**Short Bios and Abstracts of HUSSE10 Participants**

(arranged in alphabetical order)

**Annus, Irén**

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Irén Annus is Associate Professor of American Studies and member of the Gender Studies Research Group at the University of Szeged. Her primary research has been structured around Identity Studies with a focus on the construction and representation of minority groups in the US throughout the last two centuries, including women, racial/ethnic groups (especially European immigrants) and religious communities (the Latter-day Saints in particular). She has lectured and published on these fields both in Hungary and abroad. Currently, she is editing a volume on migration/tourism and identity construction in Europe.

**White American Masculinities Re-considered: Breaking Bad without Breaking Even**

The beginning of the 21st century was marked by a series of challenges to mainstream white masculinities in the US, in particular by the unexpected attack on 9/11 and then by the prevailing recession precipitated by the housing crash of 2008. Through a study of contemporary American popular culture, Carroll et al. (2011) have found that these challenges have brought about “affirmative reactions” aimed at re-constituting white heteronormative masculine privilege through particular strategies that have exceeded the limits of more particularized currents captured previously through the concepts of remasculinization through sports (Kusz 2008) or sold(i)ering masculinities (Adelman 2009). This presentation takes a closer look at one of the most popular television series of the period, *Breaking Bad* (aired between 2008 and 2013), and surveys the various ways in which it represents both white masculinities in crises and potential points for breaking out. The paper argues that the series offers no redemption for traditional masculinities and leaves it to the next generation to develop their own strategies and identities. However, the legacy passed on to them overshadows any great potential as they are already suffering damage, both physically and psychologically, which they have inherited from previous generations of men and their failure to reaffirm traditional constructions of masculinity.

**Balogh, Beatrix**

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Originally trained as an economist, Beatrix Balogh worked as a journalist for an American business weekly (1993–1996) and later as an HR Consultant at multinational firms (1996–2004) before switching careers. She earned her MA in American Studies and TESOL from ELTE in 2007. She was also a recipient of the Kellner Scholarship and spent an academic year at Bard College in 2006–07 studying International Relations and Political Studies. She is currently writing her PhD dissertation on “The Strategic Importance of U.S. Territories”.

The political impact of *Florican Translocality*

As US citizens Puerto Ricans can move freely between island and mainland. A multi-level dichotomy stemming from revolving door immigration, a divided nation syndrome, and their place in the larger Latino community results in an identity paradox – both within the social fabric of the United States and on the island of Puerto Rico – that could perhaps be best described as *Translocality*.

By today, Florida has advanced as the primary destination of new Puerto Rican migrants both from the island and from other states. As their presence in Florida is growing, so is their impact on the political map. *Floricans* deserve attention as they tend to differ significantly from *Nuyoricans*, other *Diasporicans*, or their island counterparts. Increasingly middle class and well-educated, the majority of Floricans also maintain double residence and have a vested interest in both island and mainland politics – a phenomenon that would be called *Transnationalism* if Puerto Rico was an independent country.

After a brief discussion of the physical and psycho-social facets I intend to explore the political consequences of this trans-local existence. Once setting foot on the mainland, the democratic rights of Puerto Ricans change in an instant. As residents of a state they can vote for President and are properly represented in the US Congress. Both these rights are lost upon returning to the island. How this is played out in presidential elections and the status question of the island, now inexorably intertwined issues within the Puerto Rican community, will be in the focus of the presentation.

**Balogh, Máté Gergely**

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Máté Gergely Balogh is a PhD candidate and a part-time instructor at the Institute of English and American Studies at the University of Debrecen. He majored in English at the University of Debrecen, and also earned a degree in International Relations from Corvinus University Budapest and a Master’s in Central European History from the Central European University. His research areas include international relations of the United States after 1945 with a special focus on Hungarian-American relations. The topic of his dissertation is Hungarian-American relations during the presidency of Richard M. Nixon.

