



November 2021 Newsletter

President's Corner

Dear AHEA Members and Colleagues,

AHEA22: The 2021 conference theme stands out. Earlier conferences have had themes that were generic and broad. Abstracts could fit within the theme in a wide array of disciplines. For example, last year's was "Identity: Hungarian, European, Global?." It fit well within most cultural studies domains and research topics. It was not time-bound and would easily incorporate perspectives from the past, present, or future. The conference theme sets the tone for the keynote address and other programs planned during the meeting.

The 2022 theme stands apart from earlier ones. "Hungarian Studies in the COVID-19 World" draws our attention to where we are today and the lessons learned from the pandemic. It is focused on the present and our future. We welcome paper presentations and panel discussions that consider how our work as educators and researchers is and will be influenced by the lessons of the pandemic. At our last AHEA Board meeting, we wrestled with what format our next conference should take. Should we have an online, hybrid, or in-person only conference? We challenged each other to think about this issue and consider that life will never go back to the way it was prior to the pandemic. What are some of the lessons that we have learned following the failures and successes of adapting to the spread of the COVID pandemic? By the same token, please do not think of this theme as limiting possibilities for scholarly presentations; all submitted abstract will be given full consideration.

[Call for Abstracts:](#) We are preparing for the 46th Annual AHEA Conference in Hamden, Connecticut (in the USA) at Quinnipiac University on April 7 – 9, 2022. We are planning this event as an in-person only conference. Call for abstracts is available and submission is open online until January 10, 2022.

Please reach out if you have comments or suggestions pertaining to *Hungarian Cultural Studies* or suggestions on how AHEA might better support your career advancement.

Of Interest: We invite you to a series of sessions (in Hungarian) hosted by the University of Pécs Diaspora Project Network. The series explores interesting facts and features of Hungarians living in communities abroad. A few weeks ago, Hungarians living in Canada were the topic of conversation. [The recorded presentation can be viewed at this link.](#)

Canadian Hungarians will again be the focus of the next session to which you are invited on November 12, 2021 Hungarian time (CET) 18:00. Our invited speakers, two prominent Canadians, will discuss features of Hungarians living in Canadian diaspora communities. Participation in the event on Zoom is free, [however pre-registration is required at the University of Pécs Diaspora Project Network link.](#)

With best wishes for your good health and continued success,

Klára 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 **Ákos István Farkas**

Ákos István Farkas is Associate Professor of English Studies and former Head of Department at ELTE in Budapest.

Please tell us a little bit about your career arc, particularly how you came to specialize in modern English literature.

After graduating from the University of Debrecen, Hungary, with an MA in English, Hungarian and Education back in 1980, I first taught both my subjects at a high school in Budapest, which was followed by a few years of freelance language teaching and translating. Then I was employed, first as lecturer in 1987, later as assistant and then as associate professor, at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest. Here I've taught British and American literature at various levels (BA, MA and, eventually, PhD) chairing the Department of English Studies for six years and then heading one of our two doctoral programs for yet another two years. As a visiting professor, I taught mainly British literature at Seneca College, Toronto, then American Studies at the University of Miskolc, Hungary and, more recently, an MA course on James Joyce at the University of Passau, Germany. My publications include a book and sixty-odd articles on a variety of major English, American, and Hungarian writers, including James Joyce, Aldous Huxley, Henry James, Vladimir Nabokov, Margit Kaffka and Miksa Fenyő. Currently, I'm guest editing a special number of my department's journal *The Anachronist*, highlighting the life and work of my supposedly English, but in reality, transatlantic, favorite, Anthony Burgess. I'm also preparing *The Clockwork Testament*, Burgess' "campus novel" set in New York, for publication in a new, annotated, edition by Irwell–Manchester University Press.

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

It was all rather personal at first. I met Louise O. Vasvári at a scholarly event sometime in the early 2010s and, discussing some vague plans for a special number of the e-journal of AHEA to be filled with studies of the Hungarian reception of some major American writers, the two of us spent a pleasant hour or so at a downtown café

in Budapest. Although these plans failed to materialize, I was later to contribute a review article to AHEA's *Hungarian Cultural Studies* on a volume of Antal Szerb's essays translated into English. Prevailed on by my old friend and colleague Dr. Zsuzsanna Varga of Glasgow University, I also accepted some more responsible assignments at AHEA, such as chairing a session at the Association's 2021 online conference, and now helping to organize a similar event planned to be held next year. I should perhaps add that the two years I spent in the US and Canada as a scholar and educator, as well as having relatives of Hungarian descent living in Pittsburgh, all had a part to play in my deciding to apply for membership of AHEA – a decision I haven't had a reason to regret.

