



News in Hungarian Studies

May 2026 (Issue 106)

Edited by Angela Chong and Julio Lucchesi Moraes

Hungarian Studies Association of Canada (HSAC)

Preliminary Draft Schedule: 2026 Annual Conference – Online

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

Wednesday, June 10

9:00-10:30 (ET) President’s Welcome and Keynote Address:

Marlene Kadar, Emeritus Professor and Senior Scholar, York University, “Becoming Hungarian: Hungarian-ness and the Ironic and Unfulfilled Promise of the Gerund in Studies of Memory and Identities, or, Neither Here nor There”

11:00-12:30 Roma, Migrants, and the Future of Hungary and Canada

1:00-2:30 Politics, Pedagogy, and Law

3:00-4:30 Grief, Loss, and Memory

Thursday, June 11

9:00-11:00 (ET) N. American Immigration & the Hungarian Diaspora

11:30-1:00 Pre-Modern and Early Modern Histories

1:30-3:00 Memoirs, Literature, Archives

3:30-5:00 Dance, Music, and Community

Presenters: Agatha Schwartz, Ágnes Zana, Anikó Zsuzsanna Antal, Angela Chong, Balázs Venkovits, Fatih Ekim, Gdalit Neuman, Gina Csányi-Robah, Hajnalka Forgács, Joel S. Fetzer, Judit Gál, Julio Lucchesi Moraes, Márk Rácz, Róbert Kerepeszki, Robyn Jensen, Soma Rédey, Sonya DiSclafani, Steven Jobbitt, Terence A. Check Jr., Zsolt Máté

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN at <https://hungarianstudies.org>
(Full programme with presentation titles will be on the website soon.)

IN-PERSON 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Hungarian Studies Association of Canada Jubilee Sessions, June 13-14, 2026

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, 432 Sheppard Ave East, Toronto - Preliminary program

Saturday, June 13th

17:00-17:10 Arrival

17:10-17:40 40 years of the HSAC (Oliver Botar – Katalin Kürtösi)

17:40-18:00 The past and present of the *Hungarian Studies Review* (Steven Jobbitt)

18:00-18:15 Coffee break

18:15-19:15 Reading with celebrated Hungarian-Canadian authors Anna Porter, Endre Farkas and Joseph Kertes. Moderator: Katalin Kürtösi

19:30-21:00 Dinner with live music



Sunday, June 14th

10:00-10:50 Session 1: Memories of 1956 in literary works

- 1956 Escape Stories in Novels by Hungarian-Canadian authors (Katalin Kürtösi)
- Writing from Exile: Diasporic Ethics and Hungarian Memory in George Jonas's *Beethoven's Mask* (Krisztina Kodó)

11:00-12:10 Reading (in Hungarian) with Oliver Botar, Z. S. Man, Rita Soltesz and Toby Sass.

Moderator: Anikó Antal

12:20-13:00 Lunch break

13:00-14:30 Session 2: Perspectives of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution

- The Role of *Oral History* in Researching the Hungarian State Security Services of Socialist Hungary: Examples, Methods, Outcomes (András Szécsényi)
- Untold Stories - Memories Untold (Marta Novák)
- "Lived Experience: A psychiatrist looks back on his childhood in Hungary, 1943-1956" (Frank G. Sommers)
- Hungarian Refugees in Portugal: Navigating the Politics of Salazar's *Estado Novo* (Steve Jobbitt)

14:30-14:50 Introducing Hungarian Professional Associations in Toronto (Marta Novák)

14:50-15:00 President's Closing Remarks (Agatha Schwartz)

