
AHEA Newsletter: October 2023

1 message

American Hungarian Educators Association <aheanews@gmail.com>

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Reply-To: aheanews@gmail.com

To: voros@eecs.berkeley.edu

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October 2023 Newsletter

President's Corner

Dear AHEA Members and Friends,

Autumn serves as a gentle reminder of the ever-changing world around us and the endless opportunities for growth and connection. Our upcoming conferences promise to provide an exceptional platform for networking, sharing ideas, and advancing Hungarian Studies.

In this edition of our newsletter, we are thrilled to share the program of our hybrid conference in November. Attendance is free, but please click on the link below to [register](#).

I'm also excited to announce the call for papers for our next in-person conference, to be held at Rutgers University in May 2024. Please mark your calendar and submit your abstract as soon as possible, especially if you plan to travel internationally. Rutgers is such a fantastic, central location with so many great archives, museums, and universities close by that you could combine your conference attendance with a research trip. Also, as you think about possible topics to propose, I encourage you to consider potential collaborations with other AHEA members or non-members. Perhaps you remember a presentation from a previous conference, or you know a colleague who works in a field related to yours. Reach out to each other (members' emails are available on our website) and see if you can propose a roundtable or a panel built around a shared theme. Such collaborations are key to the success of scholarly communities, so let's use them!

Finally, I'm pleased to let you know that we'll be [collaborating with the University of Debrecen for our hybrid conference in August 2024](#). This conference will mark the 100th anniversary of the US Immigration Act of 2024. This interdisciplinary conference aims to explore the multifaceted dimensions of migration and its complex

interactions with history, literature, cultural studies, film studies, inter-American studies, and various other academic fields. Please find attached the call for paper.

Organizing these conferences is no small feat, so I'd like to thank all the members of the Board, local organizing committees, program committees and those working on membership development for their tireless service.

I look forward to sharing this enriching season with you and to meeting many of you at our upcoming conferences.

Warm regards, üdvözlettel,

Helga Lenart-Cheng

Call for Abstracts: 2024 AHEA Conference

**American Hungarian Educators Association
48th Annual Conference**

**May 2 – 4, 2024
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ USA**

The American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA) will hold its 48th Annual Conference **in person** at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, USA. We welcome participation by academics, independent scholars, and graduate students interested in Hungarian culture, history, literature, linguistics, sociology, anthropology, political science, education, folklore, fine arts, music, and other related disciplines.

This year's conference theme is: Reimagining Boundaries: Hungary and Hungarians in a Global Context

Presentations should report the results of original research. Proposals can address a broad range of topics dealing with Hungarian culture, including interactions between Hungarians and others, as well as life in the Hungarian diaspora. We also welcome presentations on methodology and those that provide directions for future research.

Abstract submission deadline: **January 15, 2024.**

Abstracts are reviewed on a rolling basis. Presenters should expect to hear back within two weeks.

Abstracts (200-250 words) should be submitted through [this form](#).

Submission guidelines:

- The official languages of the conference are English and Hungarian. Abstracts and presentations in either language are welcome.
 - Only one "Individual Presentation" per author will be considered. Roundtables, workshops, and book presentations are exceptions in that scholars participating in those can also submit an "individual presentation".
 - All authors must be AHEA members. Information on joining or renewing membership may be found on the [AHEA website](#).
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We invite abstracts in the following categories:

- **Individual presentations** describe original research by the author. Altogether the total time allotment is thirty minutes (15 - 20 minutes for the presentation and 10 - 15 for questions and discussion).
- **Panel discussions** are for 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.
- **Workshops** provide training on a specific skill, technique, or process and may involve one or more instructors. Workshops are intended to emphasize learning through participation, discussion, and “hands-on” activities. Workshop organizers must specify an upper limit on attendance. Workshops are scheduled for 90 minutes.
- **Roundtable discussions** are intended for informal discussions of pressing current topics important to scholars in the field and to provide a venue to both share with and learn from each other. Each submission should have no less than three participants knowledgeable in the discipline.
- **Book Presentations:** Recently published books are invited for presentation either by the author or by an interested reader. These offer a short, max. 10 - minute synopsis of a book published within the last year and of potential interest to the members of AHEA.