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

Although I presented a paper on Aldous Huxley at the latest AHEA event, after listening to my fellow-contributors' excellent talks on a variety of Hungarian and Hungarian-American topics, it dawned on me that after decades spent on researching, teaching and translating Anglo-American literature, I have a duty to my own country's culture, too. Having at last been relieved of my administrative jobs at ELTE, I hope to have the time, energy and motivation to fulfill that obligation and make whatever modest contribution I can to promoting my native Hungary's culture in the English-speaking world as well as doing further research into the Hungarian reception of English and American literature. If the current pandemic has had any positive outcome, it is this: recently, I've spent less time rushing about and more among the works of some classic Hungarian authors collecting dust on my shelves at home. Finally, I'd like to mention the fact that aside from any professional benefits I may have derived from my membership of AHEA, having met, and made friends with, the officials and members of the Association at various scholarly and convivial occasions have done a lot to lift my mood darkened by the heavy shadow of COVID-19. For that alone, I owe a debt of gratitude to the already-mentioned Zsuzsanna Varga, but also to Klára Papp, Katalin Kádár-Lynn, and many others.

External Scholarship Information



Information Session on Student Applications for the Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship for AY 2022-2023

Date: 11th November, 2021 | Time: 4:00-6:00 pm, (CET) | Location: online, Zoom

In May 2020, the Government of Hungary established the Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship. The core mission of the Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship is to strengthen ties between Hungarian diaspora communities and Hungary by giving access for young people living in Hungarian diasporas to study programmes in Hungary. The applicants can choose from hundreds of Hungarian and foreign language courses at 28 institutions. The first cohort started studies in Hungary during the current academic year 2021-22.

We invite you to attend an information day on Nov. 11, 2021 about the announcement of the individual student applications of the Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship for the academic year 2022-23, during which we will share the current actualities and answer questions that arise. We invite you to the event. Please forward this invitation to those who may find this of interest.

The goals of the event are to promote the Diaspora Program, as we want to reach as many potential applicants as possible.

The event will be held on Zoom. You can **register** via the following link. The site is not public, so a **password** is required, which is the following: Diaspora_2022/23

The English website is accessible through this link.

You can indicate in the registration site, in which language you prefer to listen to the program (English/Hungarian). Before the event, you will have opportunities to ask questions in advance on the **Slido** site, with using the following code **#265142** or via this link.

Member Publications

New translation by AHEA Life Members Julia Sherwood and Peter Sherwood!



My Seven Lives is the English translation of the best-selling memoir of Slovak journalist Agneša Kalinová (1924–2014): Holocaust survivor, film critic, translator, and political prisoner.

An oral history written with her colleague Jana Juráňová, *My Seven Lives* provides a window into Jewish history, the Holocaust, and the cultural evolution of Central and Eastern Europe. The conversational approach gives the book a relatable immediacy that vividly conveys the tone and temperament of Agneša, bringing out her lively personality and extraordinary ability to stay positive in the face of adversity. Each chapter reflects a distinct period of Agneša's long and tumultuous life. Her idyllic childhood gives way to the rise of Nazism and restrictions of the anti-Jewish legislation, which led to deportations and her escape to Hungary, where she found refuge in a Budapest convent. Surviving the Holocaust, she returned to Slovakia and married writer Ján Ladislav Kalina. They embraced communism, and Agneša began her career as a journalist and film critic and became involved in the Prague Spring, ending with the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. Agneša and her husband lost their jobs and were imprisoned, which led to their decision to immigrate to West Germany. She found a new career as a political commentator for Radio Free Europe, and after decades of political oppression, Agneša lived to see the euphoric days of the Velvet Revolution and its freeing aftermath.

My Seven Lives shows the impact of an often brutal twentieth century on the life of one remarkable individual. It's a story of survival, perseverance, and ultimately triumph.

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



**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.