**Ethnic Interest Groups and Foreign Policy during the Nixon Presidency – Hungarian-American Campaign Against the Return of the Holy Crown of Saint Stephen**

Ethnic groups and ethnic lobbies have a considerable role in the American foreign policy decision making process, they have various means to pressure the administration to take their interests into consideration. In my paper I will present how this was also true for the Hungarian-American community during the administration of Richard M. Nixon. The example that I will use to examine how Hungarian-Americans affected the foreign policy decision-making in the period is the scandal related to the rumors about the possible return of the Holy Crown of Saint Stephen to Kádár’s Hungary in the early 1970s. This was an issue that deeply disturbed and split the Hungarian-American community, and they tried to use their influence to stop the supposed return of this holy relic. While initially the Nixon administration did consider returning the Holy Crown as an option, as a result of the protests of the Hungarian-American community, later they denied every possible allegation. In my paper, I will provide a short introduction to the theoretical background of the influence of ethnic politics on American foreign policy, and using sources from the Richard Nixon Presidential Library, the press, and personal recollections, I will show how these theories applied to Hungarian-Americans in the period.
Benczik, Vera

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Vera Benczik is senior lecturer at Eötvös Lorand University in Budapest, and teaches American and Canadian literature. Her current research focuses on the interface of science fiction and eschatology, with special emphasis on the uses / functions of space and environment in apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic SF scenarios.

Iconographies in Conflict: Trauma and Apocalypse in Post-9/11 Disaster Movies

SF is a mode that very often dislocates its readers into an imagined future which contains our present as memories. Apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic narratives, which have arguably been part of SF since its beginnings, construct this future in terms of our ruined present by utilizing the topographical coordinates of a familiar terrain, and demolishing it into monuments to a past yet to come. The resulting intertextual, or rather interspatial discourse between present and future produces uncanny reverberations of memory within both the estranged locus of the text, and the familiar space of the reader. The present is transformed into myth, and mapped as both nostalgia and utopian desire onto a post-traumatic dystopian environment.

Disaster movies, the visual representatives of these narratives, appeal to the cinematic audiences via their use of large-scale urban destruction as both spectacle and as a means to express the unspeakable: to render visible historic traumas (like World War II or the Holocaust) or to channel collective anxieties.

The events of 9/11 established an uncanny interface between reality and fiction: the toppling towers of the World Trade Center eerily echoed the visual iconography of films like Godzilla, Deep Impact or Independence Day, and several eye witnesses described their experiences as similar to being part of a disaster movie. As a result of this linkage the destruction of New York became a screen taboo after 2001 for some time, and those films which opted to nevertheless destroy New York in some way also opted for a reiteration of the national trauma. In my paper I would like to analyze how the (disaster) movies that place part of their action into the City (like I Am Legend, Cloverfield or The Avengers) address the attack on the WTC and incorporate the iconography of 9/11 into their script.

Benea, Diana

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Diana Benea is Junior Lecturer in the Department of English/ American Studies Program at the University of Bucharest, where she teaches a variety of seminars in American literature (19th century to contemporary), as well as EFL classes and academic writing. She earned her PhD in Philology (American literature) at the University of Bucharest in 2013, with a dissertation entitled The Ethical and Political Imagination of Thomas Pynchon’s Later Novels (University of Bucharest Press, forthcoming 2014). Her main research interests include contemporary American literature; critical theories and methodologies; Eastern European studies.
Elect/ Preterite: Crossing the Boundaries in Thomas Pynchon’s California Trilogy

