

News in Hungarian Studies

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Edited by Angela Chong and Julio Lucchesi Moraes



Hungarian Studies Association of Canada
Association canadienne des études hongroises
Kanadai Magyarstudományi Társaság

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE 41st ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 5-7, 2027, online only via Zoom

“Hungary at Past and Present Crossroads”

Conference committee: Prof. Katalin Kürtösi, Committee Chair (University of Szeged), Sonya Di Sclafani (Concordia University), Zsolt Máté (University of Pécs)

The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada invites proposals for individual papers, roundtable discussions, workshops, and panels for our annual conference to be held from June 5 to June 7, 2027. The conference will be held online only via Zoom.

The theme of our 2027 conference is “Hungary at Past and Present Crossroads.” The 2027 HSAC conference seeks proposals that thematize the many crossroads Hungary has had to reckon with in its past and present. How have the crossroads Hungary has encountered numerous times throughout its turbulent history defined its identity, politics, society, and culture, including its memory culture? How do Hungarian literature, music, and visual arts both reflect and shape this memory culture both in Hungary and in the Hungarian diaspora? All relevant and innovative reflections on these themes within the field of Hungarian Studies writ large will be considered.

Although we strongly encourage proposals that speak to the conference theme, as always, we welcome proposals on any topic related to Hungary and Hungarian Studies. The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada also supports and encourages both creative and critical scholarly engagement within and across disciplines.

We welcome proposals from scholars at all stages of their career and particularly by graduate students and advanced undergraduates. The HSAC will choose one graduate student as recipient of the annual George Bisztray Award.

Conference registration fee:

Regular: CAN\$50

Retired and underemployed: CAN\$40

Student: CAN\$30

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 the bio will be published online, they should be prepared in Word format using Times New Roman, 12-point font. Abstracts should be sent electronically both to the Chair of the Conference Committee, Katalin Kürtösi, and to the other two members of the committee:

Katalin Kürtösi: kurtosikatalin@szte.hu

Zsolt Máté: zsolt.mate@hotmail.com

Sonya Di Sclafani: sdisclafani@gmail.com

Proposals are accepted in English, French, and Hungarian.

Please keep in mind that presentations at the conference are no longer than 20 minutes with an additional 5-10 minutes for discussion. Given the online format, it is particularly important to respect this time limit. The deadline for submission of abstracts is Monday, December 14, 2026. The presenters will be notified of the committee's decisions no later than February 22, 2027.

President's Message for October 2026 Newsletter

As the leaves begin to blush in the garden and the parks, we are concluding another eventful season of our association. I am very pleased to be writing these lines as President of the HSAC who was reelected for another two years to serve the association in this capacity until 2028. Thank you for your trust. Congratulations to Prof. Katalin Kürtösi who was reelected Vice-President and Ilona Sándor who was reelected Treasurer. With the other members of the Executive, Steve Jobbitt (Past-President) and Angela Chong (Newsletter editor), we are already busy planning the 2026-2027 season. But first, let me give you an overview of our activities since our spring newsletter.

On May 29, we held a very well attended online book panel, *A Handbook on Post-1956 Hungarian Refugee Relief* (De Gruyter, 2025), with the participation of the editors, 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 ELTE) as well as contributing authors Christopher Adam (St. Joseph's Parish/Carleton University) and Dawn Bolger (Swansea University), with commentator Steven Jobbitt (Lakehead University, HSAC Past President) and moderator Agatha Schwartz (University of Ottawa, HSAC President). The presentations were very informative and generated a lively discussion. We are planning another online book launch in November. Details will be shared with the members as soon as they become available.