Az Amerikai Magyar Tanáregyesület évente megrendezi tudományos konferenciáját, amelynek témája a magyar kultúra, történelem, irodalom, nyelvészet, szociológia, antropológia, politológia, pedagógia, néprajz, szépművészet, zene és más kapcsolódó tudományágak.

48. éves konferenciánk helyszíne a **Rutgers University**, New Brunswick, New Jersey-ben.

A konferencia témája: Újragondolt mezsgyék: Magyarország és a magyarok a nagyvilágban.

Az előadások nyelve angol, de örömmel fogadunk magyar nyelvű előadásokat is. Szeretettel várunk konferenciánkra minden kollégát, érdeklődőt. Akik a fenti témához kapcsolódva a jelzett területek bármelyikéről előadást szeretnének tartani, kérjük, hogy absztraktjukat **2024. január 15-ig** [online adják be](#).

Program Committee

Cultural Studies:

Mártha Pereszlényi-Pintér, John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio

Mari Réthelyi, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Education:

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Andrea Parapatics, University of Pannonia, Veszprém

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James P. Niessen, Rutgers University, New Jersey

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Ákos Farkas, ELTE, Budapest, Hungary

Zsuzsanna Varga, University of Glasgow, Scotland

Music/Folklore:

Sarah Lucas, Texas A&M University–Kingsville, Texas
Judith Olson, American Hungarian Folklore Centrum, New Jersey

Science/Economics:

Andrew Lee, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria, Virginia
Katalin Vörös, University of California, Berkeley

Chair: Helga Lenart-Cheng, President, AHEA

Local Organizing Committee Chair

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World History Librarian
Alexander Library
Rutgers University
169 College Ave
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1163

Sponsors

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
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Contact: info@ahea.net

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 **Mari Rethelyi**,
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Philosophy & Religious Studies, Director of
Jewish Studies, Louisiana State University

Please tell us a little bit about your career arc, especially how you came to study the intersection of Jewish history, nationalism, and racial theories?

I have always been interested in things I simply don't get. I cannot overlook them but keep hammering at them trying to figure out the whys. This is how I ended up studying Jewish history, nationalism and racial theories. I still don't understand things even though I am finishing up a manuscript on these very same issues where I try to give some explanations. I originally wanted to study Jewish philosophy, as my academic home is in Religious Studies broadly speaking. To this end, I did do all my PhD work in Jewish philosophy at the University of Chicago, but then somehow, for lots of reasons, I ended up writing my dissertation and first scholarly articles on Hungarian Jewish nationalism and race theories.

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

My question is more like: why I did not find AHEA before? I found it quite "late" in my scholarly engagement, right before the pandemic hit. I was looking for an academic conference in Hungary in English that was internationally advertised. I found AHEA's upcoming conference in Pécs in 2020 (it was cancelled eventually due to the pandemic). I was excited because it was an American scholarly conference in Hungary in my field of study. Those are rare, and I was looking for further scholarly engagement in Hungary with both Hungarian and international scholars. It was the perfect fit. I had no idea AHEA existed before. I am not quite sure why. Ironically, I think one of the reasons I was not aware of AHEA's existence is connected to its name. In English its name is a bit of a puzzle, and one does not quite understand what it stands for. It is not straightforward about its scholarly engagement and standards, in my view. I am sure there were good reasons at one point to come up with this name, but today, I think it would benefit from a makeover. A more direct name could communicate its academic commitment better, thus it could reach a wider audience. Young scholars finding out about it via the internet would not hesitate to engage with it if it was clearly stated that it is a scholarly (meaning university level) organization. Today there are more young scholars studying Hungary than 40 or more years ago, and there is way more engagement between the USA and Hungary, so I think this is an important issue.

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

I am very happy to have found a scholarly organization that consists of people who are not only interested in Hungarian Studies broadly speaking but most of them also come from background similar to mine. They have ties to Hungary and the USA at the same time. They know both worlds, both languages and both are important for them. For these reasons, I feel I found a personal and intellectual home in AHEA. In my impression AHEA is interested in making connections with Hungarian scholars at any level of their career and not just benefit from the fame of well-established Hungarian scholars by inviting those to its conference. I find this open and inclusive engagement work very important for a number of reasons but due to the limitation of space I cannot list here.

