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## AHEA Newsletter: December 2023

1 message

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**American Hungarian Educators Association** <aheanews@gmail.com>

Tue, Dec 12, 2023 at 5:04 PM

Reply-To: aheanews@gmail.com

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## December 2023 Newsletter

### President's Corner

Dear AHEA Community,

As the year draws to a close, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each member for your unwavering support of our mission. Your dedication has been the cornerstone of our collective success. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors for their invaluable contributions, which will help support the next generation of scholars. In case you missed our Giving Tuesday campaign, it's not too late, just [click on the "Donate" button on our website](#).

As a friendly reminder, the deadline to submit abstracts for our 2024 conferences is approaching on January 15. Our [in-person conference at Rutgers in May](#) and our [hybrid conference in Debrecen in May](#) promise to be exciting events, so book your trips early. Information about registration, etc. will be posted on our website shortly. Please share the CFP widely, the more the merrier!

Wishing you all joyous holidays filled with warmth and connection. Kellemes Ünnepeket és Boldog Új Évet!

Helga Lenart-Cheng

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 **Paul Olchvary**,  
Editor in Chief of *Hungarian Cultural Studies*  
and the publisher of New Europe Books

**Please tell us a little bit about your career arc, especially what you did before becoming the editor in chief of *Hungarian Cultural Studies*.**

What I was devoted to prior to being honored in summer 2022 with the editorship of AHEA’s excellent journal is much the same as what I am devoted to now: translating Hungarian books and publishing (other people’s) books from Hungary and elsewhere in the region. To pay my bills and to ensure a healthy physical, daily presence in a community of smart, friendly people in my isolated, mountainous corner of Massachusetts, I am grateful to have a day job at an independent school as a substitute teacher and editor/writer.

First, then, translation: I’ve had the good fortune to bring more than twenty Hungarian books into English over the past thirty or so years. How did I embark on this path? The Cold War was ending. Fresh out of Indiana University (IU), Bloomington—where, having been raised in a Hungarian family in America, I’d dabbled in Hungarian studies while pursuing an MA in English—I moved to Hungary in 1990 to try my hand at teaching essay writing to English majors. There I hit upon another idea: literary translation jobs as a back door to kickstart my own writing career. Well, that back door—whose early years saw me translating for Corvina Press and the *Hungarian Quarterly*—proved in fact to be a front door: to a life as a literary translator.

That life had begun for me in Bloomington in 1988–89, when I first translated a piece or two by Dezso Kosztolanyi in a class taught by renowned (and, since, sadly departed) Hungarian literary scholar Mihaly Szegedy-Maszak. He became my mentor.

I’ve had other careers, too, before and during my translation decades. A “gap year” between my BA in English (from the State University of New York at Buffalo) and the start of my MA saw me working as a newspaper reporter in the Adirondack Mountains of northern New York State. That was the toughest and most valuable job I’ve ever had. It taught me how to write more than any writing workshop or university course ever did.

After moving to Hungary, in 1990, I taught essay writing to English majors at Janus Pannonius University, in Pecs, for three semesters. I then moved to Budapest for a yearlong work fellowship at the US Embassy, in 1991, where I got to play diplomat and see the embassy’s inner workings. What a different era that was, for Hungary—so full of hope, and yet also a bit chaotic, with much of the economy falling into the hands of Western companies and with privatization dizzyingly underway. Then I became the editor of a new, English-language press digest I called *Hungary Around the Clock*, which is still in the business of providing a daily dose of relatively objective information to non-Hungarians about what’s going on in Hungary. For the rest of the 1990s I was often a freelance editor, always a translator, sometimes a writer (e.g. published in Hungarian translation in the Budapest cultural monthly *2000*).

In 2000, I landed my dream job at the time: marketing copywriter at Princeton University Press. The five years I spent there, working with academics from around the world to distill the essence of their books, left me with a profound appreciation for the workings of the scholarly publishing world, including the peer review process. I left as senior copywriter, determined to resume my life as a literary translator and writer. Though I then moved back to Hungary for a couple of years before landing another full-time copywriting position—this time at a commercial press—my years at Princeton have shaped my academic sensibilities to this day.

Finally, in 2010, I moved with my then-wife and our then-two-year-old son, Ákos (spelled “Akosh” in the US to avoid horrible mispronunciation) to the vicinity of Williamstown, a small college town in rural Massachusetts. We could afford a home there, and I was bent on establishing my own press, [New Europe Books](#). That press has since published everything from György Moldova’s absorbing history of the invention of the ballpoint pen and Sándor Szathmári’s 1941 dystopian-utopian masterpiece *Voyage to Kazohinia* to a classic novel of the Hungarian Roma and a Danish journalist’s refreshingly well-balanced account of Hungary under the direction of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.