Notwithstanding their various temporal and spatial coordinates, Thomas Pynchon’s novels have always dramatized the opposition between the categories famously referred to in Gravity’s Rainbow as those of the socially and politically empowered Elect, on the one hand, and the Preterite, on the other hand, subsuming various forms of alterity (ethno-racial, ideological etc.) excluded from power. My paper focuses on the variations of this categorical opposition in Pynchon’s California trilogy – The Crying of Lot 49 (1966), Vineland (1990), and Inherent Vice (2009) – with a view to tracing the developments in these two groups’ modes of encounter, from the private resistance of the underground groups in the earlier novel, to the more ambivalent forms of resistance illustrated by the subversive groups of the latter two novels. Particular emphasis is placed on the instances of transgression foregrounded in the latter novels, as the boundaries between the two categories become more porous. The paper argues that such stories of conversion and even counter-conversion from the realm of the Preterite into that of the Elect, or the other way around, allow Pynchon to engage in a nuanced exploration of the ethical dilemmas and the political implications attending such crossings, thus producing a more ambivalent portrait of both election and preterition. The paper further shows that Pynchon dramatizes such encounters between the Elect and the Preterite as a battle for the soul of America, as the narratives shift perpetually between utopian representations of an America displaying a powerful drive for transformation and subversion, and a dystopian America which has bitterly failed to realize its original promise of diversity and acceptance.

Bollobás, Enikő

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Enikő Bollobás is Professor of American Literature at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. She has published five books on American literature, including a monograph on the poet Charles Olson (Twayne, 1992), the award-winning history of American literature in Hungarian (Osiris, 2005), and two studies on performativity in literature (THEY AREN’T, UNTIL I CALL THEM – Performing the Subject in American Literature, Peter Lang, 2010; Egy képlet nyomában – karakterelemzések az amerikai és a magyar irodalomból, Balassi, 2012). Her numerous essays have come out in Hungarian and international scholarly journals, among them, American Quarterly, Journal of Pragmatics, Paideuma, Language and Style, and Word and Image.

The going from a world we know / To one a wonder still”:
Transition as Theme and Trope in Emily Dickinson’s Poetry

Tying into the general topic of HAAS 10 Conference, the talk will address one of Dickinson’s central preoccupations, her epistemological pursuit of transition and change. How does this almost compulsive interest in change transfiguring all states show in her thematics? What is the nature of “afterknowledge” gained from such moments of transition? What are the particular tropes that structure her transitus poems?
Cojoc, Andrei

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Andrei Cojoc is a PhD scholar at the History Faculty of Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. He has a BA in International Relations and an MA in Transatlantic Studies. His current thesis deals with ‘enemy images’ and how these were reflected in American and Soviet Cinema during the first part of the Cold War. His major interests dwell on cultural and social history, cinematography and literature. Moreover, his studies try to focus on the delicate relation between forms of entertainment and the stereotypes they produce, on one side, and the way the public reacts and assimilate the images the see/hear.

Crossing the border: The portrayal of Italian immigrants in early Hollywood cinema (1927-1939)

Immigrants have a long tradition of molding themselves to the American imagery: be it literature, theatre, or cinema, the “land of all possibilities” also helped create a land of vast representations, patterns and traits that would remain rooted in the collective memory centuries on. Crossing the United States border brought with itself a sense of curiosity and fear of the unknown leading to over-the-top, or should I say border-crossing representation of all new ethnic groups searching for a better life on the other side of the Atlantic.

The focus of my paper will be on the process through which the biggest European minority, the Italian-Americans, came to be represented by the newly founded medium of the “talkie” cinema until the emergence of the Second World War. In order to do that, I will closely observe how particular cultural traits and customs are assigned to Italian-Americans and how certain particularities change in accordance with different film genres; from the gangster film – where Italian-American gangsters seem to glorify violence and abuse, rather than hard work and conservative values (Scarface, Little Caesar) – to Fred Astaire musicals – where they are portrayed as nostalgic daydreamers – and even comedies (they indulge themselves in the simple life of eating, drinking and conning) the “new immigrant” has been mocked, radicalized, and put through a wringer, creating the images we know today.

Besides using film footage, my research will rely on the bulk of immigrant representation literature and on official governmental documents that helped shape the movie industry and carefully endorsed the message that was sent through the big screens.

My paper will demonstrate that the interwar portrayal of the “Italian immigrant” was a mixture of governmental policies due to heavy immigration after WWI, and the new industry’s desire to capitalize on the public’s fascination for the unknown and exotic immigrant.