15:00-15:10 Coffee break

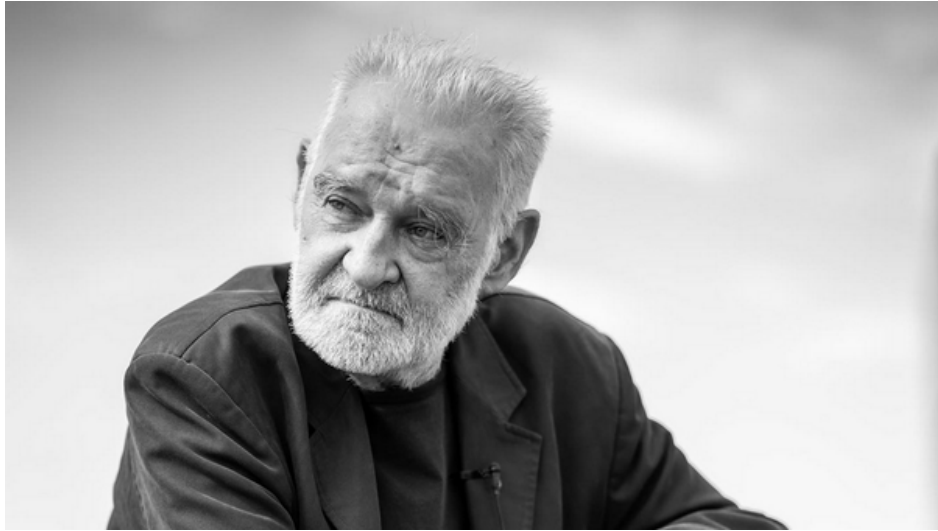
15:10-16:00 Book launch (in Hungarian) and socializing with Anikó Antal and Agatha (Ágota)

Schwartz. Moderator: Ilona Sándor.

Registration fee: \$50 (regular), \$40 (retired, students, underemployed) includes access to all sessions and coffee breaks with refreshments. It also gives access to the online part of the HSAC annual conference taking part on June 10-11 via Zoom (previous page). Dinner and lunch are not included in the registration fee and can be paid on site.

REGISTER at <https://hungarianstudies.org>. One fee covers both online and in-person registration.

Béla Tarr (1955–2026): Master of Time and Image



It is with deep sadness that we mark the passing of Béla Tarr, one of the most singular and influential figures in contemporary cinema. His unmistakable visual language—marked by long takes, stark black-and-white imagery, and a profound meditation on time, decay, and human endurance—has left an indelible mark on filmmakers and audiences across the world. From *Sátántangó* to *Werckmeister Harmonies* and *The Turin Horse*, his films challenged conventional narrative and invited viewers into a demanding yet deeply rewarding cinematic experience.

Beyond his work behind the camera, Tarr was also a committed mentor and educator. Through his Film Factory program in Sarajevo and his frequent appearances at international festivals and forums, he remained dedicated to nurturing emerging filmmakers and engaging in conversations about the ethical and aesthetic responsibilities of cinema. His influence extended far beyond Hungary, resonating in Europe, the Americas, and Asia alike.

He received numerous prestigious awards throughout his career, including the Jury Grand Prix at the Berlin International Film Festival and lifetime achievement honors from major cinematic institutions. Yet, despite global recognition, he maintained a critical stance toward the film industry, often emphasizing cinema as a moral and philosophical endeavor rather than mere entertainment.

The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada expresses its profound respect for Béla Tarr's life and work, and extends its condolences to his family, collaborators, and admirers around the world. His legacy endures not only in his films but in the generations of artists he inspired and the enduring questions his work continues to pose.

Julio Lucchesi Moraes
juliomoraes.jlm@gmail.com

Gabor Szilasi Photography Exhibit (Montréal): In Memoriam

Gabor Szilasi, doyen of photographic art in Canada, celebrated his 98th birthday on 3rd February. McLennan Library of McGill University is paying tribute to his achievements with a special exhibition of his photos taken in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Gabor – he is usually referred to by his first name, even in the title of the film about him (directed by Joannie Lafrenière, 2018) – settled down in Montréal in 1959 and had his first exhibition there eight years later. He captured highly reputed artists as well as people in rural Québec with a deep humanistic approach. The special exhibition, titled “Hinge Points: Gabor Szilasi Photographic Angle,” was unveiled on his birthday and can be seen until June 20th.

