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# News in Hungarian Studies

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December 2023 (Issue 102)



## President's Message

It is a pleasure and honour to be able to contribute this message to our Fall 2023 Newsletter as the interim president of the HSAC. **I would like to express my thanks to our outgoing and now officially past president, Prof. Steve Jobbitt, for his many years of superb and devoted service to our association and to its journal, the *Hungarian Studies Review*.** I also thank the other members of the Executive, vice-president Prof. Ginny Lewis, treasurer Ilona Sándor, Prof. Oliver Botar, and Angela Chong for their continuing

Professor Emerita Agatha (Ágota) Schwartz, University of Ottawa, is the new interim President of HSAC.

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service. Dr. Éva Tömöry remains involved in the work of our association through the Planning and Nominations Committee.

As some of you will have noticed, we had a rather unfortunate mishap with our website that took months to fix and restore. The website, <https://hungarianstudies.org/>, has now been up and running for the past couple of months. Its content has been updated and revamped. It is now again possible to pay the membership fees using the PayPal link. We have added a picture gallery that I invite everybody to browse as it captures lovely memories from our past conferences, including the rich social and cultural programs attached to them. I take this opportunity to thank all our team involved in the reconstruction of the website, in particular our webmaster Erika Farkas for her marvelous work. The HSAC facebook page has also been reactivated.

In May 2023, we organized another very successful hybrid conference that took place on site in Toronto at York University. The hybrid format allowed for the participation of speakers and audiences who, for various reasons, were unable to attend in person. We

**“Our next conference . . . will be hosted by McGill University in Montreal between June 15-17, 2024. I hope to see many of you there . . . .”**

therefore decided to keep the hybrid format for our next conference that will be hosted by McGill University in Montreal between June 15-17, 2024. I hope to see many of you there as it promises to bring together a rich academic and cultural programme.

We always welcome the input from our members and hope that those of you who have not yet joined our association will consider doing so and join us at the conference in Montreal next June.

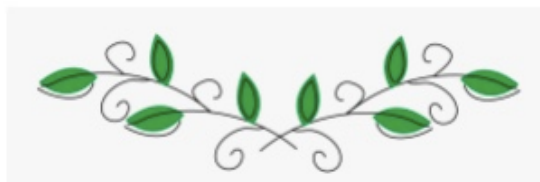
As 2023 draws to a close and the holiday season brings us the joys of winter wonderland, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

*Agatha (Ágota) Schwartz*

-HSAC PRESIDENT AGATHA SCHWARTZ



**Above: HSAC Members, conference presenters, and friends celebrate the final day of our 2023 conference at York University in Toronto.**





# HSAC 2024 Conference Call for Papers

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

The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada invites proposals for our next annual conference hosted by McGill University in 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 read the [\*\*CFP linked here\*\*](#) for more detailed information. All submissions must be received by **Monday, February 1st, 2024**.

Best Regards,  
HSAC Executive



Above: HSAC's 2021 and 2022 Conferences were virtual due to the pandemic. We were able to experience a high level of participation across the Atlantic and a wonderful sense of community via the online format. In 2023 and again in 2024, the conference will be hybrid, with combined in-person and virtual formats.



## Highlights from HSAC's 2023 Conference at York University in Toronto

The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada hosted its 37th Annual Conference on May 30-June 1, 2023 at York University in Toronto. The

**Above:** Treasurer Ilona Sándor gave opening remarks for the delightful Evening Programme at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Toronto that included the local Hungarian community in live music, dance, poetry-reading and other cultural performances. **Below:** Presenter Etelka Nyilasi and daughter Tekla enjoy homemade pogácsa and other refreshments at the Evening Programme.

conference, entitled **"Reckonings and Re-Imaginations: Hungary, Hungarians, and the Quest for Justice,"** was part of the 2023 Congress held by the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Professor Andrea Pető from Central European University gave the **Keynote Address: "Forgetting, Silencing and Collaboration: Gender and Hungary's Failed Quest for Justice Since World War II."** Twenty-seven (27) scholars from North America and Europe presented across a wide range of topics and disciplines: Hungary and North America, Hungary and the Ottoman Empire, Contested Histories and Policies, the Holocaust and Antisemitism, Literature Across Borders, Gender in Social History and Literature, Music and Politics.

HSAC held an **Evening Programme at the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Toronto** with remarks, cultural programming and refreshments masterfully organized by treasurer Ilona Sándor. We launched Professor Ginny Lewis' new book, *The Novels of Móricz Zsigmond in the Context of European Realism*. Our Congress Open Event featured a career retrospective by Dr. Peter Simon, President and CEO of the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto.

We concluded the conference with our **Research Roundtable, "The Realities of Romani Canadians in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area: Preliminary Findings,"** featuring Gina Csanyi-Robah, Executive Director of the Canadian Romani Alliance, Editá Rigová from Harvard University, and their ongoing research on discrimination faced by the local Romani community, a large percentage of whom are Hungarian-origin. After the conference, HSAC members, conference presenters, and friends gathered for a memorable dinner celebration. We look forward to building upon friendships and collaborations at our next conference, June 15-17, 2024 in Montreal.

