history of press, media and publicity in postwar Hungary and regularly publishes on political humor, too.

**History of Elections & Electoral Behavior:** This research project analyses the history of elections in Hungary since 1920. After collecting and publishing parliamentary electoral results at local, county, and national levels, the most recent task was a comprehensive analysis of elections – parliamentary and local – in Budapest between 1920 and 1945. The database and the electoral maps are accessible at <http://bpvalaszt.hu>. Alongside the political history of elections, these works pay special attention to the social history of politics, like electoral campaigns or electoral behavior, and the history of visual campaign materials; see <http://valasztasiroplap.hu>. Károly Ignác is responsible for this thematic cluster.

**Frontlines and Hinterland:** This popular project aims at providing information on the everyday aspects of WWI in Austria-Hungary. The regularly updated "The Front Line and Hinterland" website offers contemporary newspaper articles and summaries on issues that were also discussed 100 years ago. The content is written and edited by the fellows of the Institute of Political History and also available from our community page. Our related events – conferences, thematic talks, movie clubs, school competitions, calls for proposals etc. – encourage the public's active involvement in commemorating the war.

**Negotiating Post-Imperial Transitions 1918–1925:** The research project focuses on the social aspects and the local politics of transition from empires to nation-states in the wake of WWI. Its goal is to highlight how local and regional societies with an imperial legacy dealt with the changes, especially with nationalizing, and whether and how they could have influenced its outcome at the local level. Comparison of localities with diverse social contexts can help us to understand why the new nation states were less homogenous than they pretended to be, and how certain social groups could gain agency under new circumstances. The project is coordinated by Gábor Egry.

See <http://www.polhist.hu/> for more information about the Institute. The PTI also publishes the quarterly journal *Múltunk*, <http://www.multunk.hu/>. Information contributed by the PTI's Scientific Department.