The introduction to the pictures mentions that they present an “urban landscape in a state of flux”. Some of the buildings shown have undergone radical changes in function (e.g. from an early twentieth-century post office into a trendy hotel) or are doing so in our days (Archambault book and music store on the corner of rue Ste Catherine and Berry, or The Bay) so the photos can be seen as witnesses to this process. The pictures chosen for this show focus on geometric elements: be they the curves of traditional buildings or the sharp angles of an intersection under construction.

The locations range from Hochelaga through downtown to Verdun: maps of Montréal show the exact ‘angle’ so visitors can connect the photos with various parts of the city. And leaving the small exhibition on McGill campus, a few blocks south-west one can see the photographer as part of the city-scape: in October, 2024 he was honoured by a mural showing himself with his indispensable camera and a large version of a picture taken by him.

Gabor Szilasi quietly passed away on April 10th, 2026. RIP

Dr. Katalin Kirtösi

Vice-President of HSAC

The public artwork honours the career of Gabor Szilasi, photographer and professor emeritus in Concordia's Department of Studio Arts. | All photos by Olivier Bousquet

<https://www.concordia.ca/news/stories/2024/10/01/new-mural-on-the-sir-george-williams-campus-celebrates-the-work-and-career-of-gabor-szilasi.html>



NEWS FROM MEMBERS

From Steve Jobbitt

Book chapters:

“A Watershed Crisis: Hydrology and the Politics of Revisionism in Post-Trianon Hungary,” in *Flowing Progress: Transforming the Danube Through Infrastructure*, eds. Stefan Dorondel and Luminita Gatajel (West Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 2025): 97-132

“Ferenc Fodor, 1887-1962,” co-authored with Róbert Győri, in *Geographers: Biobibliographical Studies* (London: Bloomsbury, 2025): 93-128.

Conference presentations:

“Hungarian Refugees in Salazar’s Portugal, 1956–1957” to the NOVA School of Law, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa in Portugal, October, 2025.

From Judith Szapor

Book Chapter:

“The limits of right-wing women’s rights activism: The case of Hungary.” In: *Women on the Right: Politics and Social Action in Comparative and Transnational Perspective, 1870s-1990s*, edited by Clarisse Berthezène, Laura Lee Downs and Julie V. Gottlieb, 13–32. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2025. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5040/9781350361065.ch-1>.

From Agatha (Ágota) Schwartz

Publications:

Schwartz, Ágota (Agatha). *Világok között: Kisprózák és elmélkedések*. Toronto: Corvina, 2025. 132 p.

---. “Trauma, Erinnerung und Erzählung in Autobiografien von Donauschwäbinnen aus der amerikanischen Diaspora.” (Trauma, memory, and narration in autobiographies by Danube Swabian women from the American diaspora.) In *Verständigung leben: Beiträge der verständigungspolitischen Tagungen*, edited by Maria Werthan. Heiligenhof, Bad Kissingen: 2025, pp. 110-132.

Shared by HSAC on behalf of Anikó Zsuzsanna Antal

Anikó Zsuzsanna Antal was recently featured in an interview in *Magyar Napló*, the journal of the Hungarian Writers’ Association, where she reflects on diasporic literature, cultural memory, and the intergenerational transmission of Hungarian-Canadian literary work: Lajtós, Nóra. “Határokkel határtalanul: Beszélgetés Antal Anikó Zsuzsannával,” *Magyar Napló*, 2026/2, pp. 17-18.

From Oliver Botár:

On 12 March, Prof. Oliver Botar participated remotely as outside evaluator for the Ph.D. dissertation defence of (now) Dr. Merse Pal Szeredi, at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. Szeredi successfully defended his dissertation, “Kassák a bécsi emigrációban” (Kassák in Viennese Emigration) and was awarded the highest possible distinction of *Summa cum Laude*.

