



June 2021 Newsletter

President's Corner

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

News about AHEA21

Activities are in high gear in planning for our 45th annual Conference on June 24 – 26, 2021. We have a terrific high-quality program planned. Don't forget to register [at this link](#). The conference [program](#) is available.

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 strongly urge you to attend if you are new to Zoom. We invite you to engage with us and share your questions and concerns about conference participation.

Session Chairs (TODAY)

June 8, 2021 at 10:00 AM Eastern Time

[Register here](#)

Conference Presenters (TOMORROW)

June 9, 2021 at 10:00 AM Eastern Time

[Register here](#)

Conference Participants (THURSDAY)

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

[Register here](#)

Preview of What's to Come

Our featured guest on Friday, June 25th at 4:00 – 5:00 PM EST is Mihály Boros, a young emerging talented pianist from Pécs in conversation with Kálmán Magyar. You can see him live and in concert with the Pannon Philharmonic Orchestra tomorrow, June 9th at 1 PM EST – 7 PM CET [at this link](#). In addition, you can read more about this talented young musician [here](#).

Results of AHEA's Elections Thanks to those who voted in AHEA's elections last month. Officers who were elected for 2021-2023 are: President (Klára Papp), Vice President (Helga Lénárt-Cheng), Secretary (Zsuzsanna Varga), Treasurer (Kálmán Magyar), Past President (Jim Niessen); three Members-at-Large (Márta Pereszlényi-Pinter, András Ludányi, Nóra Deák) and the Membership Development Chair (Katalin Kádár Lynn). Thanks to the Nominating Committee and to all who voted.

Appreciation and thanks to Enikő Molnár Basa for her long and faithful service to AHEA as its Executive Director of 46 years. We owe her a huge debt of thanks and value and cherish her contributions to AHEA.

Here's wishing you good health, much success in your scholarly pursuits. We hope to see you later this month at our conference! 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
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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 **Andrew Behrendt**.

This month we feature a scholar with no Hungarian heritage who has chosen this area out of scholarly interest. He is following in the footsteps of C.A. Macartney, Bryan Cartledge, and other fine historians who are not of Hungarian descent.

--Katalin Kádár Lynn

Please tell us a little bit about your career arc, particularly how you came to your interest in Hungarian Studies.

I wound up in the field through a combination of curiosity and sheer good fortune. A trip to Budapest in 2006, shortly after I graduated from college, planted the seed. My girlfriend at the time was studying in Italy, and I wanted to meet her somewhere in Europe, but I was just about broke and the Euro exchange rate was too daunting. We picked Budapest—correctly, if somewhat tactlessly—because we'd heard it was a beautiful place where we could stretch our dollars. Sometime during that short visit, the city put its hooks in me. Maybe it was trying to order in dismal Hungarian at the Jégbüfé, or failing to recall the number chalked on my locker at the Széchenyi Baths, or misremembering, to my eventual horror, *tepertő* as the word for *körözött*; there was something seductive about the challenge of being there, not to mention the dramatic tableau of Hungarian history. Flash forward a year later, to when I was starting my MA program at Chicago, and had to pick a thesis topic my first week there. Until that point I had focused on the history of Britain and Ireland, particularly Irish nationalism after 1916, but was now wavering. I felt I needed to decamp for a new field—and my fascination with Hungary still simmered on the back burner. My advisor, Tara Zahra, convinced me that I could make a go of it, despite not yet knowing any Hungarian. A year after that, I had done SWSEEL at Indiana University and was embarking on a fortuitous sojourn to Hungary and Romania; one year more, and I was at Pitt, working on a PhD in Hungarian and Austrian history. After I finished, I was at the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies there, and on the staff of ASEEEES. And now I am at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, teaching history.

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

I'm pretty sure it was when I met Steve Jobbitt at the 2013 ASEEEES convention, and he invited me to submit an article for the special cluster that he and Róbert Győri were preparing for *Hungarian Cultural Studies*. I joined around that time, but didn't become really active until I was able to present at the 2018 conference in Cleveland. It was at that meeting that Katalin Kádár Lynn recruited me to join the Membership Development Committee, in which capacity I became the de facto newsletter coordinator.

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

AHEA's ecumenical view of Hungarian Studies has let me meet colleagues I probably wouldn't have encountered otherwise, and to learn about the amazing breadth of things they do. Being a historian of Hungary can seem kind of lonely at times, but AHEA has been a great tonic against that feeling. Moreover, because I became interested in Hungary without any family connections, being involved in AHEA has been a way to learn more about the Hungarian diaspora and the life of Hungarian culture in the United States.

Tell us, please, about your current project.

I am trying to work on three—not an especially wise or tenable position, but they each have their way of reminding me why I like them so much. In the short term, over the past year-plus, I've been building from scratch on a course called Historical Representation in Video Games. At base, it's a way to smuggle concepts from the philosophy of history into a package that students find engaging, while also encouraging them to take a critical eye to a popular form of historiography. I taught it for the first time last fall, and will run it again next spring. In the long, long term, I'm working (slowly) on a history of the cuisines of the Habsburg Empire, starting of course with Hungarian. (I console myself that cooking pörkölt and growing peppers in the garden helps advance this endeavor, but that has its limits.) And, floating in between those two is the overdue conversion of my dissertation—on tourism and moviegoing in interwar Hungary and Austria—into a book.

Have a New or Upcoming Publication?

We would love to help share news of the impressive and diverse work that AHEA members are doing! If you have a recent book, article, or other scholarly/artistic work you would like your fellow members to know about, send a brief description/promotional blurb and a link to further information to aheanews@gmail.com. Requests will appear in the order in which they were received and may be edited for space.

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



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.