Cristian, Réka M.

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“Interfering with the Interface:” John G. Rives’s Literary Transgressions

The presentation is a brief survey on the impact the works of contemporary American performance poet, multimedia artist and corporate couch John G. Rives can have on teaching literature—with special focus on introductory courses in American literature and culture. Rives’s website/blog, poems, visual art, television specials and various online performances transgress the boundaries of poetry as such, exposing a specific intermedia realm that explores and expounds the very limits of literature. In this context, teaching/reading/understanding Rives, the 2.0 poet, in a literature course has a powerful transformative potential that can reshape the curricular identity of a seminar towards a more complex, blended model of education (C.J. Bonk and C.R. Graham 2006, A. Agarwal 2013) which is in tandem with current interdisciplinary approaches in American studies, providing students and teachers alike with what Alexandra Juhász has coined in her first video-book as the subject, form, method, problem, and solution (2011).

Cseh, Dániel

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Dániel Cseh is a third year doctoral student studying at the Modern and Contemporary World History program at Eötvös Loránd University, Doctoral School of History. His field of research for his proposed dissertation project is the forced relocation and internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, when people of Japanese descent were excluded and imprisoned based on their race in the United States. He intends to analyze this dark and tragic moment of American history as a case study of the failure to protect the constitutional rights and liberties of individuals during conflicts between civil liberty and national security at times of national crisis. He began his research as a student of the American Studies Department at Eötvös Loránd University.

Civil Liberty and National Security: A Case Study of the Japanese-American Struggle during World War II

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, people of Japanese ancestry were forced to face racial prejudice that had been accumulating over the previous decades. Japanese-Americans were labeled as the fifth column, who presented a national security threat due to their ancestry. Racial profiling became an integral part of the national security policy of the United States government after war anxiety swept the nation – the loyalty of Japanese-Americans was questioned, Americanization and assimilation became part of the agenda. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066 on February 19, 1942, thereby authorizing the relocation of people of Japanese ancestry and their incarceration in internment camps; two-thirds of the Japanese-Americans were citizens with rights guaranteed by the Constitution. I would examine the relocation and incarceration of Japanese-Americans as a case study of the conflict between civil liberty and national security, the role that ancestry played in the political dialogue between the branches of government, and how frail the separation of powers is at times when national security is threatened. The issue of ancestry would be analyzed through the Japanese-American cases that reached the Supreme Court that found the ancestry based wartime relocation and incarceration constitutional, legalizing racial profiling. The Japanese-American struggle was defined by the disruption in the equilibrium between civil liberty and national security, as the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of government – having advocated national security at times of military necessity – deprived American citizens of their liberty and rights without due process of law.
Csetényi, Korinna

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Korinna Csetényi is Senior Lecturer at the Department of Modern Languages of Juhász Gyula Faculty of Education, at the University of Szeged. Her main academic interests are American popular fiction, Gothic and horror literature and the place of Stephen King within this genre, together with his impact on contemporary culture.

The Monstrous Female and the Male in Distress: Transgressing Traditional Gender Roles in Stephen King’s *Misery*

Horror and fantasy literature often carries the seed of subversion, driven by an urge to cross boundaries, to transgress norms or rules. It is not afraid of exposing the dark underside of reality, challenging us with unpalatable truths, which are usually glossed over. Many such texts are of a conservative nature, where the boundary-crossing and taboo-breaking occur with the intention of showing us the importance of these rules in maintaining our society. Characters are often punished for their transgressions, and their example serves as a warning against making the same mistakes.

Stephen King is one of the most important representatives of this genre, who has achieved a so-called “brand name” status during his career. I propose to examine his metafictional and highly autobiographical novel, *Misery*, where the boundaries between life and fiction often become blurred. King also upsets traditional gender roles by having a female villain and a male victim as his protagonists. The book is a rich source for alternative readings, where the relationship of the main characters could be approached from multiple points of view: it can be examined through the lens of victim-victimizer, child-parent, or writer-reader relationship.

