



## December 2021 Newsletter

### President's Corner

Dear AHEA Friends and Colleagues,

When I started out as a young professional, I was told by my chair that if I hope to get promoted, I need to guard my time, think strategically, and accept only projects and assignments that will advance my career. What I understood from this message was that I must not work on projects without considering how they would benefit me. Initially, I tried to follow that advice, but in time, I threw it out the window and I'm glad I did. When I think back at the turning points in my career, it is the opportunities that I took that seemingly did not have any prospects of career advancement that became the true gems of my work and my career and of which I am most proud.

As an academic community we heavily rely on the work we do for each other voluntarily, freely, and without much thought of return. Think about the many hours we spend reviewing manuscripts, evaluating grant proposals, writing letters of recommendation, nominating people for awards and honors. These activities are central to our work and well-being as a community.

In AHEA, individuals take this selfless generosity up a notch. There are so many who give selflessly and generously to advance the mission and grow this organization. We have a webmaster who for many decades continues to work tirelessly on our internet website, electronic communications, and so much more behind the scenes; an executive director who served AHEA for almost a half century; Board members who meet and tirelessly advance the work of AHEA; local hosts who organize our conferences each year; members who support each other year around. Our *Hungarian Cultural Studies* e-journal and Newsletter is supported through volunteer efforts. The list goes on.... We need you and thank you. Your work is invaluable.

We have scholarships and awards to announce for the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual AHEA Conference. The submission deadline is February 15, 2022. Please consider applying or submitting a nomination. All applications/nominations must be submitted electronically. Specific criteria are described for each award online and through the links below.

[Research Presentation Awards](#) support graduate students and or junior faculty by contributing to expenses related to conference attendance. We provide this award to up to three recipients.

[The Steven Béla Várdy Legacy Scholarship](#) recognizes a scholar in the field of history who exemplifies the high standards of original research and historical writing set by Steven Béla Várdy for members of the historical profession.

[The Helena History Press Scholarship](#) is an annual award established by Helena History Press to recognize a scholar in any field of the humanities who specializes in scholarship related to or about Central and East Europe.

[Peter Basa Award](#) is given bi-annually to a long-standing member who has made significant contributions to AHEA. Active membership in the AHEA for at least ten years; significant contributions and work on behalf of its programs; active participation in other Hungarian American cultural matters.

Here's wishing you all the best for the Holiday season and may 2022 bring you good health, much happiness and success. Please reach out if you have comments or suggestions on how AHEA might further support your scholarly pursuits.

With highest regards,  
Klara Papp  
AHEA President

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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 Péter Krisztián Zachar

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

It probably seems a bit pathetic, but I really did get a love of historical research in my cradle. My father (József Zachar) was a historian himself and dealt with the time of the Rákóczi War of Independence and the Napoleonic Wars. Because of his work, as a child in Budapest I was “at home” at the Military History Museum and then as a teenager in Vienna at the Military History Archive. There was no question that I would study history. I already received a lot of help as a high school graduate with my first research proposal from Róbert Hermann, who then accompanied and supported me all the way to my PhD degree. After graduating from university, it was Prof. Jenő Gergely and Prof. István Diószegi at ELTE who invited me to join their research projects, and from here it was only a step that I started teaching myself and participating in various research groups after successfully completing my PhD. After spending a few years at ELTE, I was invited to a private university, Kodolányi University, where I started to focus on the history and development of international relations and also became after some years - as the successor of Historian Dr. László Tamás Vizi - the head of the Department for International Relations and History. Since 2017, I have been able to perform the same tasks at the University of Public Service (Nemzeti Közzolgálati Egyetem), where I also serve as vice-dean for international affairs at the Faculty of Public Governance and International Studies in the last two years.

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

I had my first contacts with members of AHEA while still a member of an Országos Tudományos Kutatási Alapprogramok (OTKA) research group with Prof. Jenő Gergely. Particularly successful was our collaboration with Katalin Kádár Lynn. She was about to finish her Hungarian PhD studies and was interested—just as I was—in the interwar era and the conservative, Christian intellectuals. We soon saw that there are a lot of links here, because many members of this group I studied just came to the USA during or shortly after the war. So it was clear that we wanted to help each other with our research. This led to years of cooperation, which resulted even in a special foundation: Katalin wanted to help young Hungarian historians and researchers of international relations take their first steps in academic life and I became a member of the Board of Trustees. We organized conferences and published their first scientific results to help them. I am very proud that I can now work with some of these young colleagues who took their first steps about 10-15 years ago.

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

Here I would like to refer primarily to the last conference organized online at the University of Pécs. The now likely two years of the pandemic have caused very big problems everywhere, and we still cannot estimate the consequences. But one positive side of this isolation was that academic circles discovered the possibility of faster and worldwide contact. I think I was able to meet more colleagues at the online AHEA conference this year than ever before and there were more questions about the topic at my talk than perhaps ever before. I had the opportunity to easily switch between panels and listen to as many interesting talks as possible. This shows me that AHEA is a particularly active community and open to new ideas, really thirsty for new inputs. This always gives new impetus both in the classroom and in research and inspires the plans to move forward.

