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My scholarship tackles thorny questions about transnational migration that are central to American and European debates about migration in the past through the present. In my book manuscript-in-progress, *Migrant Nation-Builders*, I chart the ways in which Hungarian, German, Jewish, and Slavic peoples of the Austro-Hungarian Empire crafted new identities in America, complicating their relationships with their home and host states. Transatlantic migration and migrants' nationalism were, I argue, primary factors in the dismantling of the Habsburg Empire into ethnically-based states in the late stages of World War I, informed by American conceptions of which peoples constituted nations worthy of nation-states. A truly transatlantic study, my work integrates American history and Eastern European history, immigration history and foreign relations history. I trace the long arm of the Hungarian government in trying to manage migrant loyalty in America, and follow return migrants from the United States back home to track their influence on homeland politics.

When migrants from the Austro-Hungarian came to the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, their national identities frequently sharpened, dissolved, and coalesced again. Countless migrants partook in extensive ethnic fashioning and refashioning, weighing affiliations also of home region and faith. At churches, social clubs, bars, butcher shops, and newsstands from Connecticut to Minnesota, immigrant nationalists persuaded those they deemed co-nationals to join them in building up a local ethnic community. Initially many individuals prioritized Austrian imperial loyalty or their home regional or religious identity over an ethno-linguistic one, and thousands were multilingual. While scholars have already argued that the experience of migration was significant in inaugurating or augmenting the ethnic consciousness and nationalist political activism of some European migrants, they have yet to fully explain the significance of nation-building abroad for a multiethnic state like Austria-Hungary, where nationalizing projects were often contested, as opposed to coalescing states like Italy.

My current project concludes with an examination of the dual effects of new European borders after 1918 and American restrictions on immigration from the successor states of the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the United States. Post-World War I borders, accompanied by the staunching of the flow of new immigrants by the war and restrictive quotas in the United States in the 1920s, together recast the relationship between many immigrants and their homelands. Among my most exciting findings are accounts in the Congressional Record of how the Census Bureau attempted to set migration quotas for post-war European states using migration statistics for the empire; they openly admit that using prewar migration statistics from Austria and Hungary for the new states was a matter of complete "guesswork." Thus, I account for the incredibly low quota for Hungarian migrants after 1924, and trace the ways that some Hungarians were able to come on the quotas of neighboring states instead.

My archival approach is innovative in that I pair governmental sources from Hungary, Austria, and the United States with local-level sources of immigrant communities that I collected in Cleveland, Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, New York City, and New Brunswick, NJ. The bulk of my sources come from the Hungarian Prime Minister's Office files in the MNL OL, sources that have been rarely used since Julianna Puskas's studies in the 1970s. With this, I also integrate Ellis Island oral history interviews and extensive press sources.