Czeglédi, Sándor

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Sándor Czeglédi is Associate Professor at the English and American Studies Institute (EASI) of the University of Pannonia in Veszprém, Hungary. He holds a Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics/Language Policy from the University of Pécs. Sándor Czeglédi’s publications include a monograph *Language Policy, Language Politics, and Language Ideology in the United States* (Veszprém: Pannonian University Press, 2008), a comprehensive analysis of the language-related activities of the U.S. Federal Congress, in addition to several articles on the “English-only” movement, bilingual education, the shifting role of English in nation-building, and the (non-)realization of minority language rights in the United States.

EPIC Fail? The Birth and Decline of the “English Plus” Movement in the United States

Coca-Cola’s 2014 Super Bowl commercial seems to have reignited the frequently fierce debate concerning the nature of American identity in general and the societal acceptability of growing linguistic diversity in particular. The multilingual version of the patriotic song “America the Beautiful” triggered immediate outrage (and to a lesser degree drew praise as well) especially on Facebook and Twitter. *USA Today* even posed the rhetorical question “Can you believe this reaction?” shortly after the event (Lee, 2014).
This paper argues that the controversial reception of the song was nothing out of the ordinary: at least since the 1980s the assimilationist interpretation of American identity has been gaining ground as evidenced by the attacks against the strong forms of bilingual education and by the mounting support behind the Official English movement—simultaneously with the gradual decline of the multiculturalist, first-language maintenance-oriented “English Plus” alternative, promoted under the aegis of the English Plus Information Clearinghouse (EPIC) since 1987.

The analysis focuses on those federal-level legislative attempts of the 1990s that tried to establish “English Plus” as a viable challenger to Official English (often stigmatized as “English-only”). There were eleven resolutions (plus one bill) introduced in Congress between 1995 and 2011 which expressly endorsed “English Plus”, but none had been reported out of committee.

Nevertheless, the changing text of the House and Senate versions—coupled with the fluctuating and eventually disappearing partisan support behind the proposals—is yet another indicative of a major shift in American language ideology, with far-reaching ramifications that further signal the demise of the language-as-resource interpretation of linguistic diversity in the United States.

Deák, Nóra

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Nóra Deák is currently a PhD student in American Studies at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. Her research topic is the reception of the 1956 Hungarian refugees in the United States. She graduated in English and Russian languages and literatures in 1990 in Debrecen, then received a LIS MA in 1997 in Budapest. She has been working as Head of the Library at the School of English and American Studies Library, ELTE, in Budapest, since 1995. She was a Fulbright research scholar at the American Hungarian Foundation, New Brunswick, NJ in the AY 2007/08.

Lieux de mémoire of the 1956 Revolution in the United States through time (from 1968 to 2014) and space (from Boston to Washington)

200,000 refugees fled Hungary after the Revolution of 1956 and crossed the borders into the free world, not knowing whether they would ever be able to return. 35,000 out of them arrived and eventually made their home in the United States. When the initial financial, humanitarian, educational and moral support for the refugees and excitement for the ‘freedom fighters’ quieted down, how did the 56ers keep the memories and the heritage of the revolution alive? Monuments, statues, memorial plaques were erected throughout the country since 1968. I will retrace some of the major places of memory – lieux de mémoire – for the revolution of 1956 in my presentation: the importance of their sites, the circumstances of their birth, and the reception of these monuments by the communities they belonged to.

While the topic of the revolution in 1956, including the refugees and their attempts to promote it abroad, could not be discussed in Hungary at all before the political changes of the late 1980s, recently there is a revival of collecting all forms of Hungarian cultural – material, architectural, artistic, archival – heritage abroad. A project to update an exhibition to present monuments of 1956 – both in Hungary and abroad – by the Society for Hungarian Memorials Worldwide will be given as an example.
Espák, Gabriella T.