So then, in a rather large nutshell, that’s what eventually brought me to *Hungarian Cultural Studies*. Since getting through a tough learning curve that lasted months, with the support of wonderful colleagues and with good advice from the previous editor in chief, Lujza Vasvári, the role has also taken on a sense of cultural mission in my mind.

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

As may be apparent from the arc above, I’ve long been on the periphery of academia—from 1988, in fact, when I stepped into the graduate dormitory at Indiana and befriended several young Hungarian Soros scholars. My connections with them—including one who went on to become a prominent historian—deepened over the years. Granted, I myself have not pursued a career as a scholar, exactly, or, minus my initial couple of years in Hungary, as an educator. The need to earn a living and my wanting to keep translating books even led me at once point to turn down acceptances to PhD programs in translation.

So while I have long been friends and on good terms with some AHEA members, and though I certainly knew of the organization and held it in high esteem, my own formal association with AHEA began with my editorship of *Hungarian Cultural Studies*. I am honored to be affiliated with both, and can’t wait to attend next spring’s AHEA conference—in the city where I was born, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

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

As suggested above, I suppose it would be more accurate in my case to rephrase the question a bit and ask what impact my involvement with AHEA’s journal, *Hungarian Cultural Studies*, has had on my career and my work. Well, first, though in some respects I felt qualified, the learning curve involved in getting a handle on the nuts and bolts of the journal’s editorial management system and other details of its operation was a humbling experience that has taught me much. I now feel more confident, in no small part because I am blessed to have such amazing, supportive colleagues, such as the deputy editor, Zsuzsanna Varga, and former AHEA president Klára Papp, who is today the journal’s layout editor and always has great advice to share when asked. That’s not to mention Katalin Vörös, our former layout editor; our book review editors, Ákos Farkas and E. M. McQueen; and our large handful of associate editors spanning two continents.

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

I’ll report in here on my current translation projects, which keep me busy when not at my day job or editing *Hungarian Cultural Studies*. I’m happy to say that my latest book translation will be published in January 2024: the late József Debreczeni’s Holocaust memoir from the 1950s, *Hideg krématórium* (Cold Crematorium), which has been widely praised. Over the course of 2024 and 2025, I will also be translating the late Alíz Halda’s remarkable tale of love and the 1956 Revolution, *Magánügy* (Personal Affair), as well as one or two shorter books. Perhaps I’ll also get around to completing some of my own writing—a novel and, of course, a translator’s memoir.

Amid all this, my editing of *Hungarian Cultural Studies* remains also at the heart of who I am; for in doing so I'm honoring my longstanding devotion to illuminating vital aspects of what it is to be Hungarian--in this case, with rigorous peer review ensuring a quality check. My vision on this front going forward? To do my best, in collaboration with my colleagues, to secure sound and engaging research for publication from an even wider realm of the academic world than before, with no subject from the broad range of the humanities and social sciences off-limits.

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## Call for Abstracts: 2024 AHEA Conference

**American Hungarian Educators Association  
48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

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

The American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA) will hold its 48<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

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.**

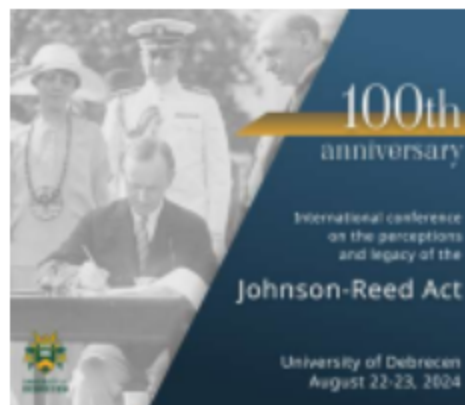
**Contact:** [info@aher.net](mailto:info@aher.net)

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## 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 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the US Immigration Act of 1924.

**Date:** August 22-23, 2024

In commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:venkovits.balazs@arts.unideb.hu))

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## 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.

