

News in Hungarian Studies

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Edited by Angela Chong and Julio Lucchesi Moraes

Hungarian Studies Association of Canada (HSAC) Call for Papers for the 2026 Annual Conference

**“Memories and Memoirs of Hungary, Hungarians, and the
HSAC: Reflecting on the Past,
Imagining the Future”**

The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada invites proposals for individual papers, roundtable discussions, workshops, complete panels, and innovative presentations and sessions for our 40th anniversary conference to be held entirely online June 10–11, 2026. In keeping with our conference theme, and in light of our association’s 40th anniversary, this year’s HSAC Conference Programme Committee seeks a wide range of proposals that examine past, present, and future issues related to Hungary, Hungarians, and the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada. We strongly encourage papers and sessions dealing with memoirs and life writing and are also interested in presentations that foreground the projects and achievements of HSAC over the last four decades.

In addition to proposals that speak to the conference theme, we also welcome presentations on any topic related to Hungary, Hungarian diasporas, and Hungarian Studies. The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada also invites creative and critical scholarly engagement within and across disciplines, as well as presentations that explore Hungary in a comparative or regional context. Online conference participants are also invited to join us for our in-person event in Toronto (June 13–14) dedicated to celebrating HSAC’s past achievements and reflecting on our future.

We especially encourage proposals from graduate students.

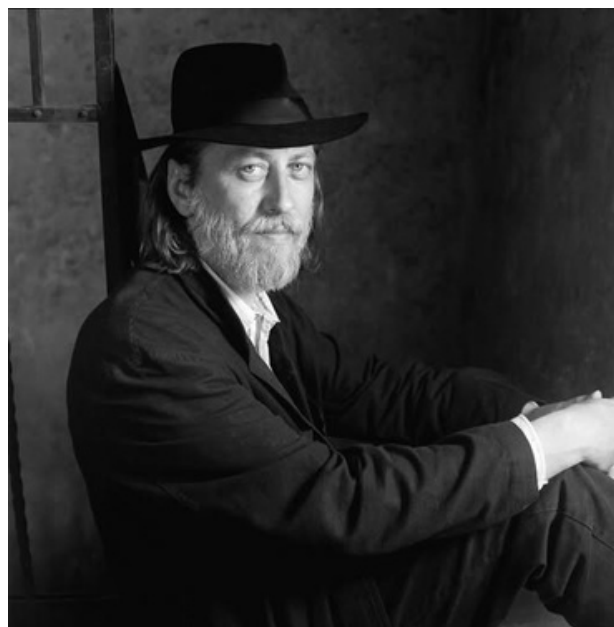
Proposals should include a maximum 300-word abstract and a brief 100-word bio that can be used to introduce the speaker. Since both the abstract and bio will be published online, they should be prepared in Word format using Times New Roman, 12-point font. Abstracts should be sent electronically to the co-chairs of the Conference Programme Committee, both Angela Chong (aachong@usc.edu) and Steve Jobbitt (sjobbitt@lakeheadu.ca). Proposals are preferred in English or French but will also be accepted in Hungarian if an English language abstract is also provided.

Conference presentations are no longer than 20 minutes with an additional 5–10 minutes for discussion. The deadline for submission is February 1st, 2026. We will notify presenters of the Committee's decision no later than March 15, 2026.

Conference fees will be \$50 for fulltime academics and \$40 for all others.

László Krasznahorkai wins 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature

It is not an overstatement to say that these days lovers of literature around the whole world celebrate the Nobel Prize for Literature award to László Krasznahorkai. He considers himself a “scriptor” not a “writer.” He says he avoids simple sentences because emotions, observations pour out of him. His texts can be defined as prose with a high poetic power which can be enjoyed and fully appreciated only by using a special, “slow reading” strategy. His works have been translated not only into practically all European languages but also Vietnamese, Arabic, Korean, Chinese and Japanese as well. Film adaptations of his novels are widely known – some of his books appeared on stage, and two years ago composer Eötvös Péter's opera version of “The Melancholy of Resistance” was premiered in Budapest.



His recurring motives form the basis of an exhibition in MűvészetMalom, Szentendre. He has been a popular speaker on various cultural forums in the United States, China, India and Japan – not to mention European countries – but he could always find the time to speak to emerging Hungarian writers at József Attila Kör, too. Before the Nobel Prize, he was recipient of several highly prestigious prizes – including the Man Booker Prize in 2015. The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada is very happy and proud that this most prestigious literary award went to László Krasznahorkai and sends its congratulations to the writer. You can look at the amazing list of his activities at <https://dia.hu/dia-szerzok/krasznahorkai-laszlo/eletrajz>.