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Gabriella T. Espák is assistant professor in the Institute of English and American Studies, University of Debrecen, Hungary. Her PhD (2003) was awarded for a thesis on federal multicultural policies and the politics of Indigeneity in Canada and Australia between 1988–1992. She has been teaching, researching and publishing on topics in Australian, Canadian and US social history since 1998, with special interest in issues of multiculturalism, minority rights and Indigeneity.

Lost in Translation

Ojibwe poet, novelist, playwright Jim Northup used to attend boarding school where “English was pounded in [his] head” (presentation, ACDebrecen, 12 Feb. 2014). His poetry, through the healing power of humour helps him survive postwar peace, he asserts. The interpreter at Northup’s presentation (aka storytelling) translated Northup’s words as “a bentlakásos iskolában az angol vette át az Ojibwe helyét”. Even though this translation is technically correct, it has missed to convey the trauma of cultural loss that the speaker’s choice of words, his poetry and the complexity of North American race relations imply. Language, his personal experience attests, thus, has the power to write and overwrite, transmit and transform cultures as well as cultural trauma. This explains why translations of texts that deal with sensitive sociopolitical events/identities must be faithful not only to the form but the context of the words as well.

Federmayer, Éva

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Éva Federmayer is Associate Professor of American Studies, Eötvös Loránd University and the University of Szeged. Between 2003–200 she served as co-president of HAAS. Her research interests include theories of race and ethnicity, African American literature and culture, gender studies and ecocriticism. She has published on Scott Fitzgerald, Nella Larsen, Jessie Fauset, Octavia Butler, Oscar Micheaux, the gender and race dynamics of the 2008 US presidential elections and on the gendered discourse of Hungarian home magazines. She is the author of Psychoanalysis and American Literary Criticism (Budapest: Eötvös Loránd University, 1983) and co-author and editor of the e-course book Netting America: Introduction to the Culture and Literature of the United States (HEFOP-3.3.1-P-2004-09-0134/1-0, 2006). She is currently working on a book about African American literature.

Racial Politics in (Neo-)Slave Narratives: Charles Johnson and Edward P. Jones

There seems to be no reliable contemporary account of American literature without due reference to the slave narrative which looms large as the veritable American genre, indeed, the most curiously American in the literature of the United States. Following the genre’s English-language commencement in 1760, around six thousand slave accounts were published in the 18th and 19th century, among them narratives that American literary history credits for canonical values. During the Depression Era, the Work Progress Administration launched the Federal Writers Project including the Slave Narrative Collection that resulted in recording around two thousand three-hundred oral narratives by ex-slaves. In the aftermath of the civil rights movement, Black Aesthetic inspired an upsurge of neo-slave narratives, some of them also responding to William Styron’s venture into the genre.
(Margaret Walker, Ernest Gaines, Sherley Anne Williams, Octavia Butler) only to be followed by further experiments in the 1980s and 1990s (Charles Johnson, Ishmael Reed), with Edward P. Jones *The Known World* (2003) among the most recent and certainly the most celebrated. According to critics, the tradition of slaves’ narratives have been one of the major discursive apparatuses, in fact, the major force to shape African American literary culture with an enormous sway over the whole canon. Indeed, like the miners’ canary (to resort to the title of Lani Guinier and Gerald Torres’s famous project on race in which they likened racial conflicts to the canary alerting miners to imminent poisonous gases underneath), the re-emerging slave narrative seems to register major shifts in American race relations and in American society at large. Along this line, I will discuss the narrative politics of Charles Johnson’s *Oxherding Tale* (1982) and Edward P. Jones’s *The Known World* (2003), seeking to point out two distinct post-civil rights literary approaches to the dynamics of ‘race’ in the United States.

**Fogash, Alexandra**

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Alexandra Fogas is a 1st year PhD student at the University of Debrecen. She received her Master’s degree at Uzhhorod National University, Ukraine. The main topic of her research is the transatlantic migration before WWI. Currently she is a program assistant at the American Corner Debrecen.