-Angela Chong





## News from Members

- **Ginny Lewis'** book, *The Novels of Zsigmond Móricz in the Context of European Realism*, was published by Peter Lang Press in 2023. This scholarly introduction to Zsigmond Móricz, one of Central Europe's most outstanding modern authors, makes Móricz accessible to a global audience. The first English-language monograph ever written on Móricz, Professor Lewis' book showcases the research of a century of Hungarian scholars, as well as new theoretical perspectives. Grounded in a critical understanding of Hungarian social history in the first half of the twentieth century, Lewis reveals Móricz's poignant and brilliant critique of Central European society and the corrosive influence of capitalism on the agency of lower and middle class Hungarians. Congratulations, Ginny, on publishing this very important work.



*The Novels of Zsigmond Móricz  
in the Context of European Realism*

A Thematic Approach

Virginia L. Lewis

### The Novels of Zsigmond Móricz in the Context of European Realism

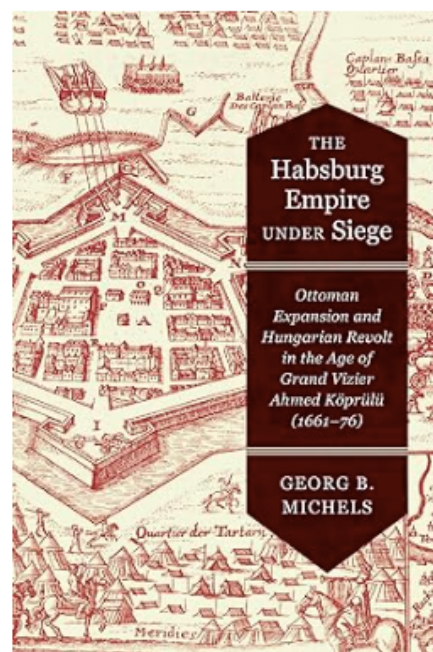
The Novels of Zsigmond Móricz in  
the Context of European Realism A  
Thematic Approach

[www.peterlang.com](http://www.peterlang.com)

Professor Ginny Lewis  
presented her new study on  
Móricz at the Book Launch  
held at York University in  
Toronto for HSAC's 2023  
Conference.

- **Georg Michels'** book, *The Habsburg Empire Under Siege: Ottoman Expansion and Hungarian Revolt in the Age of Grand Vizier Ahmed Köprülü (1661–76)* (McGill-Queens University Press, 2021), has been awarded two book prizes:

1. **The Hans Rosenberg Book Prize** for the best book in the field published by a North American scholar, awarded to Professor Michels by the Central European History Society at the National Convention of the American Historical Association (January 2023) [https://www.centraleuropeanhistory.org/?page\\_id=495](https://www.centraleuropeanhistory.org/?page_id=495);
2. **The CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title** awarded by American Library Association to outstanding works for their excellence in presentation and scholarship, the significance of their contribution to the field, their originality and value as an essential treatment of their subject, and significance in building undergraduate collections (November 2022). Bill Mickey, CHOICE editorial director, remarked, "After reviewing thousands of titles this year, we're proud to present the best of the best. Congratulations to all of the authors, editors, and publishers on this amazing collection of groundbreaking research!" **We congratulate Georg on a truly outstanding book as well as his two well-deserved awards.**



- **Oliver Botar** signed a four-year contract as **Associate Director (Graduate Studies and Research) of the School of Art, University of Manitoba** effective 1 January 2022. He also accepted the following engagements, publication and award this past year:
  - “Nature-Centric Thinking Among Canadian Modernist Artists: Bertram Brooker, Lyonel LeMoine FitzGerald, Arthur Lismer,” First Plenary held for the Central European Association for Canadian Studies: 9<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference: Canadian Landscapes, Budapest, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary (28.10.2022)
  - “Biocentrism and the Social Good: An Alternative Lens Directed Towards the History of the Bauhaus,” Keynote Address, Architectonics: Mind, Land and Society. 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference. Barcelona, (01.06.22 virtual)
  - “Berlin – Moholy-Nagy – Berlin,” in: Ralf Burmeister, Thomas Koehler, Laszlo Baan, Andras Zwickl, eds., *Magyar Modern: Hungarian Art in Berlin 1910-1933*. Berlin: Hirmer, 2022, 92-99. (Article also published in a German edition)
  - **Moholy-Nagy Award**, Moholy-Nagy University of the Arts and Design, Budapest October 2022
  - Dobszerda Program, Klub Rádió, Budapest. 27 October 2022, hour-long interview with Oliver Botar about receiving the Moholy-Nagy Award from the Moholy-Nagy University of the Arts and Design and about my life and career. Interview conducted by Julia Váradi. [Listen here online.](#)

**Congratulations, Oliver, on a tremendous year!**

- **Agatha Schwartz** published the article "Narrating the Danube Swabian Identity and Experience from Women's Perspective: Gendered Memories of a Culture in Transition" in *Hungarian Cultural Studies*. Journal of the American Hungarian Educators Association, Volume 16 (2023): <http://ahea.pitt.edu> DOI: 10.5195/ahea.2023.484, pp. 92-108.