The highlight of our yearly activities, as always, was our annual conference. This year's conference was particularly special as we celebrated the 40th anniversary of our association while also commemorating the 70th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian revolution. Our conference took place in two parts: the online conference (June 10-11) was followed by an in-person celebration in Toronto at Saint Elizabeth Church (June 13-14). Thus our conference-cum-celebration took 4 days in total, the longest I can remember, as traditionally our conferences have taken 3 days (or rather 2.5). All this took an immense amount of planning, preparation, and coordination. It would not have been possible without the dedicated hard work of a large team that was involved in it. I would like to thank the online conference planning committee members (Steve Jobbitt, Angela Chong, Sonya Di Sclafani, and Ginny Lewis) as well as the on-site celebration committee members (Katalin Kürtösi, Oliver Botar, Ilona Sándor, and Márta Novák) for the many hours of work they put into making this year's events a great success, with a rich and diverse programme, excellent presentations by both established and junior researchers covering a wide range of topics, as well as great names from Canadian Hungarian literature Joseph Kertes and Endre Farkas and our keynote speaker Prof. Marlene Kadar whose lecture was so thought-provoking. We were also introduced to Hungarian professional associations in Toronto. A book launch concluded the celebration. The hospitality of the on-site organizers ought to be particularly noted, with the delicious food Enikő prepared for us at Saint Elizabeth. All in all, it was an event to be remembered.

This year, for the first time in 16 years, we did not take part in the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, the main reason being that Congress did not meet this year as no university or college was willing to host this large and costly event. We heard about these challenges last year when a representative from Congress visited our AGM held at George Brown College in Toronto, and I reported about it then. For next year, however, things look somewhat better. Congress will be back, both online and in person. Unfortunately, for a small association like ours, new challenges have arisen. For one, the two parts are no longer offered simultaneously; the online part is planned for May-June while the in-person part takes place only at the beginning of July at Simon Fraser University in BC. The conference registration fees pose another challenge for us. Not only is there no differentiation between online and in-person participation, but also the price for a regular attendee has skyrocketed to \$600. Even if these fees are somewhat lower for graduate students, the Executive has concluded that they are prohibitive for most of our members as the cost of travel and accommodation in the Vancouver area in the middle of the summer has to be additionally factored in. The unanimous decision was thus against joining Congress in 2027. Instead, we are planning an online only conference organized entirely by the HSAC. We decided,

however, to keep our membership in the Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences for the time being. The future will tell how things and our relationship with Congress may evolve and what format and/or location would be chosen for our future conferences. We may explore the possibility of occasionally partnering with universities in Hungary as well.

The HSAC is proud to continue its support for graduate students. This year, given the fact that all graduate students presented online, and given that participation fees were substantially lower outside of Congress, we decided to offer free conference registration to all graduate student participants, a total of 7: Fatih Ekim, Hajnalka Forgács, Zsolt Máté, Sonya Di Sclafani, Soma Rédey, and Gdalit Neuman. In addition, the executive also decided to offer free first-year membership in the HSAC to graduate students. It was further decided to offer this year's George Bisztray Scholarship to Sonya Di Sclafani, MA student at Concordia University. Congratulations to all!

A new committee was established following our AGM. Members present at the AGM unanimously voted to establish a new prize that will be offered by the HSAC bi-annually, the Best Hungarian Studies Review Article prize. The committee members are Prof. Judith Szapor (McGill University), Prof. Krisztina Kodó (Kodolányi University, Budapest), and Prof. Oliver Botar (University of Manitoba). The committee will begin its work following the publication of the next issue of *HSR*. Speaking of the *HSR*, the journal invited submissions of papers in any field of Hungarian studies.

I look forward to another exciting year with the HSAC.

Agatha Schwartz, President, HSAC



At the HSAC 40th Anniversary Celebration in Toronto (June 13-14, 2026)

Remembering and celebrating: 1956 and forty years of HSAC – June 13th-14th, Toronto, in-person celebration

In 2026 HSAC organized the annual conference in two forms: online sessions were offered on June 10th and 11th, while two days later we gathered in Toronto to remember the 70th anniversary of the revolution and the first big conference of the association held in Toronto in May 1986. This second part was the brain-child of Judy Young, Oliver Botar and myself.

Oliver Botar spoke about the importance of the first conference where even George Faludy was present and the papers offered various aspects of Hungarian studies in Canada, accompanied by an exhibition. Mária Palasik highlighted the importance of later HSAC conferences for scholars from Hungary, while Steven Jobbitt looked at the history of *Hungarian Studies Review*. The memories of 1956 were presented through chapters in novels by Hungarian-Canadian authors Anna Porter, Joseph Kertes and Endre Farkas. On Sunday, June 14th the audience could listen to academic papers about Hungarian immigrant writers (Krisztina Kodó, Katalin Kürtösi), passages from Oliver Botar Sr.'s memoirs, texts by Rita Soltesz and Zsuzsa Man – this latter part of the event was moderated by Anikó Antal.