Katalin Kürtösi, Vice-President, HSAC

President's Message for October 2025 Newsletter

2025 marks another successful year for our association that is approaching four decades of its existence. Founded in 1986 by late Professor George Bisztray, our organization has been a meeting point for scholars in Hungarian studies and members of the Canadian Hungarian community. Despite our relatively small size as an association, our members and guests have come from many walks of academia representing an interdisciplinary richness that we cherish and cultivate.

On January 22, we held a virtual book launch during which our member, Prof. Judit Szapor (McGill University) presented her recent book, *Quotas: The 'Jewish Question' and Higher Education in Central Europe, 1880-1945* (Berghahn Books, 2024, co-edited with Michael L. Miller). This event, which was very well attended, was moderated by Prof. Urszula Madej-Krupitski (McGill University).

Between May 31 and June 2nd, we held our 39th annual conference in conjunction with the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at George Brown College in Toronto. We had opted for a hybrid format with both in-person and virtual presentations. Remaining true to our tradition, our presenters, both in person and online, came not only from different parts of Canada but also from the US and Hungary. While the hybrid format definitely offers the advantage of including presenters who are unable to attend in person, we have, sadly, come to the conclusion that it carries a host of technical challenges which were very frustrating to navigate, and have therefore decided against it for next year's conference. If we disregard the technical difficulties, the conference was another great success. Please see the detailed conference report below.

The conference was made possible thanks to the generous support we received from the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences of Canada and from the Canada-Hungary Educational Foundation and its president Judy Young, as well as donations from individual members. This support included funding for our special panels and the cultural event highlighting the situation and numerous contributions of the Canadian Hungarian Roma community, coordinated by Gina Csanyi Robah (Executive Director of the Canadian Romani Alliance), funding for our keynote speaker, Prof. Oliver Botar (University of Manitoba), and for graduate student participants. We are very pleased about our collaboration with the Canadian Hungarian Roma community as well as about the fact that our association continues to be of interest both to aspiring researchers and to more established colleagues.



From the final day of our 2025 conference at George Brown College

This year, two of our graduate student presenters were awarded the prestigious Graduate Merit Award by Congress (each worth \$500). The recipients were Robyn Jensen, MA student from the University of Regina, and Sonya Di Sclafani, MA student at Concordia University. In addition, the HSAC awarded this year's George Bisztray Scholarship (\$250) to Angela Chong, PhD student at the University of Southern California and member of the HSAC Executive. Two additional HSAC scholarships (\$200 each) were awarded to honour the memory of our recently departed founding members, Prof. Nandor Dreisziger and Dr Éva Tömöry. The award in memory of Prof. Dreisziger went to Gdalit Neumann, PhD candidate at York University; and the one in memory of Dr. Tömöry to Zsolt Máté, PhD student at the University of Pécs of which Dr. Tömöry was an alumna.

This year's conference would not have come together without the tireless work of our organizing team composed of our executive members. I would like to thank Ilona Sándor, our treasurer; Prof. Ginny Lewis, vice-president and chair of the conference programme committee; Angela Chong, member of the HSAC executive and of the conference programme committee and our Newsletter editor; and Steve Jobbitt, our past president and conference convenor. A special thank you goes to Gina Csanyi Robah for putting together a fantastic programme with members of the Canadian Hungarian Roma community, which included an unforgettable musical evening with the Ferenc Botos Trio.

The conference featured two special events to commemorate the recent passing of two of our founding members. On May 31, a Memorial Service was held at St. Elizabeth Church/Szent Erzsébet Plébánia to honour the memory and rich legacy of our dear founding member and founding editor of the Hungarian Studies Review, Prof. Nandor Dreisziger whom we lost last fall. After the service, Nandor's family kindly invited all conference participants to a dinner in the church hall. The following day, June 1, we reminisced about the numerous contributions to Hungarian studies and the teaching of Hungarian in Canada by our cherished and suddenly departed member Dr. Éva Tömöry.