Furthermore, we are thrilled to announce that AHEA and the National Széchényi Library (OSZK) signed an Agreement of Cooperation to digitally archive *HCS* in the Electronic Periodicals Archive & Database (EPA). The complete archive of *HCS* is available at <https://epa.oszk.hu/04600/04696>

**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](mailto:editorhungarian@gmail.com).

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

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# Call for Papers: Hungarian Studies Association of Canada Conference

*This third-party announcement is included for the benefit of our readers.  
AHEA is not directly affiliated with the conference described below.*

## “Interconnected Cultures: The Place of Hungary and Hungarians in a Sustainable World”

[Click here for the Call for Papers 2024 \(PDF\)](#)

The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada invites proposals for individual papers, posters, roundtable discussions, workshops, complete panels, and other innovative presentations and sessions for our annual conference to be held in conjunction with the Congress of Social Sciences and Humanities hosted by McGill University in beautiful and dynamic Montréal, Québec, from June 15-17, 2024. As the conference will follow a **hybrid** format, we invite proposals for **both in-person and virtual** presentations. **Please indicate in your proposal which presentation format you wish to be considered for.**

Building on the Congress theme of “Sustaining Shared Futures” and its target emphasis on the achievement of environmental sustainability in a manner that assures global equity, this year’s HSAC conference seeks proposals that thematize efforts to engage in collaborative cultural change and exchange, as well as addressing human impact on the environment, both natural and human-made. This thematic focus invites consideration of a range of topics from cultural output to historical events, including political, economic, legal, ethical, literary, journalistic, artistic and scientific endeavors related to sustainability and mutual collaboration. All relevant considerations of these themes within the field of Hungarian studies writ large will be considered.

Although we strongly encourage proposals that speak to the conference theme, we also welcome proposals on any topic related to Hungary and Hungarian Studies. The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada also supports and encourages both creative and critical scholarly engagement within and across disciplines.

We especially encourage proposals from graduate students. In addition to offering limited funding to offset the costs of participation in the conference, HSAC will choose one graduate student presenter to receive Congress’s Graduate Merit Award. The award winner will be recognized publicly by Congress, and will receive a \$500 award.

Proposals should include a **maximum 300-word abstract and a brief 100-word bio that can be used to introduce the speaker.** Since both the abstract and the bio will be published online, they should be prepared in Word format using Times New Roman, 12-point font. **Abstracts should be sent electronically both** to the Chair of the Program Committee, Ginny Lewis ([Ginny.Lewis@northern.edu](mailto:Ginny.Lewis@northern.edu)), and to Agatha Schwartz ([Agatha.Schwartz@uottawa.ca](mailto:Agatha.Schwartz@uottawa.ca)). Proposals are preferred in English or French but will also be accepted in Hungarian if an English language abstract is also provided.

Presentations at the conference are no longer than 20 minutes with an additional 5-10 minutes for discussion. **The deadline for submission is Monday, February 1st, 2024.** We will notify presenters of the Committee’s decisions no later than March 15, 2024.

*This third-party announcement is included for the benefit of our readers.  
AHEA is not directly affiliated with the program described below.*



### **Affordable and high-quality summer schools in Hungary, at the University of Pécs**

In July 2024, the University of Pécs will offer four summer schools in the beautiful city of Pécs.

Two-week programs (July 7-20): **European Studies** and **Leadership Skills**  
Four-week programs (July 3-August 1): **Combined European Studies and Leadership Skills Program** and **International Human Rights Law and Debate Academy** (for Law students)

The programs are open to undergraduate, graduate and PhD students, and the summer school course fees are affordable. Students can earn credits by completing the programs that are taught in English. The program fees include the cost of instruction, accommodation and engaging programs such as the Intercultural Evening, Quiz Night, wine tasting, traditional Hungarian dinner night and Hungarian folk dance class.

#### **More information:**

<https://summerschool.pte.hu>

Have a question? Please write to [summerschoolpecs@pte.hu](mailto:summerschoolpecs@pte.hu)

*The University of Pécs, founded in 1367, is a diverse university with 5,000 international students from 130 countries. Pécs is a gorgeous, vivid city with a 2000-year history, and it is a former European Capital of Culture. The city is an ideal place for students who would like to immerse themselves in Central-Eastern European culture while making friends with students from all over the world. The Pécs Summer School programs first started in 2016, and since then a growing number of programs have been offered to 1,200 students from 85 countries.*

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## Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship

*This third-party announcement is included for the benefit of our readers.  
AHEA is not directly affiliated with the program described below.*



You have Hungarian roots and thinking about studying abroad? Now you have the chance to do so with the Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship Programme!

The online application system for the 2024/2025 academic year is **OPEN!** The deadline for submitting the complete application package is 31 January 2024 14:00 (CET).

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY!](#)

What does the programme cover? **Tuition-free education** at the available higher education institutions, **medical insurance** and **upon request a monthly stipend, accommodation contribution** and even **travel allowance**. Choose from the **30 top-tier Hungarian higher education institutions** and nearly **1500 programmes**, covering all study fields and levels. Are you seeking **full-time** or **part time studies**, in English or Hungarian? It is your choice! Dive into our range and choose the option that suits you the best. Get an international degree while exploring your Hungarian heritage!

**Reboot your roots with the Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship. For further information and guidance visit our website:** <https://diasporascholarship.hu/en/apply/>

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



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