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## AHEA Newsletter: October 2024

1 message

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**American Hungarian Educators Association** <aheanews@123673990.mailchimp.com> Tue, Oct 15, 2024 at 9:00 AM

Reply-To: aheanews@gmail.com

To: voros@eecs.berkeley.edu

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# October 2024 Newsletter

## President's Corner

Dear Members and Friends of AHEA,

I'm always excited to read the Spotlights in our Newsletters, as they remind me of the wonderful variety of fields and passions that our members pursue. I often note that AHEA is all about the connections we make as academics, and these spotlights are like conversations in the coffee breaks of a conference: last month I learned about László Ambrus's research on Hungarian-born soldiers who served in the US military in World War I, this month's newsletter introduced me to a new book on Bartók the pianist. I encourage you to reach out to these colleagues, network and think of ways to collaborate, promote each other's work, and plan new projects together.

In case you missed our September newsletter, please see below the call for papers for our next in-person conference, to be held in Pécs, Hungary in June 2025. Mark your calendar and submit your abstract as soon as possible, as this year's deadline is a bit earlier. Pécs is a beautiful city in the south of Hungary, with a rich history, art and natural beauty. We plan to combine the conference with an optional, multi-day post-conference trip, so start planning early, especially if you will travel internationally. Also, please help us spread the word and [post the CFP](#) in as many places as possible. Thank you and please keep reading!

Warm regards, üdvözlettel,

Helga Lenart-Cheng  
President, AHEA  
[hl4@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:hl4@stmarys-ca.edu)

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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 **László Stachó**, Lecturer and Research Fellow at the Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest

**Please tell us a little bit about your unique career arc, especially how you came to combine psychology and pedagogy with music performance and musicology.**

It's always felt completely natural to me to dive deeply into those areas that interested me most—and to reach a professional level in the respective disciplines. Music has drawn me in like a magnet since childhood, and I've been fascinated by thinking about music and musicology since my high school years. Psychology came into my focus partly due to powerful reading experiences still when I was in high school (like Eric Berne's *What Do You Say After You Say Hello?*) and partly from a family influence. My mother has a postgraduate MA degree in psychology, and I found the field's somewhat exotic atmosphere in Hungary during my childhood, when Mom studied it, quite thrilling. Theoretical linguistics, on the other hand, is a peculiar blend of psychology and mathematics—in this sense, the apple didn't probably fall too far from the tree as my father is a university professor of mathematics, now emeritus. Plus, I've been interested in how language faculty works likely because I speak seven languages fluently and many more at varying levels. Generally speaking, I feel at home in most places around the world—or at least I can always find something that makes me feel at home. Combining the seemingly unrelated fields I studied felt just as natural: in my mind, there's a perfect harmony between theoretical linguistics, psychology, music theory, musicology, teaching music and being a musician.

I recently heard from an older psychologist–musician friend (one of the very few such

combinations I know) about something called “professional identity diffusion” (based on James Marcia’s famous identity theory). It was a huge relief for me, just like it is for many people who finally receive a medical diagnosis explaining their unconventional behavior or abilities, even as adults. These days, though, when asked about my profession, my answer is clear: I’m a musician. Oh, and the time I felt the most “normal” in my life was when I was living in Cambridge as a Visiting Fellow in 2014 and 2017—there, I was surrounded by “quirky” people just like me (well, if they are quirky at all!). In most other places, I’m just a Muggle.

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

In 2021, I came across the annual AHEA conference and applied to give a talk on my *Practice Methodology*—a cutting-edge music attention training—and I was pleasantly surprised by how many of the other speakers I could connect with, even though it was held online in that unforgettable pandemic year. Since then, I’ve kept following AHEA’s work, news, and members.

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

Receiving AHEA’s Helena History Press Scholarship Award will definitely have a decisive impact on my professional work in the near future. Without any other sources of support, it’s this scholarship that is allowing me to publish the English edition of [my book on Bartók the pianist](#). It will be the first in-depth exploration of this fascinating topic in English, with advanced talks underway with Cambridge University Press. The Hungarian edition has already received extremely positive feedback—if anyone here hasn’t read it yet, I can warmly recommend it to all AHEA members and friends, as I wrote it to be enjoyable and, hopefully, in many ways insightful and inspiring for not only musicians and music lovers, but for non-musicians as well.

### **Tell us, please, what you’re working on right now.**

That’s my next project—realizing the English edition. But I also have at least two major professional projects lined up related to my musical attention-training method: writing its textbook in English, which is awaited in nearly 20 countries where I’ve already held masterclasses, and launching the larger-scale empirical research that explores my theory of the mental processes and strategies underlying performance expressivity, which serves as the foundation of the training. But this latter project also needs substantial funding, and an important task I am currently facing is to secure it. Oh, and I mustn’t forget—next year, I hope to open a house museum in my great-grandparents’ peasant cottage I recently renovated using authentic methods and materials, complete with an exhibition, in Egerlövő, the village of my Mom’s family in southern Borsod.