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

„Biomorphic Modernist Painting, Canada and the United States, 1910-1950,” Edna Taçon Study Days, Art Gallery of Ontario, 04.03.2025. (Invited presentation)

“Ilka Revai: Feminism, Leftism and Photography in Budapest, 1919 / Révai Ilka – Feminizmus, baloldaliság és fotográfia Budapesten, 1919-ben”. In: *The Missing Gaze: Ilka and Eva Revai's Rediscovered Oeuvres / Hiányzó tekintet: Revai Ilka és Revai Eva elfeledett életműve*, Budapest: Hungarian National Museum Public Collection Centre, Petőfi Literary Museum, Kassák Museum, 2025, 292-301.

From Julio Lucchesi Moraes:

Julio Lucchesi Moraes (presenting for himself and György Túry), “The Destruction of Reason Revisited: Lukács, Freire, and the Transnational Politics of Erasure”. HSA Symposium: “Hungarian Political Culture: European Security, Human Rights, and Democracy in Peril”, Feb., 2026.

From Fatih Ekim:

M.A. thesis, titled “Memorial Cultures in Hungary about the Muslim and Jewish Presence (1526–1699): The Case of Budapest,” in the field of Ethnic and Minority Policy at Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest) expected to be defended in June 2026.

From May 1 to June 30, 2026, he will be a visiting researcher at the Department of Sociology at the University of Vienna, through a CEEPUS-funded mobility program.

Conducted research on the Hungarian minority in Transylvania through an academic mobility program at Babeş-Bolyai University (Cluj-Napoca), examining minority identity, memory practices, and the Ottoman legacy in the region, January–February 2026.

In March 2026, appointed General Secretary of the *Journal of Balkan and Black Sea Studies* (<https://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/balkar>).



Shared by HSAC on behalf of Robyn Jensen:

Recently completed her M.A. in Media & Artistic Research at the University of Regina, defending her thesis, "An Archive of Goodbyes: Curating Loss, Reclaiming Cultural Belonging, examined Hungarian-Canadian cultural memory through archival photographs and curatorial practice."

Received a new position as Curator of the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame:
<https://sasksportshalloffame.com/robyn-jensen-is-the-new-sshf-curator/>

From Hajnalka Forgách:

Expected to complete her Ph.D. this year at the Doctoral School of History at the University of Szeged, defending her dissertation on the history of Ignác Ghyczy's (1799–1870) library.

Received the opportunity to conduct research at the Ignác Ghyczy library, a special collection at the Library of the Hungarian Parliament, where Hajnalka now works.

From Angela Chong:

"'What is Hungarian in music?,' a conversation between Emma Kodály and her husband, both historical and imagined," 27th International Kodály Symposium 50th Anniversary Celebration, Kecskemét, Hungary, 08/2025.

Summer 2026 University of Southern California Graduate Certificate in Jewish Studies Summer Research Fellowship Award for dissertation research on the Bonhoeffers and Dohnányis in Germany and Hungary.

Summer 2026 University of Southern California Center for Transpacific Studies Research Fellowship Award for Kodály-inspired field research on "Taiwanese Indigenous Music as Political Resistance."

Summer 2025 University of Southern California East Asian Studies Center Graduate Fellowship Award for Kodály-inspired field research on Taiwanese Indigenous music in Taiwan.

Summer 2025 Graduate Internship at Smithsonian Folkways Recordings Music Education Pathways.

Chong, Angela. "Music and Island-scapes of Taiwan," *Hear Us Out! Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Their Music*, (K-2) Online Music Pathway, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, to be published late 2026. <https://folkways.si.edu/lesson/music-and-island-scapes-of-taiwan>

Accepted into the University of Southern California Graduate Certificate in Jewish Studies Program, 05/2025.