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

My interest is still in the mostly unknown but—in my opinion—especially important Christian conservative intellectuals of the interwar period. This is largely true of the Catholic, Jesuit-driven economic and political thinking of the Church's social teaching, within which Hungarian sociologists, theologians, and economists joined a very broad European discourse and sought to elaborate a new, traditional conceptualization of the state. From the first minute on, the personalities of Béla Kovrig, Vid Mihelics, Zoltán Magyar, József Freesz, László Varga SJ, Sándor Meggyesi, or Jenő Kerkai SJ were among the most influential figures in the scientific debate. Alongside them, a dozen mostly Catholic thinkers expressed their views and ideas on the contemporary socio-economic crisis and how it can be overcome by Catholic solutions. Especially in times of spreading totalitarian ideas, they held on to a new democratic state structure and wanted to reform the whole state through vocational order and a new social-economic concept. Together with some Hungarian and now also American colleagues, I am looking forward to making these personalities known to the general international public and thus showing that the interwar period in Hungary, which is often seen as simplified and particularly radical, was much more multi-layered than assumed.

# External Scholarships



## FULL SCHOLARSHIP

*Reboot your roots with the Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship!  
Study in Hungary for a semester or for a year!*

**Available study fields:**

- Business and Economics
- Humanities and Social Sciences,
- Natural Sciences,
- Music and Visual Arts
- Engineering and IT
- Health Sciences

**The scholarship covers:**

- Your full tuition fee,
- Medical insurance,
- Monthly stipend (upon request),
- Contribution to accommodation costs (upon request)



## MORE INFORMATION

 <https://international.pte.hu/diaspora>

 Mr. Bence Kónya [konya.bence@pte.hu](mailto:konya.bence@pte.hu)

 Deadline: January 31, 2022





**DIASZPÓRA**  
Felsőoktatási Ösztöndíjprogram

*From the Pázmány Péter Catholic University website:*

"Decide on your future and reconnect to Hungarian culture by pursuing university studies at Pázmány Péter Catholic University under the newly established Scholarship Programme for the Hungarian Diaspora!

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences has everything on offer that might interest you. From archaeology to history, and from political sciences through international relations to two PhD programmes, you can choose from a wide range of studies in English.

Join our Faculty to be part of our vibrant university life, as well as to enjoy the benefits of our truly cohesive Catholic community. With more than 20 research groups, 41 departments offering over 60 programmes, 240 professors and 3500 smiling student faces, Pázmány Péter Catholic University Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is looking forward to welcoming you to our campuses in the dynamic Budapest and the charming town of Esztergom. We strive to do one thing: create a life-changing experience.

For the full list of available study programs click [here](#).

For available foreign language study programs at PPCU please browse our website [here](#).

For Hungarian study program descriptions click [here](#).

The Hungarian Government has established a new Scholarship Programme for the Hungarian Diaspora to support foreign students with Hungarian identity to pursue their studies in Hungarian higher education institutions. The Programme includes members of the Hungarian diaspora communities in every country in the world, except in the Member States of the European Union, the Republic of Serbia and the Zakarpatska Oblast part of Ukraine. The Program is managed by Tempus Public Foundation.

For detailed information on the program please visit the [Study Hungary website](#) or the [Diaspora Scholarship website](#)."

## Hungarian State Grants

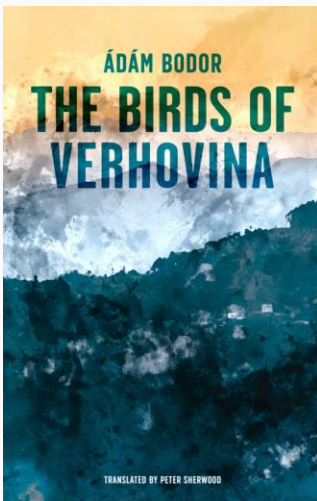


The Hungarian government has announced two major funding competitions for grants to support the cultural work of Hungarians living abroad.

[2022. évi Nemzeti Újrakezdés Program I. – Külhoni szervezetek működésének, fejlesztéseinek és eszközbeszerzéseinek támogatása című pályázati kiírás](#)

[2022. évi Nemzeti Újrakezdés Program II. – Külhoni szervezetek programjainak és rendezvényeinek támogatása című pályázati kiírás](#)

## Member Publications



**New translation by AHEA Life Member Peter Sherwood**

*From the publisher's website:*

“A gripping and eloquent description of an unnamed totalitarian society in all its irrationality, absurdity, and implacability; provoking both laughter and shuddering in the reader.

Home to nine hot springs, Verhovina used to be rich in natural beauty, yet it has become a wasteland, with only a few dozen inhabitants left. Trains to Verhovina are scarce; the timetable was cancelled. One day, even the birds disappeared from the region!

The reader arrives in Ádám Bodor's world, the periphery of civilisation, at the break of dawn. Adam, the foster son of Brigadier Anatol Korkodus is waiting at the dilapidated station for a boy who is arriving from a reform school. Soon afterwards, Korkodus is arrested, for unfathomable reasons. Yet this decaying and sinister world is not devoid of a certain joie de vivre: people eat gourmet dishes, point out their interlocutor's hidden motives with incredibly dark humour and enjoy the region's stunning natural beauty.”

## 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 [ahenews@gmail.com](mailto:ahenews@gmail.com). Requests will appear in the order in which they were received and may be edited for space.

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## 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.