- **Balázs Venkovits** would like to share some announcements with the HSAC Membership:

### 1. Conference:

The Institute of English and American Studies at the University of Debrecen, Hungary in partnership with the American Hungarian Educators Association, will hold an **international conference on August 22-23, 2024** to mark the **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the US Immigration Act of 1924**.

The organizers invite scholars, researchers, educators, and practitioners from diverse disciplines to 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,

**“We are so fortunate that Agatha has poured her gifted leadership into our organization as our interim President, even though she retired from her academic post last year and continues to pursue her passion for scholarly research and publication.”**

-HSAC PUBLICATIONS  
COMMITTEE



and contemporary interpretations of the implications of migration and immigration restriction in shaping societies, cultures, and identities.

Please visit the conference website for more information: <https://konferencia.unideb.hu/en/JohnsonReed100>

The conference will be held in person at the University of Debrecen, Hungary with an opportunity for participants joining from outside Hungary to present in hybrid sessions.

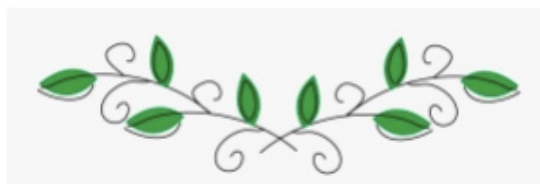
Confirmed plenary speakers:

1. Ashley Johnson Bavry, 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

## 2. Montreal Collaboration:

We are happy to announce that the **General Consulate of Hungary in Montreal and the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Debrecen** started a **research and educational collaboration** aimed at exploring the heritage of the **Hungarian diaspora in Montreal**, and more broadly, in Canada. The project first focuses on studying and preserving the history of Montreal's St. Stephen's Ball started in 1959, but the launching of an oral history project with interviews, archival work, etc. will also be part of the collaboration involving representatives from several disciplines, while also integrating findings and activities into educational projects. **Please let us know if you wish to contribute to this project in any way and feel free to share the news with people you think might be interested.** (contact: [venkovits.balazs@arts.unideb.hu](mailto:venkovits.balazs@arts.unideb.hu)) Helga Katalin Pritz (Consul General) / Balázs Venkovits (Director, Institute of English and American Studies)

We invite members to share their news with the HSAC community. If you would like your news included in an upcoming newsletter, please write to Angela Chong ([aachong@usc.edu](mailto:aachong@usc.edu)).



**Membership fees** — Please contact Ilona Sándor at [isandor2003@yahoo.com](mailto:isandor2003@yahoo.com) for payment of your 2023 membership fees if you have not done so yet. **In light of the extended maintenance of our website, we were not able to register members via PayPal earlier in the year, but we are now able to do so at [this link to our website PayPal page](#).** For further information about Membership to the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada, including Member benefits, fees, and multiple application/payment options, please visit [this link to our website membership page](#).

**Thank you to our Members and friends for your continued support.**

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## SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 24, 2024, 10:00 ET:

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Virtual book launch with author  
**Karolina Lendák-Kabók**  
who will be presenting her book,  
*National Minorities in Serbian  
Academia: The Role of Gender and  
Language Barriers* (Palgrave-Macmillan,  
2022). The event will be moderated by  
Agatha Schwartz.

The Zoom link for this event will be sent  
to HSAC members in January.

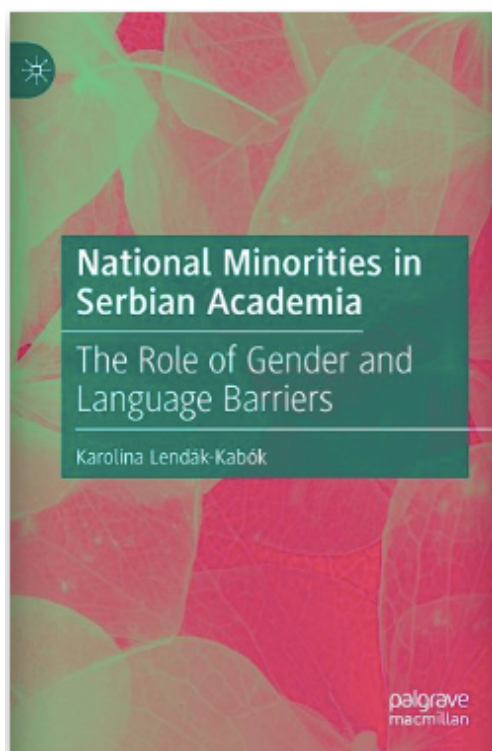


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