Shared by HSAC on behalf of Gina Csányi-Robah (parts republished from Gina's original email):

International Roma Day 2026 at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

International Roma Day on April 8, 2026, was marked by a special celebration at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

For the past five years, I volunteered alongside Canadian Romani Alliance board member Dr. Shayna Plaut, in collaboration with Sara, curator of the Community Presents Program, and Colin, the museum's graphic designer. Together, we developed a series of exhibit panels that will remain in circulation beyond the exhibit's closing in June 2026.

These panels shared important stories of Roma in Canada, including my family's journey—my grandparents who arrived as refugees at Pier 21 in 1956. The exhibit also highlighted Roma experiences during the Holocaust, including the testimony of a Canadian Hungarian Romani Holocaust survivor.

“Resilience on the Move marks a significant milestone for the Canadian Romani community. It is the first time our stories have been shared within a mainstream Canadian institution. The exhibit highlights both the broader history of Roma migration and the lived experiences of families like my own, whose journey to Canada began after fleeing Hungary during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956.”

— Gina Csanyi-Robah

You can still view the exhibit panels here:

<https://www.canadianromanialliance.com/posts-2/2026/2/24/resilience-on-the-move-roma-people-in-canada>

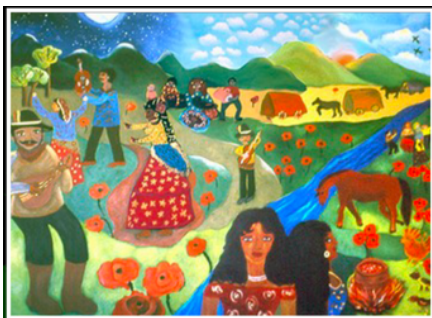
International Roma Day Celebration – Livestream Event

The 60–90 minute opening celebration took place on April 8, 2026

The event included a conversation with Dr. Shayna Plaut and myself, as well as a performance by the Gypsy Rebels in honour of International Roma Day 2026.

Acknowledgements

We extend our deep gratitude to those who contributed to making this exhibit meaningful: Chad Evans Wyatt, for generously sharing his Roma Rising Canada portrait collection, Ildiko Nova, for contributing original artwork, Micheal T. Butch and the Gypsy Rebels, for their powerful performance of the Romani anthem “Gelem Gelem,” Quintin Bart, our dedicated volunteer web designer since 2014.



Mural painted in 2007 by Hungarian and Czech Roma women seeking asylum in Toronto, as part of the *Loki Gili* project.

Toronto Roma Community Centre

(Images from *Resilience on the Move*)

(continued from Member Update shared by HSAC on behalf of Gina Csányi-Robah):

Community Events & Ongoing Celebrations

International Roma Day 2026 was also marked by in-person celebrations at the Toronto Roma Community Centre and the Hamilton Roma Hub, bringing together members of the global Romani diaspora in Canada.

We also highlight recent and ongoing contributions to Romani cultural and intellectual life:

- Lynn Hutchinson Lee (author): <https://lynnhutchinsonlee.ca/writing/>
- Frances Roberts Reilly (author): <https://francesrobertsreilly.wordpress.com/>
- Lela Savić (journalist): Lela Savić, now teaching at the University of Toronto, offers the course “Decolonizing Journalism: Changing the Narrative”: <https://learn.utoronto.ca/why-continuing-studies/about-our-instructors/instructors/lela-savic>

My Romani activism in Canada was also featured by the Canadian Museum for Human Rights for International Roma Day 2025:

<https://humanrights.ca/story/we-are-roma>

Support

If you are able, please consider donating to help sustain this ongoing work:

<https://www.canadianromanialliance.com/>

OPRE ROMA 2026!

Warm regards,

Gina Csányi

Executive Director

Canadian Romani Alliance



**Many congratulations to all 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).

ONLINE BOOK PANEL: A HANDBOOK ON POST-1956 HUNGARIAN REFUGEE RELIEF

The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada (HSAC) will be hosting an online book panel on *A Handbook on Post-1956 Hungarian Refugee Relief* edited by Gusztáv Kecskés and Tamás Scheibner

Friday, May 29, 12:00-1:30pm ET, 18.00-19.30 CET.