I am part of another scholarly association called AJS (Association of Jewish Studies). It is essential to this scholarly organization to create and maintain ties between Israeli and North American academics at the different stages of their careers. I think it has mutually benefited everyone intellectually and personally no matter where they are based. AHEA seem to have this same attitude to Hungary-based academics, and I can only applaud it. However, more financial resources (as grants for example) would be beneficial for Hungary-based academics to come to the USA for conferences. AJS has lots of different grants for people at different stages of their carrier; it even has grants for women to help with babysitting expenses for their kids while at the conference. These financial incentives would help young scholars in Hungary not just to build ties with USA-based scholars but also to enhance their academic knowledge and skills via exposure.

Tell us, please, about your current project.

In my scholarly interest I am migrating from the history of nationalism and race to gender studies. This is reflected in my teaching as well. I have developed classes on different aspects of religion, gender, sexuality, and culture. In my research, I am exploring the idea of a book on Anna Lesznai's worldview. Mainly, how religion, Jewishness, gender, language and space have influenced her. I have started my archival work at PIM (Petőfi Irodalmi Múzeum) in Budapest and the Hatvan Múzeum where people have been very kind to me and helpful.

Register for the 2023 Online Conference

AHEA ONE-DAY ONLINE - HYBRID CONFERENCE

Dealing with all aspects of the interaction between Hungarians and others, or Hungarians and Hungarian communities abroad.

Presentations are made by members of the American Hungarian Educators Association, 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.

The official languages of the conference are English and Hungarian.

DEPENDENCIES AND ALLIANCES



Date
November 24, 2023



Time
9:00AM - 5:00PM EST

Register Now



More Info
<https://ahea.net/home>

AHEA presentations: Ontario Room
Crowne Plaza Cleveland Airport, 7230 Engle Rd.,
Middleburg Hts., OH 44130

Design: Eva Szabo

Concurrently with the
Hungarian Association
Conference in Cleveland, Ohio

**A 62. Magyar Kongresszus /
The 62nd Hungarian Congress**



CfP: 2024 University of Debrecen-AHEA Joint Hybrid Conference

Call for Papers (CFP)

“Johnson-Reed 100 Years Later”: Critical Reflections on the Global Legacy of US Immigration Quotas, 1924-2024



This international conference is organized by the Institute of English and American Studies at the **University of Debrecen**, Hungary in partnership with the **American Hungarian Educators Association** to mark the 100th Anniversary of the US Immigration Act of 1924.

Date: August 22-23, 2024

Venue: Debrecen, Hungary, Main Building of the University of Debrecen

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Johnson-Reed Act, we are delighted to invite scholars, researchers, educators, and practitioners from diverse disciplines to participate in an international conference to critically reflect on the perceptions and impact of the US Immigration Act of 1924 and other restrictive measures of the time on global migration trajectories and policy. More broadly, this interdisciplinary conference aims to explore the multifaceted dimensions of migration and its complex interactions with history, literature, cultural studies, film studies, inter-American studies, and various other academic fields. We encourage submissions that offer innovative insights, historical analysis, and contemporary interpretations of the implications of migration and immigration restriction in shaping societies, cultures, and identities.

The conference will be held in person with an opportunity for participants joining from outside Hungary to present in hybrid sessions.

Confirmed plenary speakers:

1. Ashley Johnson Bavery, Associate Professor, Eastern Michigan University, USA
2. Anna A. Mazurkiewicz, Associate Professor, University of Gdansk, Poland
3. Mónika Szente-Varga, Associate Professor, Ludovika University of Public

Service, Hungary

We welcome proposals that delve into a wide range of topics related to the US immigration quotas introduced in 1921 and 1924, and in more general the reasons for and impact of immigration restriction, including but not limited to:

- Historical analysis of the Johnson-Reed Act and its implications for immigration to the United States
- Impact of the American regulations on other countries in the Americas · The role of the Johnson-Reed Act in shaping European migration trajectories · Immigration to the Americas from Central and Eastern Europe after 1924
- The interplay between immigration quotas and notions of identity, race, and ethnicity
- Comparative approaches to the history of immigration and immigration restriction in the Americas and Europe
- Intended and unintended consequences of immigration restriction
- Cultural products (e.g., art, music, theater) reflecting on immigration and/or immigration restriction; literary and filmic representations of the migration experience
- The role of film in shaping public perceptions of immigration and migration policies
- Human rights perspectives on immigration quotas and their effects on vulnerable populations
- The influence of immigration quotas on transnational communities and diasporas
- Evaluations of American immigration policy and reforms