**The Challenges of Researching Emigration from Ung County to the USA**

One of the largest migration waves in the history of mankind was the so-called New Immigration in the United States. It deeply influenced both the sending and the receiving countries. Most immigrants sought a more democratic, liberal society, but the overwhelming majority wanted to make money. The Hungarian Great Migration began around 1880 and lasted until the First World War.

The aim of my research is to study emigration from Ung County to the US. Ung County was part of the Austria-Hungarian Empire until 1918; now this territory belongs to Ukraine, Slovakia and Hungary, which means that from a territorial point of view, it is not only the study of Hungarian Emigration and the ethnic diversity of the population allows further investigations, too.

In my presentation I would like to put emphasis on the following: showing what challenges appear during the research of this subject; introducing what kind of material is available in Ukraine on emigration; what the recent problems are in archives; the available literature on this topic in Ukraine.

In the second part of my presentation I will focus on the already found material (contracts with ship companies, telegrams, passports, etc.), on different ways of examining them and on the relevance and significance of this research.

**Gaál-Szabó, Péter**

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Péter Gaál-Szabó is an associate college professor at the Debrecen Reformed Theological University (Hungary). He earned his PhD in the American Studies program at the University of Debrecen. His main academic interests include the anthropology of space and place, African American literature and culture, as well as intercultural communication.
“The child has returned”: Malcolm X, Pan-Africanism, and Interculturation

Much as Malcolm X appears to turn his back on his American heritage, alone for his family background with a mother of Caribbean roots, he can be considered an intercultural subject. His ill-famed negation of contemporary American culture and society, however, drives him to look for cultural roots elsewhere, first in Elijah Muhammad’s Islam, then in Sunni Islam, and, finally, in black Africa. His Pan-African strivings can thus be seen as both an ontological and cosmo logical undertaking, but, from the point of intercultural communication, as a series of acts in a process of intercultural. Learning and re-learning his self in relation to a newly discovered Africa change his view of the American homeland, but, importantly, they also signify a shift from an essentially monocultural self-concept sustained by a mythicized Africa to one that allows for cultural exchange and appropriation.

It is this aspect of cultural change that I will explore in the paper on the basis of his speeches following his hajj and his journey across Africa, the main focus being his intercultural immersion that also has an impact on his view of America.

Geiger, Ildikó

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Ildikó Geiger is a PhD student at Eötvös Loránd University currently working on her dissertation on performative identity constructions of 20th century American women writers.

‘Fallen Princesses’: The Construction of Female Beauty in Dina Goldstein’s Pop Surrealism

I will introduce the Canadian photographer Dina Goldstein, who in her series entitled Fallen Princesses features canonical fairy tale heroines whose lives depict false ideals, roles, and physically unattainable bodies for women. Goldstein places her princesses into real-life situations and by juxtaposing the idealistic world of fairy tales with harsh reality, she creates a world in which “happily ever after” is a relative phenomenon. I will contrast the image pictured by the Disney movies against the pop surrealist portrayal of Goldstein to show how she (de)constructs beauty by subverting iconic representations of the princess archetype. By radically transforming the princess-myth built upon one-dimensional representations of women, Goldstein calls for women to create their own representations, and by doing so, she makes her audience consider a world that is not built upon utopian dreams full of false promises.

Glant, Tibor

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Tibor Glant is Associate Professor and Chair of the North American Department at the University of Debrecen, Hungary. He is also the current president of HAAS and director of the Center for International Migration Studies at the University of Debrecen. He majored in English and History at Debrecen (1986–91), holds an MA (1992) and Ph.D. (1996) from the University of Warwick, UK, in American history, and completed his Habilitation at Debrecen in 2008. His main interests lie in American history, culture, and film in the twentieth century, and in US-Hungarian relations. His books include Through the Prism of the Habsburg Monarchy: Hungary in American Diplomacy and Public Opinion during World War I (1998, in Hungarian: 2008), Remember Hungary 1956: Essays on the