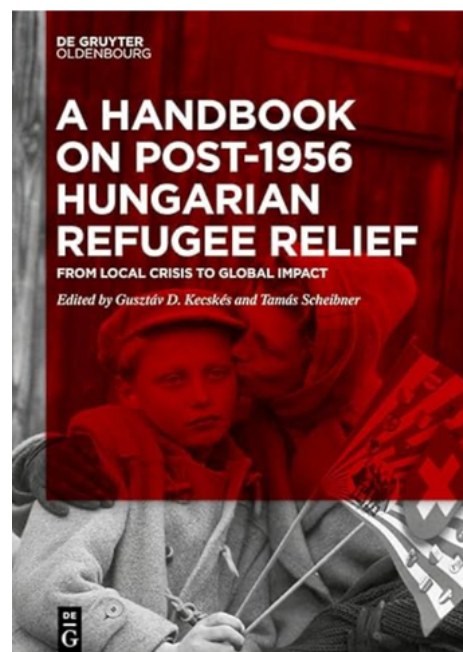
Speakers: **Gusztáv D. Kecskés**, Institute of History at the ELTE Research Centre for the Humanities and **Tamás Scheibner**, Institute of History at the ELTE Research Centre for the Humanities/Institute of Cultural Studies and Hungarian Literature at Eötvös Loránd University (editors); **Christopher Adam**, St. Joseph's Parish/Carleton University (on the Canadian case), **Dawn Bolger**, Swansea University (on the Australian case)

Commentator: **Steven Jobbitt**, Lakehead University, Past President of HSAC
Moderator: **Agatha Schwartz**, Emeritus Professor, University of Ottawa, President of HSAC

ZOOM link:

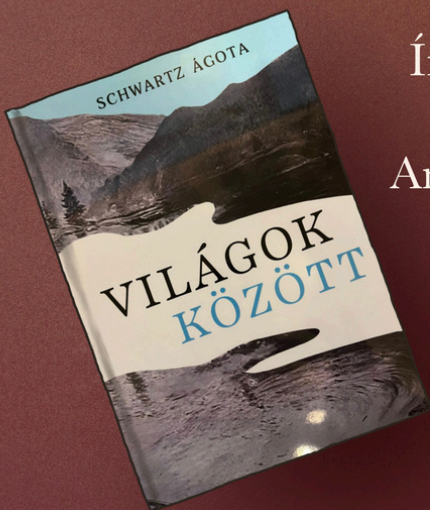
<https://lakeheadu.zoom.us/j/99501239187>

Save
THE
Date



Könyvbemutató

a Kanadai Magyarstudományi Társaság 40. évfordulója alkalmából



Írók: Schwartz Ágota
és
Antal Anikó Zsuzsanna

2026. június 14.
délután 3 óra

Moderátor:
Sándor Ilona



Szent Erzsébet Plébánia

432 Sheppard Ave E, North York

a plakátot tervezte: Balázs-Keresztes Anna

In-Person Book Launch

at the HSAC 40th Anniversary Celebration

Authors: Agatha Schwartz and Anikó Zsuzsanna Antal

Moderator: Ilona Sándor

Sunday, June 14, 2026, 3:00pm ET

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church

432 Sheppard Ave. E, North York, Toronto

Membership fees

Please contact Ilona Sándor at isandor2003@yahoo.com for payment of your 2026 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.

New Members in 2026

HSAC would like to welcome and recognize our new members who have joined the organization this month:

Terence A. Check Jr.

Fatih Ekim

Hajnalka Forgács

Márk Rác

Soma Rédey

We also are happy to announce our new initiative offering a **free 1-year HSAC membership this year in 2026 to graduate students and Romani individuals.**

Please contact aachong@usc.edu if you are interested.

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!