



September 2023 Newsletter

President's Corner

Dear AHEA Members and Friends,

Welcome back from your well-deserved summer break! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable time with family and friends. As we kick off the new academic year, we're excited to embark on fresh challenges and opportunities together.

First, I'm thrilled to announce the release of the latest issue of [Hungarian Cultural Studies!](#) This publication is a testament to the dedication of our new editorial board and to the innovative scholarship of AHEA scholars. Please click on the links below to access the new issue.

I'd also like to remind you of our upcoming deadline to submit an abstract for our [2023 Online AHEA Conference](#). **The deadline is this Friday, September 15!** Virtual conferences are a great way to bring together scholars from both sides of the Atlantic, and in the future we plan to offer regular online conferences in the fall, in addition to our in-person conferences in the spring. See details below.

Finally, please mark your calendars for our 2024 conferences: in-person at Rutgers University, May 2-4, 2024, and online August 22-23, 2024, in collaboration with the University of Debrecen. Details and CFPs follow.

In closing, I have sad news to share: **Paul Sohar**, or Sohár Pali as many of us knew him, passed away in August. Pali had been a long-time member of AHEA and a regular presenter at our conferences. May his poetic spirit and kindness continue to inspire and resonate with all who had the privilege of knowing him: <https://www.irodalmijelen.hu/2023-aug-21-1315/sohar-palra-emlekezunk>.

Sincerely, üdvözlettel, Helga Lenart-Cheng

A Message from Pál Olcsváry, Editor-in-Chief of *Hungarian Cultural Studies*

As the editor-in-chief of *Hungarian Cultural Studies* this past year, I am pleased to announce that with the release last week of our latest annual issue, we've entered our sixteenth year of publication, under the guidance of a new editorial team, including a much-expanded editorial board. Rather than reinventing the wheel in this newsletter note, much of what you'll find below is my editor's note from this new issue.

I would here introduce myself and the rest of our new editorial team, and then share with you some thoughts on my vision for *Hungarian Cultural Studies* and its role in the fast-shifting cultural, sociopolitical, and academic circumstances of this new millennium.

But I wish to first express my gratitude to the former editor in chief, Louise O. Vasvári, for the many years she dedicated to building this journal into one of the foremost academic publications in the field—a journal known for its rigorous scholarship and interdisciplinary approach, and, not least, for being open access. Louise's exhaustive answers to my many questions last summer helped fill in some of the gaps in the learning curve that my many years as an editor, publisher, translator, and writer, as well as a young(er) adulthood spent in Hungary, could not.

How did I come upon this path? In 1988 I began my MA in writing at Indiana University, Bloomington. Unbeknownst to me then, with that decision I was in fact starting a life far more steeped in matters Hungarian than my bilingual Hungarian American childhood alone had prepared me for. That's because I had landed at the university that was home to North America's foremost Hungarian studies program. Having grown up bilingual—my grandparents had fled Hungary as World War II was ending—I met several young Hungarian scholars the moment I stepped into the graduate dormitory. We became fast friends. Before long I became head of the Hungarian Cultural Association on campus, and I spent just about as much time taking Hungarian courses (e.g., with the eminent literary scholar Mihály Szegedy-Maszák) as in the department (English) that was ostensibly my home. During those two lovely years I also got to know celebrated Hungarian musicians who taught at the university's world-renowned school of music, including the cellist János Starker, who with his Hungarian colleagues undertook a benefit concert to aid those fleeing the Romanian revolution. Two summers studying in Debrecen ensued, and my new Hungarian

friends at IU encouraged me to apply for a job teaching at the English department at Janus Pannonius University, in Pécs, which I did, in 1990, in a newly democratic Hungary. Thus began my years in Hungary and a journey that has seen me translate many magnificent Hungarian novels and other books. In 1990 I resettled in the US, for a job as a copywriter with Princeton University Press. Five years later I returned to Hungary for two years, and though I resettled yet again in the States, for another publishing job, soon I founded my own, Eastern Central Europe–focused press, New Europe Books.

At Hungarian Cultural Studies, over the past year I have been blessed to work with a team: Deputy Editor Zsuzsanna Varga, PhD, Senior Lecturer of Central & East European Studies at the University of Glasgow, has been an indispensable partner for me in this editorship. Our foremost aim this past year has been to ensure continuity at the journal, and we trust that Volume 16 reflects this.