Like every fall, it is time to begin planning next year's conference. 2026 will mark the 40th anniversary of our association. Given the unfortunate fact that Congress was not able to secure a host university/college for next year's meetings, we have decided to hold our special event in two parts: one online, and another one in person only. There are two organizing committees coordinating these two parts of the conference. Stay tuned for more news and the call for papers and contributions soon!

Agatha Schwartz, President, HSAC

Official HSAC Conference Report

Hungarian Studies Association of Canada Annual Conference 2025

The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada/ Association des études hongroises/Kanadai Magyarstudományi Társaság (HSAC) held its annual conference at the Waterfront Campus of George Brown College in Toronto, Ontario from May 31st to June 2nd, in conjunction with the 2025 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences organized by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. The 94th edition of Congress' theme of "Reframing Togetherness" asked us to consider "what it means to coexist with other humans, the environment, and technology." In response, the HSAC invited speakers to consider the theme of "Rethinking Coexistence: Hungary, Hungarianness, and Finding Commonality in Diversity." As in previous years, the HSAC conference was a hybrid event, which allowed members and interested parties to both attend in person and on zoom. Overall, attendance was steady throughout the three days and a lively presence of both presenters and attendees were both in Toronto and afar.

The conference keynote address was presented by Oliver Botar, from the University of Manitoba. Dr. Botar spoke on "40 Years of Promoting Hungarian Art through the Salgo Trust for Education: Reflections on What is Hungarian Art." This exciting talk on how the Salgo Trust promotes Hungarian art throughout North America was fascinating and was well received and effectively launched the conference.

The first day of the HSAC conference had a very full program of three panel discussions. The first session of the day was on the topic of "Building Bridges and Relationships: How Canadian Hungarians are Supporting Hungarian Roma Newcomers in Toronto" with papers by Gina Csanyi-Robah and Ildiko Gyulas. Both shared personal and professional experiences of how Roma Canadians, one of the largest Roma diasporas outside of Europe, navigate the immigration experience here, and suggested ways to better support them. This was followed by two afternoon panels, first of which was entitled "Hungarian Literature and Linguistics." Presenters included Anikó Zsuzsanna Antal who shared her analysis of the works of Szilárd Borbély, Ginny Lewis, who discussed the recognition of poet Minka Czóbel and her works, and Erika Sólyom, who presented on new uses of the "be-" prefix in the Hungarian language. The day's presentations were concluded by the panel on "Music, Dance, and History." Presenters were Angela Chong, who shared her analysis of Hungarianness in the music of Emma and Zoltan Kodály, Gdalit Neuman, who discussed the history of the Hora in Hungary, Steven Jobbitt, who presented the Zakarpattia influence on Ukrainian Folk Dance, and George Michels, who spoke on the 17th century Ottoman expansion as influenced, ironically, by peace treaties at the time.

The day was concluded by a visit to the St. Elizabeth Church in North York to celebrate the many contributions to the academic field and community of Hungarian Canada by Nandor Dreisziger at a touching memorial service. Again, Oliver Botar went to the podium to share his long-held memories of the much-admired Nandor. The memorial and the day ended with a celebratory dinner among friends of Nandor at St. Elizabeth's.

Day Two of the HSAC conference was equally rich in content. The first morning panel spoke on the topic of "Teaching the Hungarian Language in Canada." Ilona Sandor gave a detailed analysis about Hungarian Language instruction in Canada while Magdolna Velki focused on the use of the foreign language exam and its use in teaching Hungarian in Canada. After this, many HSAC Members took time to speak in memory of Éva Tömöry. A well-respected linguist and Hungarian instructor, Éva was most recently with the Munk Centre in Toronto. Éva was also a long time HSAC member and beloved colleague and friend who passed away suddenly earlier this year.

The second panel of the day was entitled "Shifting Identities, Redefining Togetherness." Speakers included Julio Lucchesi Moraes, Krisztina Fehér, and André Czeglédy. Julio spoke on the work of Agnes Heller and the Budapest School in relation to the digital age, Krisztina focused on Hungarian Weekend Schools in Cleveland, Ohio, and André gave a personal, and somewhat humorous, account on Bakancsos Flea Market of Budapest. These remarkable presentations were followed by the panel on "Immigration and Hungarianness." Robyn Jensen shared a moving and personal multi-disciplinary project of her Western Canadian Hungarian heritage, Balázs Venkovits provided an exciting update on his project on Mapping Hungarian Montreal, Zsolt Máté shared his analysis on Miklós Mattyasovszky- Zsolnay's life in Canada, and Sonya Di Sclafani gave a virtual tour of the now lost Hungarian restaurants of downtown Montreal. The afternoon's lectures were capped by the return of Gina Csanyi-Robah who shared a Harvard University report entitled "Confronting Major and Everyday Discrimination: Romani Experiences in Canada's Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area." The second day of the HSAC Conference was celebrated by the Ferenc Botos Trio. Jazz and Roma music and singing was enjoyed by all and truly appreciated. It even inspired some to turn the classroom into a dance floor!

