
AHEA Newsletter: June 2022

1 message

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June 2022 Newsletter

President's Corner

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We recently held interviews with candidates interested in serving as Editor-in-Chief of our e-Journal, *Hungarian Cultural Studies*. The discussions evoked a flood of memories of my own scholarship and my enculturation into the weird and wonderful world of manuscript preparation; the steps involved in submission, the seemingly long and inexorable wait for a decision, interactions with journal editors, acceptance of peer reviews, and subsequent revisions before final publication.

It was always exciting, if not emotionally jolting, to receive critiques of one's scholarship from peer reviewers written in the shroud of anonymity. I relished

examples where the reviewers were dead wrong; manuscripts that were first rejected when submitted for publication that later became influential in the field. I often thought of Mark Granovetter's article, "The Strength of Weak Ties."^[1] After receiving a rejection, he stuck the manuscript away in a file drawer and resubmitted it several years later to have it become *the most widely cited* article in the social sciences. I took great comfort in this. The reviewers don't always get it right, I told myself.

Imagine my surprise when a leading journal in my field published an editorial claiming that the reviewer is always right.^[2] The provocative article made the point that when approached with humility, the author may benefit from seeking to understand the feedback and considering the points the reviewers made.

Throughout my career, I agreed to serve as a reviewer whenever I was asked. I viewed it as an exercise in critical thinking and worked hard to write reviews that were as constructive and helpful as could be. I came to see reviewing manuscripts as a great way to learn about current research in my field, consider particular topics worthy of further study and as a real challenge in framing an argument convincingly. I was pleased when the final decision about a manuscript coincided with the recommendation that I made and was surprised and humbled when the editors decided to publish an article despite its shortcomings when, as a reviewer, I recommended rejection.

In our recent conversations, a member of AHEA's board got it right in saying that both authors and reviewers need to approach this process with an attitude of humility. Though it's a system that is far from perfect; it's the best we have for deciding what does- and does not rise to the level worthy of publication.

We are at an important juncture in appointing a new editor-in-chief for *Hungarian Cultural Studies*. The transition provides both a challenge and an opportunity. I trust that if asked, you will support the work of the journal and are willing to become more engaged in the process.

On behalf of the Board of AHEA, I convey our best wishes for your continued success. Please reach out if you have comments or suggestions on how AHEA might better support your scholarly achievements.

Klára Papp, AHEA President
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^[1] Granovetter's paper is one of the most influential articles in social science, with over 65,000 citations according to Google Scholar (as of June 2022). In 1969, Granovetter submitted this paper and it was rejected. Eventually it was published four years later and became the most cited work in the social sciences.

^[2] KW Eva, "The reviewer is always right: peer review of research in Medical Education. *Medical Education*," 43:1 (January 2009): 2-4.

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 **Elizabeth Vos**

***Editor's Note:** Through her firm Magyar Marketing and her activities, Liz helps provide outreach to the 85% of Americans of Hungarian descent who do not speak Hungarian about their Hungarian heritage. While serving on our Membership Development committee, she has also initiated a series of podcasts about AHEA activities, the first two of which are interviews with our president, Klara Papp. They can be found through the following link: <https://hungarianliving.com/tag/klara-papp/>.*

Please tell us a little bit about your career arc, especially how you came to be involved in [Magyar Marketing](#).

When my mom started Magyar Marketing in 1988, her goal was to help people maintain a connection to their Hungarian heritage and be able to pass it on to the next generation. While some things have changed through the years, our core mission remains the same. We are now [Hungarian Living](#) (our resource website) and [The Hungarian Store](#) (our retail website) but we continue to offer meaningful products and a variety of opportunities to help people discover, celebrate, and share

their Hungarian heritage.

How did you find out about AHEA, and what led you to join? What impact has your involvement with AHEA made on your career and/or your work?

I started becoming more aware of the work AHEA did about 10 years ago. I went to an in-person conference in Maryland, and I was hooked – so much great information but, also, so many wonderful people. AHEA conferences cover a lot of ground in a variety of disciplines so, for those who want a deeper understanding of Hungarian things, the conferences are perfect. Becoming a member was a natural fit for me and I frequently recommend AHEA and their conferences to others. Working with AHEA has given me a deeper appreciation for a wider variety of disciplines as they relate to Hungarian heritage.

Tell us, please, about your current project.

One of our current projects is encouraging people to really consider their family history as well as their own story and start writing those things down. Over the summer we will have a mini-series within [The Hungarian Living Podcast](#) to help people get started on collecting their family information as well as a few friendly challenges that will help them make a deeper connection to their Hungarian heritage. One of our goals is to help people make connections in the ways that matter most to them!

Member Publications

The listing of publications is for our members' information and does not signify endorsement by the AHEA.

Peter Pastor announces the recent publication of his latest article:

"Misled by Evgenii Khaldei: 'Budapest Ghetto' Photos Staged outside the Ghetto and their False Narratives," *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 36, no. 1 (2022): 89-98. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/hgs/dcab066>

Abstract:

World War II Soviet photojournalist Evgenii Khaldei gained fame in the West when his photographs of war victims were exhibited there in the 1990s. Among his Holocaust-related images are two iconic photos that he claimed were taken upon the January 18, 1945 liberation of the Budapest ghetto. One represents the wanton murder of Jews, the other their survival. Exhibited or published, these photos were accompanied by Khaldei's brief stories about their subjects. The following

examination proves that they were not taken in the ghetto, that they were staged, and that the stories Khaldei attached to them were false.

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.

Summer Vacation for the AHEA Newsletter

Our newsletter will be taking a summer pause in July and August. We'll resume in September with new Spotlights, conference info, President's Corners, and other exciting updates. Until then, *jó nyaralást!*

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.



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