Of immense help to us has been the nine-member, international editorial board we assembled. All authorities in their respective disciplines, these associate editors include János Csapó, Zsuzsanna Cselényi, Paul Hanebrink, Sarah M Lucas, Andrew Ludányi, Judith Kesserű Némethy, Andrea Parapatics, Balázs Varga, and Kristóf György Veres. Thanks also to our new book review editors, Ákos Farkas & E. M. McQueen; our many peer reviewers; our new copy editors, John Puckett & Andrea Thürmer; and our outgoing layout editor and editorial management system expert, Katalin Vörös, whose role is now being assumed by Klára Papp.

And then there is the scholarly body that has long published this journal, the American Hungarian Educators Association. While *Hungarian Cultural Studies* is editorially independent, we are grateful to be able to draw on its membership and resources in our efforts to produce a journal of distinction.

Looking to the future, we envision a journal as daring as it is rigorous, as timely as it is timeless; a journal in which no perspective is excluded, even if it challenges either conventional scholarship or the perspectives of many readers, perhaps even our own. The core criteria for publication: scholarly rigor, contributing to and/or advancing scholarship, and sound writing. We seek also to substantially expand our reach to potential contributors far and wide, both established and budding scholars in relevant disciplines and reflecting a range of perspectives. In keeping with this aim, we will engage the resources of social media. In closing, let me add that with Volume 16 we are introducing a new section, “Perspectives on Hungarian Studies,” which provides a home for articles woven through with more personal reflections than are the other articles. Add to this our nine general articles on a broad range of subjects, thirteen book reviews, and our plenary invited paper, Emőke Szathmáry’s thoroughly informed, refreshingly objective, and absorbing consideration of what makes a Hungarian, a Hungarian.

Our journal’s next chapter now begins.

Hungarian Cultural Studies:

2023 Issue Now Available!



Volume 16 (2023) of AHEA's peer-reviewed journal is now online! It features nine thought-provoking general articles that delve into various aspects of Hungarian culture and its interconnectedness with the world. From literature and the arts to history, sociology, political theory, and linguistics, these articles promise to captivate and inspire readers with their depth and breadth of research. In addition, we are honored to present the [plenary invited paper by physical anthropologist Emőke Szathmáry](#), whose groundbreaking contribution is a highlight of this issue. Vol. 16 also contains thirteen book reviews by expert reviewers, a bibliography, a new section called “Perspectives on Hungarian Studies,” as well as an [editorial](#).

We invite you to explore this exciting new issue. Whether you are a seasoned scholar or a newcomer to the field, you will find a wealth of knowledge and inspiration. By [clicking on this link](#), you can easily download any of the articles in pdf format. You can also help promote the journal by sharing the link with your networks.

Editor Paul Olchváry is already looking ahead to the 2024 issue. **Please consider submitting your work!** With its open-access format and quick

turnaround time, HCS is an ideal venue for publishing your research for a wide audience.

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 **Angela K. Gazda**,
PhD Student in History, City University of New York

Please tell us a little bit about your career arc, especially how you came to work on the history of medicine in Transylvania.

I have wide-ranging intellectual interests, which, since childhood, have included the sciences, but my path to studying their histories was a somewhat winding one. In due course, it took me to complete graduate studies in that vein at Columbia University, and then I continued in the doctoral program in history at the City University of New York, where I am currently working towards my dissertation.

I became motivated in my inquiries, in part, by the regrettable fact that east central Europe is still often treated as a kind of *terra incognita* in accounts of the development

of science. I have found the history of medicine particularly compelling because the breadth of its subjects gives one the opportunity to investigate and contemplate many complex aspects of societies and individual lives, across space and time, some of which may not be readily observable from other perspectives. The subjects that I have a boundless curiosity about and have concentrated on include the development of conceptions of contagion and the pursuit of artificial life. The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in Transylvania really captured my attention because they were a time of great upheaval and possibilities.

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

I found out about AHEA by reading an announcement of its activities, which led me to want to learn more about what turned out to be a nonpareil organization. I realized that my professional goals and passions meshed well with several stated aims of AHEA, so I became involved.

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

My involvement with AHEA has been unequivocally positive. I am grateful for the opportunities it has given me to meet and forge collaborations with researchers in various fields I might not have been able to otherwise. Having presented at several of its conferences, I found the organizers to be dedicated and welcoming and attendees highly engaged, whether I was discussing my varied historical research or my work pertaining to native language education.

Tell us, please, about your current project.