The Botos family performing at our 2025 HSAC Conference Hungarian and Roma cultural celebration



The final day of the 2025 HSAC Conference began with the Association's Annual General Meeting. I will leave the highlights of the meeting for all to review in the meeting minutes but will leave you with the idea that 2026 will surely be a unique iteration of the HSAC annual conference! Two panels followed during this final and exciting day. The first focused on "Gender and Society." Speakers were Judith Sapor, who spoke on feminism in the first half of the twentieth century, Agatha Schwartz, who gave an impassioned analysis of Adél Nemessányi, and Katalin Fábián, who spoke on Anti-Woke Politics and Gender-Based Violence in Hungary. The Q & A during this session demonstrated how thought provoking these papers were! The final panel of the day and the conference covered the rich topic of "Theatre and Cultural Transmissions." Zoltán Csadi began with the influence of Ben Blumenthal on Hungarian-American relations followed by Tibor Egerváry's overarching review of the physical space in Hungarian theatre. Katalin Kürtösi shared her analysis of the production of Atwood's *The Penelopeiad* in Hungary followed by Nina Czeglédy, who shared a broad overview of the exhibit "Afterglow," a light-based art installation exhibition.

Such a rich and diverse spectrum of academic works defined the three days of the HSAC conference of 2025. The connectedness of the audience and the passion of the speakers were a wonderful happening to be a part of. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Sonya di Sclafani, HSAC Conference Programme Committee



Erika Sólyom presented via Zoom on the "be-" prefix and its changing usage in the Hungarian language, with Oliver Botar as moderator



HSAC President Agatha Schwartz honored the late Éva Tömöry, long-time HSAC Member and beloved colleague and friend, at the 2025 HSAC Conference memorial with Zsolt Máté as moderator



HSAC Members Angela Chong and Márta Novák enjoyed coffee time together at the 2025 HSAC Conference



André Czeglédi presented about the Bakancos Flea Market with Angela Chong moderating



HSAC Vice-President Katalin Kürtösi took in the beautiful Toronto view and Hungarian pastry spread prepared by Gina Csanyi-Robah for our cultural celebration



Gina Csanyi-Robah gifted a Roma Rising photo plaque of lead musician Ferenc Botos to the namesake during his outstanding performance with his family at our 2025 HSAC Conference cultural celebration

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

From Agatha Schwartz

Keynote speaker at international conference *Langue et territoire: Pouvoir des langues, langues du pouvoir*. Title of presentation: "The Danube Swabians: Creation and Destruction of a Minoritized Cultural and Linguistic Identity." University of Ottawa, 25 June, 2025.

Conference presentations:

"Reflecting on Hungarian Diasporic Identity Through the Music of the Vojvodina-based Sógor Együttes." Joint presentation with Robert Švarc. AHEA Annual Conference. University of Pécs, Hungary. 20 June, 2025.

"Adél Nemessányi, an Early Újvidék/Novi Sad-Based Women's Rights Activist." HSAC Annual Conference, Toronto, George Brown College. 2 June, 2025.

From Oliver Botár

Recent Publications:

"In Memoriam Nandor F. Dreisziger (1940-2024)," *Hungarian Studies Review*, 52, no. 1 (2025), 120-123.

"Directing the 'Biocentric' Lense at the Bauhaus," in: *The Bauhaus and the Landscape*, Lars Hopstock and Sebastian Feldhausen, eds., Berlin: Kerber, 2024 (In German and English)

"The German Youth Movement Activist," in: *Lucia Moholy: Exposures*, Jordan Troeller, ed., Prague: Kunsthalle Praha, 2024, 90-101. (Also in a Czech edition)

"Pedagogy and Bodywork: Portraits of Heinrich Jacoby and Elsa Gindler," in: *Lucia Moholy: Exposures*, Jordan Troeller, ed., Prague: Kunsthalle Praha, 2024, 102-121. (Also in a Czech edition)

2025 Talks, Conference Papers, Keynotes:

"40 Years of Promoting Hungarian Art Through The Salgo Trust for Education. Reflections on "What is Hungarian Art?," Keynote delivered at the 39th Annual Conference of the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada, "Rethinking Coexistence: Hungary, Hungarianness, and Finding Commonality in Diversity", as part of the Congress for the Humanities and Social Sciences, 2025 "Reframing Togetherness"; George Brown College, Toronto, 31.05.2025.

