



July 2021 Newsletter

President's Corner

Dear AHEA Members and Colleagues,

The 45th Annual AHEA Conference (1st ever online) was a great success! We thank those who attended, participated, presented, and the session chairs. The evenings' entertainment was terrific. Our IT support was superb. The interactions that I observed during the meeting far exceeded my expectations. The presentations were of high quality; we were able to adhere to the strict time frame and despite our time zone differences, the sessions went like clockwork. We received numerous emails and the feedback was very positive! Thanks to all who contributed. We are expectantly waiting for the high-quality presentations to appear in print form in our eJournal, *Hungarian Cultural Studies*. Please check the journal's [guidelines](#) for authors.

We are looking forward to our 2022 Annual Meeting in Camden, Connecticut (USA) at Quinnipiac University on Thursday, March 31st through Saturday, April 2nd and our return to in-person meeting. Christopher Ball, Ph.D., Director of the [Central European Institute](#) and István Széchenyi Chair in International Economics is our host. Chris is also Honorary Hungarian Consul. We will post the call for abstracts in early September.

Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or suggestions you may have. The entire AHEA Board is working to offer a meeting that is engaging, safe, and supportive for all. 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 klarapapp@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 **Mónica Fodor**.

Please tell us a little bit about your career arc, particularly how you came to the field of English literatures and cultures.

I could easily say that I have always loved reading and English and reading in English. However, the truth is that I have tried all sorts of different things, including biology and chemistry, and English came as a last-minute decision I never regretted. During my undergraduate years, I became interested in English Applied Linguistics and TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language). Literature and culture came later. In my doctoral research, I had to combine American Studies with Applied Linguistics, and my current interest in narrative grew out of this necessity.

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

My colleague forwarded an email with the call for the 2008 AHEA conference at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. At that time, I was working on my doctoral dissertation, focusing on interview-based narratives told by second- and third-generation Hungarian Americans about their ethnic identity, a theme closely related to that of the conference. I was genuinely impressed by the highly professional and committed team of academics who had overseen

the organization for a long time. At the business meeting, I understood that AHEA aims to maintain a sturdy bridge between the members' heritage and the scholarly world, emphasizing both as equally important. This fact added not a little to what I had learned from the interviews. Moreover, I witnessed the birth of the journal *Hungarian Cultural Studies* as a key to motivate young American and Hungarian scholars to become long-term members of AHEA. It was fascinating to see how the board decided to renew the journal and make it sustainable as an e-journal. Their decision reflected an understanding of heritage as social and cultural capital in building a successful academic career.

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

Involvement with AHEA has been one of the pivotal formative professional experiences I have had concerning scholarly work, networking, and network managing. The conferences have allowed me to talk about my research and get feedback in questions and suggestions. I also got crucial help from members to continue my interviewing project by volunteering to tell their stories. The fact that I could work with AHEA's Executive Committee in 2018 and 2020-21 with the Cleveland and Pécs conferences organization also meant a lot.

Tell us, please, about your current project.

There are two projects in which I am currently involved. One relates to the relationship of narrative and identity as expressed in life narratives, particularly in stories about inherited memories. The more I read about narratives and language, the more I become fascinated by how language use shapes our thoughts and experiences into narrative. In return, these narratives come to shape who we are. I have started to work on how inherited and retold narratives structure our own stories, and I find that there is a lot to say about this aspect of narrative research.

Another very recent project that I am involved with is one initiated by the University of Graz on the uses of digital storytelling in English language teaching. It is an ERASMUS+ co-funded project aimed to develop narrative-based English language teaching materials. The University of Pécs and Ca'Foscari University in Venice, Italy, are the partners of the University of Graz. I am very excited about the work and look forward to international collaboration.

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.