Currently, my dissertation is my main project. Its focus is on early modern vernacular medical texts, especially Hungarian household recipe collections that address the promotion of health. My study of these recipes weaves together my training in the history of science, book history, ethnography, and folkloristics in order to better understand such practical medical knowledge and the milieus in which it was created, including through medical correspondence – the medical republic of letters. I was drawn to medical recipes while studying accusations of illicit healing in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century court cases and also while working with the historian of science Pamela Smith. I presented on early modern Transylvanian medical recipe practices at the 2023 AHEA conference and I aim to discuss other aspects of my current research at a future AHEA event. I am appreciative of the chance to make my work familiar to a wider public, herein as well.

LAST CALL for Abstracts: AHEA 2023 Online Conference

AHEA 2023 Online Conference November 24, 2023

Abstracts due September 15

The American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA) invites you to its **online hybrid one-day conference to be held on Friday, November 24, 2023** concurrently with the Hungarian Association Conference in Cleveland, Ohio in the USA. Presentations may be made in person or online (through Zoom). We welcome participation by academics, independent scholars, educators, and graduate students who are devoted to the teaching, research, and dissemination of Hungarian culture, history, folklore, literature, linguistics, pedagogy, fine arts, and music. This year's conference theme: **Dependencies and Alliances**.

Abstracts are invited that report the results of original research. Abstracts can address a broad range of topics dealing with all aspects of the interaction between Hungarians and others, or Hungarians and Hungarian communities abroad. We also welcome abstracts that combine original research studies and provide direction for future research.

Abstracts should consist of a title (no more than 135 characters in length including spaces); 200-250-word abstract, specify the type of presentation (paper, panel, and roundtable discussions); list author(s) on the paper, a brief biography, including degrees and scholarly fields (50-100 words) and email contact information. Kindly proofread before submitting online. Abstracts are reviewed on a rolling basis; the deadline is **September 15, 2023**.

The official languages of the conference are English and Hungarian; abstracts and presentations in either language are welcome. Authors will receive notification of acceptance in early Fall. Authors whose papers are accepted are expected to be current members of AHEA. Information on joining or renewing membership may be found on the [AHEA website](#).

Abstracts in the following categories are invited:

- **Paper Presentation** Individual paper presentations describe original research

by the author. Fifteen minutes is allotted for the paper and fifteen for discussion.

- **Panel Discussion** is a forum for an interactive discussion of a topic among a panel of experts. Typically, a panel of two or three speakers makes introductory remarks. The audience is then invited to make comments and question the panel. Panel discussions are scheduled for 60 minutes and run concurrently with other sessions.
- **Roundtable discussion** Roundtables are 60 minutes in length and are intended for informal discussions of pressing current topics important to scholars in the field and to provide a venue to both share and learn from each other. Each submission should have no less than three participants knowledgeable in the discipline.

Az Amerikai Magyar Tanárszövetség évente megrendezi konferenciáját a magyar kultúra, történelem, néprajz, irodalom, nyelv, pedagógia, szépművészet, zene és más kapcsolódó tudományokból. A konferencia előadói tarthatják előadásukat virtuálisan (Zoom felületet alkalmazva).

Az előadások nyelve angol és magyar, örömmel fogadunk magyar nyelvű előadásokat. Szeretettel várunk konferenciánkra minden kollegát, érdeklődőt. Akik a fenti témához kapcsolódva a jelzett területek bármelyikéről előadást szeretnének tartani, kérjük, hogy absztraktjukat **2023. szeptember 15-ig adják be itt.**

Program

Committee

Cultural Studies: Mártha Pereszlényi-Pintér, John Carroll University; Mari Réthelyi, Louisiana State University
Education: Viktoria Batista, University of Pittsburgh; Andrea Parapatics University of Pannonia
History/Political Science: Péter Kristián Zachar, National University of Public Service, Budapest; James P. Niessen, Rutgers University
Language/Literature: Ákos Farkas, ELTE; Zsuzsanna Varga, University of Glasgow
Music/Folklore: Sarah Lucas, Texas A&M University, Kingsville; Judith Olson, American Hungarian Folklore Centrum, New Jersey
Science/Economics: Andrew Lee, Northern Virginia Community College; Katalin Voros, University of California at Berkeley

Sponsors

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| Hungarian Association | (Magyar Társaság), | Cleveland, | Ohio |
| Bethlen | Gábor | | Alap |
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| Helena | History | | Press |

Contact: info@ahea.net

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. Requests will appear in the order in which they were received and may be edited for space.