"The Americans Are Coming! How Post-Surrealist Midwesterners Determined the Course of Winnipeg Modernism After 1950," "Continuities and Discontinuities in Intercultural Dialogues," The 8th Univeresity of Szeged-University of Manitoba Partnership Biennial Conference, University of Szeged, Hungary, 09.05.2025.

From Anikó Zsuzsanna Antal:**Mapping the Hungarian-Canadian Diaspora Literature**

I would like to invite the members of the HSAC to contribute to a special project dedicated to the Hungarian-Canadian Diaspora Literature: Mapping, Current Situation and Future Trajectories. This project seeks to establish a comprehensive summary (including a digital “map”) of this distinct body of work, critically assess the contemporary presence of the Hungarian diaspora literature, and explore its intellectual and creative paths in the 21st century. Hungarian-Canadian literature, often rooted in the migratory waves, offers rich terrain for examining themes of displacement, linguistic duality, cultural memory, psychology, trauma and transnational identity.

The suggested thematic areas could be engaged with the followings:

1. The historical development and periodization of Hungarian-Canadian literary works and the influence of key migratory waves on literary output, critical assessments of foundational authors and texts, the role of Hungarian or bilingual publishing houses and cultural institutions in Canada.
2. Current situation and critical reception of the Hungarian-Canadian diaspora literature, analysing contemporary Hungarian-Canadian authors (first, second, and third-generation, newcomers), focusing on the intersection of Hungarian-Canadian identity with broader identity categories.
3. The critical reception and canonization or marginalization of Hungarian-Canadian texts within Canadian and Hungarian literary studies and the challenge of language: writing in Hungarian versus writing in English or French.
4. Future trajectories and digital spheres, meaning how is the adaptation of diasporic themes in media, digital literature, and online journals in Canada and in the homeland.

Please, let me know if you would like to join this project.

With warm regards,
Anikó Zsuzsanna Antal
antalaniko81@gmail.com

Many congratulations to our Members on your recent successes!

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).



An announcement from our colleagues at AHEA:

AHEA — American Hungarian Educators Association

50th Annual Conference

April 16-18, 2026

Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA

The American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA) will hold its 50th Annual Conference in person at Cleveland State University, in Cleveland, Ohio, 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:

250 Years of Hungarian Contributions to the United States of America

Presentations should report the results of original research. Proposals can address a broad range of topics inspired by the bisesquicentennial celebration of the United States of America, relevant to Hungarian culture, including contributions made by Hungarians that span the 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in the United States. Topics pertaining to research relevant to Hungarians, as well as life in the Hungarian diaspora and the influence of Americans on Hungary, will also be considered. We welcome presentations on methodology and those that provide directions for future research.

Abstract submission deadline: **November 15, 2025**

Presenters should expect to hear back by December 20, 2025, at the latest. Applications for research presentation awards will open in January.

Abstracts (250-word limit) should be submitted through **this link**.

Please see above link for submission guidelines and categories, as well as contact information and a Hungarian language version of the CfP.

Membership fees

Please contact Ilona Sándor at isandor2003@yahoo.com for payment of your 2025 Membership fees if you have not done so yet. We are now able to accept payment 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 our website Membership page: https://hungarianstudies.org/?page_id=47.

It is not too late . . .

HSAC is preparing for our 40th Anniversary Celebration in June 2026, and we would like to receive input from both Members and non-Member friends, including:

- Feedback and ideas for the upcoming celebration
- Memoirs/memories (written or video, short or long)
- Photos/videos
- Other artifacts relevant to the past 40 years HSAC has been in existence.

Please use the Google form [LINKED HERE](#) to submit your written input, as well as scanned or electronic copies of your HSAC artifacts. You do not have to have a Google account to submit.

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

Look forward to seeing you online (June 10-11) and in Toronto (June 13-14) in 2026!