We invite proposals for:

- Individual (20-minute) papers focusing on specific research topics, case studies, or theoretical perspectives related to the conference theme
- Work-in-progress presentations by PhD students (10 minutes)
- Themed panels of three papers addressing a cohesive topic related to the conference theme
- Roundtable discussions

Submission guidelines: Submit your abstracts with a brief bio on the following website under "Abstract submission": <https://konferencia.unideb.hu/en/JohnsonReed100>

- Abstract: Provide a structured abstract of no more than 300 words outlining the key points, methodologies, and their relevance to the conference theme.
- Presenter's information: Include the presenter's name, institutional affiliation (if applicable), email address, and a brief biography of up to 150 words.

Proposal submission deadline: January 12, 2024

Notification of acceptance: January 26, 2024

Registration deadline: February 29, 2024

All participants, including presenters and attendees, are required to register in advance.

Registration Fees:

Registration fee: EUR 40

For students: EUR 20

Details on the registration process and payment will be provided at a later date. The Friday night reception is sponsored by Fulbright Hungary.

An optional conference trip to the Museum of Emigration from Slovakia to North America or to Budapest (the Open-Air Ethnographic Museum in Szentendre) will be organized for August 24 (Saturday).

Publication Opportunities: Selected conference papers will be considered for publication in a special edition of the peer-reviewed, Scopus-indexed Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies and/or Hungarian Cultural Studies, and in a peer-reviewed volume of essays to be published by an international publisher (currently under negotiation).

Additional information regarding submission guidelines and timelines will be provided later.

Contact information: for inquiries and further information, please contact Balázs Venkovits – Associate Professor, Institute of English and American Studies, University of Debrecen (venkovits.balazs@arts.unideb.hu)

Member Publications

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

Three translations by the late **Paul Sohar** have been published posthumously or are soon to be released. [*We thank Paul's widow, Eva Botai, for the following information. -ed.*]



Zoltán Böszörményi, ***Ripped Apart***, trans. Paul Sohar:

"The experimental aspects are easy to follow in this complex work, which is based on a rather humdrum story of a small group of friends living in Toronto, all middle class and each in their own way caught up in their increasingly tragic mid-life crises. While this scenario forms the baseline for the book from beginning to end, a series of short, formally unrelated stories are inserted into the flow of the novel as an experimental device, an added dimension. The final inserts concern the dismantling of Hungary in the WWI peace treaty and its occupation by Germany in 1944, led by Edmund Veessenmeyer. Thus, at the end a sort of analogy emerges between the characters of the novel and Hungary getting ripped apart."

László Lázár Lövétei, ***Black-Market Gigs***, trans. Paul Sohar:

"L.L. Lövétei (b. 1972) poet, literary translator, editor. Between 1998 and 2019, he was the editor of the cultural magazine Székelyföld in Csíkszereda. He lives in Csíkszentdomokos. He is a winner of the József Attila Prize and Faludy György Award."

COMING SOON: *Pillars of Magyar Poetry*: 500 years of Hungarian poetry selected and translated by Paul Sohar. "Sohar's fascination with Hungarian literature and his deep love of Magyar history are brought to the fore in this collection. While the

language has survived over the centuries, the boundaries of the nation have expanded and contracted countless times, as is the natural through the course of the changing power and influence of nations. This fact is reflected in the selection of works, which represent the effects and the stressors of war on the people and poets of their respective generations."

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.

Call for Submissions to *Hungarian Cultural Studies*

[*Hungarian Cultural Studies*](#)—the peer-reviewed, open-access scholarly journal published each summer by the American Hungarian Educators Association—is inviting submissions for our 2024 issue.

Our mission is to publish scholarly, cutting-edge content dedicated to Hungarian studies across the humanities and social science disciplines—including original articles, book reviews, and review articles.

We particularly welcome thematic clusters comprising three or more articles on a unifying theme.

January 10 is the deadline for our annual, summer issue. Don't have your article ready yet? That's alright; simply send your idea or abstract (200 words or less) to Paul Olchvary, editor in chief, at editorhungarian@gmail.com.

To find out more about the submission process, check our [website](#).



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