Márta Novák organized a session about „Untold stories and buried memories”: András Szécsényi underlined „The Role of Oral History in Researching the Hungarian State Security Services of Socialist Hungary;” Márta herself shared her research experiences about how untold stories affect us on the personal, interpersonal, societal and global levels; Dr. Frank G. Sommer's topic was the devastating physical and psychological damage inflicted by war, terrorism, or disaster from any source; and Steven Jobbitt dealt with the fate of Hungarian refugees in Salazar's Portugal. A short introduction of professional organizations showed how the older generation of Hungarian-Canadians reaches out to younger people, encouraging them to master the language and organize attractive programs. As closing event to this rich program, Ilona Sándor moderated a book launch with Agatha (Ágota) Schwartz („Világok között”) and Anikó Antal („Csillaghálók és tölgyfagyökerek”).

Throughout the in-person event we had a nice audience. Our special thanks go to Ilona Sándor who served as perfect hostess, finding a conference room at St. Elizabeth's Church and ordering delicious food for all attendees.

Katalin Kürtösi, Vice-President, HSAC





Scenes From
the in-person
40th
Anniversary
celebration in
Toronto, June
13-14, 2026



June 10-11, 2026 HSAC Online Conference Highlights

“**Memories and Memoirs of Hungary, Hungarians, and the HSAC: Reflecting on the Past, Imagining the Future,**” the online component of our 40th anniversary conference spanned two very full days, with twenty-five presenters participating in a total of eight sessions. The opening keynote address by **Prof. Emer. Marlene Kadar** (York U.) was one of the highlights of the conference. Rooting notions of memory and belonging in her own lived experiences as a Hungarian-Canadian, Kadar reflected on her lifetime engagement with questions of Hungarian-ness, concluding that identity is best understood through the fluid lens of becoming, rather than concrete notions of being.

A second highlight of the conference was our invited panel, “**Roma, Migrants, and the Future of Hungary and Canada.**” Facilitated by **Linda Carranza**, human rights lawyer and co-founder of the *Ráday Salon*, the panel featured talks by **Jázmín Gürbüz**, who spoke on her work with *POLIP Egyesület* organizing young Hungarians to engage politically; **Michael Simmons**, author of *Stayed on Freedom*, who spoke about his work in the African American civil rights movement and as a human rights activist working with Roma and migrants in Hungary; **James Peter**, who spoke about his work with *Next Step NGO* in Budapest helping refugees living in Hungary, and his own experience in Hungary as a refugee from West Africa; and **Gina Csányi-Robah**, Executive Director of the *Canadian Romani Alliance*, who spoke to her own family’s experience as Hungarian ‘56 refugees in Canada within the context of “Resilience on the Move,” an exhibit about Roma immigration on display earlier in 2026 at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax.

The conference also featured sessions on: *Politics, Pedagogy, and Law* with **Joel S. Fetzer**, **Julio Lucchesi Moraes**, and **Márk Rácz**; *Grief, Loss, and Memory* with **Robyn Jensen**, **Ágnes Zana**, and **Gdalit Neuman**; *Immigration and the Hungarian Diaspora* with **Soma Rédey**, **Zsolt Máté**, and **Sonya Di Sclafani**; *Pre-Modern and Early Modern Histories* with **Judit Gál**, **Terence A. Check, Jr.**, and **Fatih Ekim**; *Memoirs, Literature, and Archives* with **Róbert Kerepeszki**, **Anikó Zsuzsanna Antal**, and **Hajnalka Forgács**; and *Dance, Music, and Community* with **Steven Jobbitt**, **Angela Chong**, and **Agatha Schwartz**.

