
AHEA Newsletter: November 2025

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November 2025 Newsletter

Editor's Corner

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

A belated Happy Thanksgiving to those who celebrate -- and for others, early wishes that Mikulás treats you well this year! President Varga asked me to fill in for her this month, so I am emerging from behind the editorial veil to deliver a few pieces of timely information.

First, AHEA will participate again in **Giving Tuesday** a few days from now. We'll be sending a more formal appeal through the usual channels. Please consider us this holiday season. Your donations help fund programs like our Research Presentation Awards, which allow us to assist junior scholars and colleagues facing budget crunches share their work with fellow scholars. We are grateful for every dollar and forint! If you can't wait for Tuesday to give, you may [visit our PayPal page through this link](#).

Second, thanks to all who submitted abstracts for our 2026 conference at Cleveland State University! You will be hearing from the conference selection committees soon, if you haven't already.

And speaking of Cleveland, the Local Organizing Committee (LoCom) has shared with us some key logistical details about the conference to help you get a head start on planning. The venue will be the stately [Mather Mansion](#) on CSU's campus. Currently, the base registration fee will be \$85 (includes onsite lunches and coffee breaks; discounted rates to be announced later), plus \$50 if you wish to attend the closing banquet featuring an exclusive performance from folk ensemble [Harmonia](#). AHEA has reserved blocks of hotel rooms at special conference rates at both the [Crowne Plaza Cleveland at Playhouse Square](#) and the [Comfort Inn Cleveland Downtown](#). Call their desks to make reservations.

Until Tuesday (and beyond),
Sincerely,

Andrew Behrendt

Newsletter Editor and AHEA Vice President

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 **Rita Szuly**,
Committee of National Remembrance (Hungary)

Dr. Szuly was a 2025 Research Presentation Award winner

Please tell us a little bit about your career arc. In particular, how did you come to specialize in ecclesiastical history?

One of my fundamental childhood experiences was my desire to understand why

things are the way they are. While some people with this kind of curiosity become psychologists or natural scientists, I became a historian. I discovered my interest in church history while I was still at university. The ancient desire to connect with the transcendent is inherent in human beings. I was fascinated by how humans have articulated and even institutionalized this desire over the millennia. However, I was also driven by a desire to understand my own life. I remember sitting with my grandmother in the pews of our village church and wondering how we had ended up there. It was in the village to which my grandparents had fled after being deported in 1948, in a church designed in 1754 by an architect working for one of the most prominent aristocratic families. At the time, only my grandmother and I were sitting in the pew, because the rest of the family was not interested in old traditions such as going to church. So, I approach existential questions from a historical perspective.

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

My dear colleague and mentor, Éva Petrás drew my attention to AHEA, and curiosity drove me to join.

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

I enjoy attending international conferences because I always receive feedback there that is based on an approach completely different to the professional mindset in Hungary. I also gained some very useful insights for my research in Pécs. In fact, it was the American perspective that helped me overcome a stumbling block.

Tell us, please, what you're working on right now

I am currently working on two very different research projects. One examines the history of the 18th-century Diocese of Győr from the perspectives of the lower clergy and local communities. This period was characterized by enlightened absolutism and the Catholic Enlightenment. It was then that constant warfare came to an end and reconstruction began. This era is of great interest not only from the perspective of political and church history, but also from the point of view of social history.

My other project also focuses on the dynamics between the Catholic lower clergy and local communities, but in the 20th century, during the communist dictatorship. The dictatorship's tools for eliminating religiosity and its institutionalized forms had to be included in the examination. I examine the "worldview struggle" tools used by the State Office for Church Affairs and the Internal Counter-Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior to counteract the dynamics between the Catholic lower clergy and local communities.

Call for Submissions: *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 2025 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>

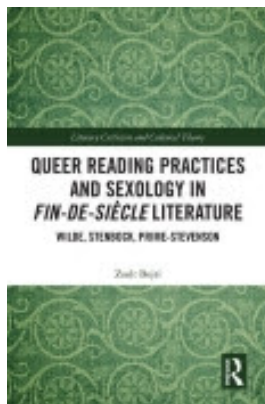
February 1 is the deadline for manuscript submissions, although acceptance is rolling and some flexibility may be possible. Please direct questions to our editor in chief, Anna Fenyvesi, at fenyvesi@lit.u-szeged.hu.

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

Member Publications

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

Zsolt Bojti (ELTE) has submitted two announcements, one for a recent monograph and the other for forthcoming scholarly edition. First is *Queer Reading Practices and Sexology in Fin-de-Siècle Literature: Wilde, Steinbock, Prime-Levinson*, published by Routledge in July 2025. From the publisher's website:



"This book scrutinises the production and transnational distribution of sexological knowledge at the turn of the century. The works of three transnationally mobile authors are in the focus: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890/1891) and *Teleny* (1893) by, and attributed to, Oscar Wilde; 'The True Story of a Vampire' (1894) by Count Stanislaus Eric Stenbock; and *Imre: A Memorandum* (1906) by Edward Prime-Stevenson. The textual analysis is governed by references in all four works to Hungarian culture to demonstrate how they conceptualised 'Hungarianness' and same-sex desire simultaneously in the light of the new classificatory science of sexualities coming from German-speaking Central Europe. By foregrounding a timely literary angle and a 'culturalist' approach, this book offers non-Anglocentric insights, not bound by either language or nationality, to shed new light on

the interdisciplinary reading practices of late-Victorian subjects and the ways they contributed to the emergence of *fin-de-siècle* queer fiction."

The other work, edited alongside S. Brooke Cameron, will be an Oxford World's Classics edition of Edward Prime-Stevenson's novel *Imre: A Memorandum*. The expected publication date is June 2026.

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.



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