**CALL FOR PAPERS:  
AHEA 2025 in Pécs**

CALL FOR PAPERS  
AHEA — American Hungarian Educators Association  
49th Annual In-Person Conference  
June 19-21, 2025  
University of Pécs, Hungary

The American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA) will hold its 49th Annual Conference in person at the University of Pécs in Pécs, Hungary. 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:

### **Transatlantic Insights: Scholarship in Hungarian and American Contexts**

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 Americans, 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: December 15, 2024.**

Presenters should expect to hear from the Program Committee by January 31, 2025. Applications for travel scholarships will open in January.

**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. A presenter's name can appear max. twice in the program.
- 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 30 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.
- 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 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.

49. éves konferenciánk helyszíne a Pécsi Tudományegyetem, Pécs (Magyarország). A konferencia témája:

### **Transzatlanti perspektívák: a magyar és amerikai tudományosság kontextusai**

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. december 15-ig [ONLINE adják be](#).

Az absztraktok elfogadásáról a szervezők **2025. január 31-ig** jeleznek vissza.

Program Committee Chair: Prof. Helga Lenart-Cheng, President, AHEA

Local Organizing Committee Chair: Prof. Mónika Fodor, Head of Department of Literatures and Cultures in English, University of Pécs

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#### **Conference Contacts:**

[hl4@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:hl4@stmarys-ca.edu)

[fodor.monika@pte.hu](mailto:fodor.monika@pte.hu)

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## **Online Book Launch: "Hungarian Roots and American Dreams"**

*This third-party announcement is included for the benefit of our readers.*

*AHEA is not directly affiliated with the program described below.*

**DATE: October 25, 2024**

**TIME: 4:00 - 5:00pm (Eastern US)**

**WHERE: Online and at the University of Pittsburgh main campus**

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*Explore the journey of Hungarian ancestry and the pursuit of the American dream through personal stories and shared experiences.*

Presenters: Réka Bakos and Dr. Anna Fenyvesi

Join us at the Cathedral of Learning in Room 332 for the book launch of "Hungarian Roots and American Dreams: Tracing Personal History" with co-editors Réka Bakos and Dr. Anna Fenyvesi. Discover the stories, struggles, and triumphs of individuals who have bridged the gap between their Hungarian heritage and American aspirations. Listen to captivating tales, share your own experiences, and connect with others who are on a similar quest to uncover their family history. This in-person event, hosted by Kati Csoman, Director of the Nationality Rooms & Intercultural Exchange Programs, will also feature authors sharing their personal stories from the

book. Tours of the Hungarian Nationality Room will be provided following the in-person event.

Register for the **Zoom option** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hungarian-roots-and-american-dreams-tracing...> to attend remotely.

In-Person event

Location: Cathedral of Learning 4200 Fifth Avenue Room 332 Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Register for the **in-person** option at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hungarian-roots-and-american-dreams-tracing...>

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## Help us Document AHEA History!

A call for memories, materials, anecdotes, stories, trivia

As part of our celebration of AHEA's 50th Anniversary, the Membership Development Committee, with the guidance of the Executive Board, is undertaking an **institutional history project**. We hope to preserve our organization's unique past by collecting contributions from its members.

We welcome anything that comes to your mind, but in particular:

- Photos / scans of AHEA **materials** (conference programs, meeting minutes, newsletters, etc.) and photos of AHEA gatherings
- Your **memories** of AHEA conferences and other events
- **Stories** that you want to be saved for future generations
- **Recollections** of colleagues who are no longer with us

Please send everything to **Andrew Behrendt** ([behrendta@mst.edu](mailto:behrendta@mst.edu)) or [ahenews@gmail.com](mailto:ahenews@gmail.com). You are welcome to use whatever medium you like: text, audio, or video. We can also arrange for physical mail!

Along with your submission, please let us know whether you'd feel comfortable letting us quote you in items that might be shared with the public.

No contribution is too small or too large. Nothing is "unimportant" or "boring." Every moment you help us archive is snapshot of AHEA history -- and the history of Hungarian studies -- that you help save from being forgotten!

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## AHEA Early Career Network

The AHEA Board is pleased to announce the formation of the **AHEA Early Career Network**.

The goal of the group is to provide international networking opportunities, mentorship, and resources to students and early-career scholars in Hungarian studies as they navigate the challenges of publication, grant writing, job searches, independent scholarship, as well as contingent faculty positions.

We welcome PhD students and scholars **within 10 years** of receiving their PhD. Please [fill out this form if interested](#).

The network was launched at the May 2024 AHEA Conference at Rutgers University.

Questions and suggestions regarding the new group are welcome and may be directed to Sarah Lucas at [sarah.lucas@tamuk.edu](mailto:sarah.lucas@tamuk.edu)

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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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