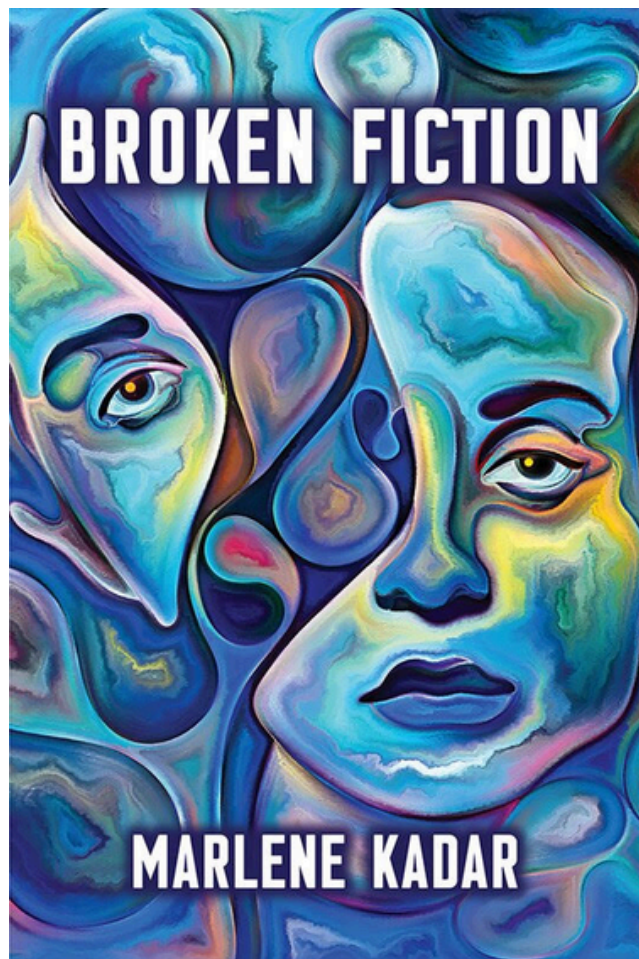
These sessions were expertly put together by **Sonya Di Sclafani**, an MA student at Concordia University and member of the Conference Programme Committee. We would also like to thank **Ginny Lewis** for her contributions as a member of the Conference Programme Committee. Between sessions, participants were treated to an online photography exhibit curated by **Robyn Jensen**. The exhibit highlighted Robyn’s research on the history of the Hungarian diaspora in Canada, including her own family history. The 30-minute reel provided participants a very personal glimpse into the lives of Hungarian-Canadians in rural Saskatchewan.

Written by Steven Jobbitt and Angela Chong – 2026 Online Conference Co-Organizers

Becoming Hungarian: Hungarian-ness and the Ironic and Unfulfilled Promise of the Gerund [in studies of Memory and Identities,] or, Neither Here nor There

A Bibliography by Marlene Kadar from her HSAC Conference Keynote Speech, June 10, 2026

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Thank you

Prof. Marlene Kadar, for this exceptional bibliographic complement to an exceptional keynote speech.

Public Service Announcement

The 24. Hungarian International Indie Film Festival Los Angeles will take place October 22-29, 2026. Recent Hungarian films participating in the jury will be **available online across the U.S. and Canada:**

<https://www.24hiiffla.com>

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

From Agatha Schwartz

Schwartz, Agatha and Robert Svarc. "Expressing Vojvodina Hungarian Identity Through the Music of the Sógor Együttes." *Hungarian Cultural Studies*. Journal of the American Hungarian Educators Association, Volume 19 (2026): <http://ahea.pitt.edu> DOI: 10.5195/ahea.2026.625, pp. 106-119.

