



May 2021 Newsletter

President's Corner

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

News about AHEA21

The Planning Committee is pleased to invite you to AHEA 2021 our 45th annual Conference on June 24 – 26, 2021 completely online. [Registration is open](#). Conference attendance is free; we ask that presenters be members of AHEA. Our [tentative program](#) is available on our website.

Orientation Sessions

We will host sessions to orient everyone to the online virtual format of the meeting, to field questions about participation, and to provide opportunities to ask questions and clarify technical issues.

Please join us in participating in one of the Orientation sessions. We will record the meeting to enable you to view it at your convenience, if you are unable to attend. We invite you to engage with us and share your questions and concerns about conference participation.

Session Chairs

June 8, 2021 at 10:00 AM Eastern Time

[Register here](#)

Conference Presenters

June 9, 2021 at 10:00 AM Eastern Time

[Register here](#)

Conference Participants

When: Jun 10, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time

[Register here](#)

Results of the Vote on our Bylaws

In last month's newsletter, we invited you to review and vote to approve AHEA's new Bylaws and amendments to our Articles of Incorporation. These changes bring our governance documents into alignment with the laws of the state in which we are incorporated (Maryland). We are pleased to announce the results of the vote; both documents were overwhelmingly approved. A total of 42 members voted; of those 41, 98% approved both governance documents.

Election: AHEA's Board of Directors

Our Nominating Committee has prepared a slate of officers and will soon ask for your vote. Officers whose terms expire in 2021 June include: President (Klára Papp), Vice President (Helga Lénárt-Cheng), Secretary (Zsuzsanna Varga), Treasurer (Kálmán Magyar), Past President (Jim Niessen). We will elect three Members at Large (Márta Pereszlényi-Pinter, András Ludányi, Nóra Deák, Andrew Lee) and the Membership Development Chair (Katalin Kádár Lynn). Additional nominations may be made at this time in writing by any ten voting members of the Association, if received by me by **May 15, 2021**. The Nominating Committee Chair shall ensure that those eligible are placed on the ballot.

Here's wishing you good health, much success in your scholarly pursuits. Please reach out if you have comments or suggestions on how AHEA might better support your career advancement.

With best wishes,

Klara Papp, PhD
President, AHEA
klarakpapp@gmail.com

Member Spotlight

AHEA is a scholarly organization connecting a diverse set of educators, researchers, professionals, independent scholars and academics who come from many walks of life. Each month we highlight the academic and professional career of a different AHEA member.



This month's featured member is **Zsuzsanna Varga**.

1. Please tell us a little bit about your career arc, particularly how you came to your interest in travel and travel writing.

I teach Hungarian Studies at the University of Glasgow in the United Kingdom, and am proud to say that I am one of the very few academics in the English-speaking world, whose job title focuses on Hungary. I have been at Glasgow for 12 years now, and my earlier career includes an undergraduate degree in English, Hungarian and Portuguese from Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, a PhD in 19th century British women's writing from the University of Edinburgh, and a Masters degree in Library and Information Studies from Strathclyde University, Glasgow. As a (very) part-time activity, I also look after the Hungarian collection of the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

My research has always focused on space and mobility, whether it is the mobility of text, people or ideas. Travel writing is a way to interrogate such mobility, and I became aware of its fascinating potential when I was asked to contribute the Hungarian content to the project *East Looks West: East European Travel Writing* at the University College London (CEU Press, 2008). This research explored the writing of Hungarian travelers to Western Europe, the Levant and Russia from the earliest texts until our

times. It displayed modes of cultural and intellectual modernization, the changing social and cultural meanings of places, such as in the Ottoman Empire, and a range of ways historical actors imagined collectivities within and without the region.

2. How did you find out about AHEA, and what led you to join?

I joined AHEA in 2009, when I got a spot on the conference program at the annual meeting organized at Berkeley, California. I felt invigorated by the company of like-minded people who shared my interest in Hungarian studies and also understood the challenges involved in speaking about cultural specificity in a transnational context and for an international audience. I have participated in several AHEA conferences since then, and have always returned home with my batteries recharged. Since 2015, I have compiled the annual bibliography of English language academic writing about Hungarian culture. This was published in the journal [Hungarian Cultural Studies](#), and would warmly recommend it to anyone who teaches Hungarian or Central European Studies in an international context.

3. What impact has your involvement with AHEA made on your career and/or your work?

I have benefited from it both on a personal and a professional level. Likeminded people, with an acute awareness of the difficulties of cultural mediation are always rewarding to associate with, and having these annual conferences, focused solely on Hungarian things, is equally rewarding. But the most useful has been the work involved in the compilation of the bibliography, which has really helped to show how much the field has grown in the last 20 years. It is an important aspect of the professional service that AHEA renders to academia.

4. Tell us, please, about your current project.

I am heavily involved with COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) Action 18204 [Dynamics of Placemaking and Digitisation in Europe's Cities](#). The project, supported by the European Commission, brings together humanists, social scientists, architects and information scientist in a bid to interrogate a range of questions in the intricate web of the digital, the past and contemporary social action. As co-chair, I coordinate many of the subprojects. My particular interest is Central European urban history, with special regards to mid-19th century urbanization projects. My other long-standing project concerns the multilingual literary culture of Pest-Buda around 1800; the time when the twin cities acted a sort of cultural node in the region. This period is rather under-researched from a comparative perspective, and I hope I can contribute to the conversation of scholars about the region.

Don't Let Your Membership Benefits Stop!

Renew your 2021 membership to ensure uninterrupted membership today to ensure access to an expanded network of scholars and academics working in multidisciplinary fields of Hungarian Studies.

AHEA's membership dues enable you to access "Members Only" section of the website, participate in the governance of AHEA through your vote on our newly revised Bylaws as well as officers and board members.

We are pleased to announce membership discounts as well as the option of a new **lifetime membership**. Visit <https://ahea.net/members/membership-information>.

Only members in good standing can vote in leadership elections. Please remember to renew yours! **Click here** to access our PayPal link, or to get information on paying by check or bank transfer.

Where Your Membership Dollar Goes



**AWARDS AND
SCHOLARSHIPS**
28%

CONFERENCE OPERATIONS
43%

**INTERNET
HOSTING
AND
SUPPORT**
12%

**ORGANIZATIONAL
OVERHEAD**
17%

71% of your membership dues directly fund AHEA's mission of the **teaching and dissemination of Hungarian culture** through the annual conference and scholarship support programs. The other 29% helps keep our organization running.