From Angela Chong

- "Generational Divides: Refugee Parents, Children, and Their Music — A case study of Los Angeles Hungarian community music in second and third diasporic generations after 1956," HSAC 40th Anniversary Online Conference. 11 June 2026.
- "Music education, decolonization, nation-building: a historical and imagined dialogue between Emma Kodály and her husband," 37th ISME World Conference (International Society of Music Education), Montreal, Canada. 29 July 2026.
- Beatriz Ilari, Angela Chong, Pablo D'Avila, Yinuo Ying, "Music education from the perspective of immigrant and U.S.-born parents: A survey study," 37th ISME World Conference, Montreal, Canada. 27 July 2026. Presented again as awardee of the 2026 SRME (Society for Research in Music Education) Research Grant, 2026 NAFME (National Association for Music Educators) Biennial Conference, Long Beach, CA, USA. 2 October 2026.
- Angela Chong, Tina Huynh and Joyce Kwon, "Three West Coast Asian Americans Bring Their Heritage Music to Rural Midwest Children," AMPLIFY! Festival, Music of Asian America Research Center, Asian Improv aRts Midwest, Chicago, IL, USA. 25 September 2026. (*I discussed my Kodály-based Taiwanese American K-2 online music lesson to be published by the Smithsonian Folkways Music Pathways later in 2026, as well as my children's concert performed in November 2025 with two other musicians in Oberlin, OH, USA based upon music taught to local 3rd and 4th graders from our Smithsonian Folkways Music Pathways lessons.*)

From Anikó Zsuzsanna Antal

- Acceptance of conference paper proposal: "From Ball to Cage: Traces of the Danse Macabre in the Legends of Rose Latulipe and La Corriveau," has been accepted by the Scientific Committee of the XXII International Conference of the Danses macabres d'Europe. The conference, titled "Encounters with Death: Macabre Imaginaries and Symbols across Arts, Texts, and Cultural Traditions," will take place in Turin, Italy, from October 13 to 16, 2027, co-organized with the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Turin. My presentation will examine traces of the European danse macabre in Canadian cultural traditions, focusing on its manifestations in Quebec folk legends.
- Ongoing research in comparative literature: In addition to my ongoing research on Hungarian-Canadian literary topics, I have returned to my doctoral research in comparative literature, which examines the danse macabre in French, Hungarian, and broader European medieval and Renaissance drama and theatre. Over time, this project has expanded to encompass modern literature and other cultural expressions of the macabre.

- Academic association membership: I have been accepted into the Association Danse Macabre d'Europe, a French academic association bringing together researchers, scholars, art historians, and artists interested in the danse macabre. I look forward to contributing to its academic network and further developing my research in this field.
- Doctoral research and future plans: I completed a five-year doctoral programme at the University of Debrecen, Hungary, and continue to seek an institutional pathway to defend my thesis.

From Erika Sólyom

During the academic year of 2025-26, Erika continued her teaching job at the international MAARIF school in Budapest, where in addition to Teaching Hungarian as a Foreign Language (MID), she now also teaches ESL as well as British and American civilizations. Her teaching portfolio this year includes lower primary, middle school and high school students. Erika has also been involved with preparing her primary school students for language competitions as well as organizing cultural events at the school. In the fall of 2025, she participated at the MID annual day and conference organized by MANYE (Magyar Alkalmazott Nyelvészek és Nyelvtanárok Egyesülete) at ELTE University. On November 15, 2025, she delivered her extended research on the functional analysis of the „be” coverb at the MANYE conference titled as „Új eredmények a magyar mint idegen nyelv oktatásában.” In the summer of 2026, she started translating her book *Szenegálom* into English. The expected publication of the book is in 2027, with a title of *Sounds of Senegal*.



From Fatih Ekim

- I will begin my Ph.D. in Turkish Studies at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) in October, with a doctoral project titled “Remembering and Forgetting the Ottoman/Turkish Past: Memorial Cultures in Budapest and Vienna,” under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Mehmet Hacısalihoğlu.
- I recently completed my M.A. in Ethnic and Minority Policy at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, with a thesis on Muslim and Jewish memorial cultures in Hungary (1526–1699).
- On 2 October 2026, I presented my poster, “The Ottoman Image and Memorial Culture in the Hungarian National Museum: 1526–1699,” at the Before and After Mohács: Ottoman Archaeological Heritage in Europe conference at the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest.

From Gdalit Aviella Neuman

On Aug. 29, 2026 I presented again a talk I gave at the HSAC conference in 2025 on the "Hebrew Hora in Hungary: Togetherness, Transgression, Transcendence, Transformation" [online] at the Royal Musical Association (RMA) - Society for Musicology in Ireland (SMI) - European Association for Dance History (EADH) [joint hybrid] Conference 2026 in Belfast, Ireland.

Right: Jázmin at EMV Expo in Cologne (March 2026).

Below: Jázmin presenting on POLIP at Brain Bar in Budapest (September 2026).



From Jázmin Gürbüz

In the Spring of 2025, in addition to her MA studies, Jázmin worked for a Turkish tech company (TESTUPS Elektronik) in the fields of sales and marketing. In March 2026, together with the CEO, she represented the company at the International EMV Expo and Conference in Cologne, Germany. During the summer of 2026, she continued her project coordinator work at POLIP, an independent student association with a goal to give a platform for Hungarian students who are interested in public affairs and political dialogue. They prepared for a big Brain Bar event taking place in Budapest September 2026, where Jázmin took part in organization and marketing of POLIP. Brain Bar is one of the world's premier future festivals, bringing together top scientists and technologists, artists and political leaders, thinkers and founders to decode the most pressing questions of the 21st century with the active participation of our audience.

From Julio Lucchesi Moraes

Lucchesi Moraes, J., & Paes Müller, L. A. (2026). Harold Innis, political philosopher: Restoring the nexus between economics, communication, and politics. E-Compós, 29. <https://doi.org/10.30962/e-comps.3258> (In Portuguese).

Submitted on behalf of Ilona Sándor

Ilona, who has served on the HSAC Executive for many years as a Toronto-based Hungarian language educator, has just been accepted into a History Ph.D. program at Eötvös Lóránd University (ELTE) in Budapest, where she will study the history of the Toronto-area reception of 1956 refugees with Dr. Tamás Scheibner.

From Oliver Botar

-, „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.

-“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: Révai Ilka és Révai Éva elfeledett életműve, Budapest: Hungarian National Museum Public Collection Centre, Petőfi Literary Museum, Kassák Museum, 2025, 292-301.

Digital version of “Bauhaus (Canada) 101,” School of Art Gallery, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg (13 February-27 March 2020), launched May 2025 <https://visit.exhibitonline.hu/bauhaus-canada-101>

From Steven Jobbitt

Steve was invited to present two papers in October. On October 2nd, he presented “Orphans of the Cold War: Refugee Youth in Portugal in the Immediate Wake of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution” at the Cold War Legalities: Global Dynamics and Portuguese Trajectories conference held at the NOVA School of Law in Lisbon, Portugal. On October 12th, he gave a public lecture on the history of hydrology in Hungary after World War I and its connection to questions of national identity and territorial revision to the Hungarian Geographical Society and the Department of Social and Economic Geography at ELTE Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest.

From Zsolt Máté

With main curators Dr. Klára Radnóti and Dr. Angelika Orgona, Zsolt Máté served as an outside expert/curator of the National Museum of Hungary’s temporary exhibition, “The American Dream.” It is a three-months long, three-room big exhibition that can be visited until 1st of November, 2026.

The exhibition discusses the 250-year-old American-Hungarian relationship using three keywords: Freedom, Success and Wellbeing. Included among the many items in the exhibit are Kossuth’s American trip and gifts, János Xantus’s collections from the U.S., István Fábrichy Kovács’s memorabilia from the war of independence, Nobel and Oscar prizes, a statue of the T-3000 Terminator, Zsa-Zsa Gábor’s dress, and *burdoshaz*. The Museum has published a Hungarian and English exhibit book. To learn more about the exhibition: <https://www.youtube.com/@magyarnemzetimuzeumhivatalos/videos>

For official Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum pictures of the exhibit opening, including Zsolt, please see:
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/vEs5wbsEVA9XNbFS6> and <https://photos.app.goo.gl/3JdVs8776mMnwSB77>

**Many congratulations to all our
Members on your recent successes!**

Membership fees

Please contact Ilona Sándor at isandor2003@yahoo.com to pay your 2026 and 2027 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 Fall 2026

HSAC would like to welcome and recognize our new members who have joined the organization since our conference held in June 2026:

Erika Sólyom
Ferenc Valoczy
Jázmin Gürbüz

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

Stay tuned for upcoming events, including a new book launch, as well as a new Best Article Prize.

Look forward to seeing you online (June 5-7) in 2027!