In 1968, when Richard M. Nixon won election on a tide of tragic events there was no indication that the White House would even consider the possibility of returning the Hungarian Holy Crown and assorted coronation regalia, which they had held in custody since the dying days of World War II. Ten years later, on January 6, 1978, an American delegation led by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance returned the regalia in a televised ceremony in the Hungarian Parliament. In this paper I will explain what happened during the ten years in between in East-West relations in general and US-Hungarian relations in particular. The Nixon-Kissinger tandem introduced a new policy of “normalization” with the Soviet colonies in Central Europe, and Hungary benefitted from this. Simultaneously, preparation for the Helsinki accords began and an armistice was made in Vietnam. In 1974 Nixon was forced to resign in the Watergate scandal, and Gerald R. Ford took over in Washington, D. C. The 1976 presidential election brought the Democrats back to the White House and the new Carter administration decided to take a decisive step: the coronation regalia were returned and a bilateral MFN-agreement was signed. In 1968, this would have been out of the question, in 1978 this seemed natural.

Kádár, Judit

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Judit Kádár has taught American and Canadian culture studies at the Department of American Studies of Eszterházy College in Eger, Hungary for twenty years, more recently with a focus on ethnic and multicultural studies. She published a textbook (Critical Perspectives on English-Canadian Literature, 1996). She has received some research grants (FEFA, FEP, FRP/CEACS, JFK, Fulbright) and held a temporary lecturing position at GCSU (Georgia, USA, 2009), taught and did research at UNM (Albuquerque, USA, Fall 2012). As for her field of research, earlier she studied alternative histories and epistemological relativism in recent western Canadian fiction, while currently she is exploring the epistemological, psychological and sociological implications of the gone indigenous passage rites (Othering/indigenization) in Canadian and American literature and culture, and has published Going Indian: Cultural Appropriation in Recent North American Literature (2012, University of Valencia Press). In 2013, she has completed her habilitation at ELTE University of Budapest. Currently she is exploring mixed blood narratives and the problem of identity negotiation in the context of Southwestern literature and recent Nuevomexicano writing respectively.

Hybrid Identity Negotiation and Blended Heritage in the Southwest: a Cultural Paradigm Shift

HAAS10 Conference focuses on border crossings and I would like to address the shifting paradigm of blended ethno-cultural heritage in the context of Southwestern culture, more particularly Nuevomexicano/a notions of “conflicting bloods” in contemporary literature and visual arts. I believe that this smaller pool of artists depict some relevant processes in perceiving and reshaping ethnic identity in the United States today. Leslie M. Silko, Louis Owens, Paula Gunn Allen and Joy Harjo all come from Pueblo Indian, Spanish/Mexican and Euro-American blended heritage and have gone through the turmoil of confusing ethnic heritage and social perceptions. Visual artists, like Malcolm Furlow, Fitz Scholder, Kay Walkingstick and Marla Allison depict various approaches to the
fragmented or more homogeneous presentation of their identity. (Auto)biographies and (self)portraits in both branches of arts explore the same problem and share with us multiple responses. My interdisciplinary approach offers some insights to the way art can facilitate the shift from stigmatized, stereotypical, mostly colonial and ultimately racist discourses to an interesting new understanding of the blended self.

**Kállay, Katalin G.**

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Katalin G. Kállay teaches American literature at Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary. She also offered summer courses at the University of California in Santa Cruz. She took an M.A. at L. Eötvös University in Budapest and defended her Ph.D. at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Her first book on nineteenth century short stories, *Going Home Through Seven Paths to Nowhere: Reading Short Stories by Hawthorne, Poe, Melville and James* was published in 2003 by the Hungarian Academy of Science. Her fields of research include nineteenth- and twentieth century American fiction, literary responses to the Holocaust and the relationship between philosophy and literature.

“Judgement Day, Limited”: Transgression of Regional and Racial Boundaries in Flannery O’Connor’s “Judgement Day”

My paper wishes to examine the ways in which Flannery O’Connor challenges stereotypes and subverts conventions in her last story, “Judgement Day”. The gestures and expressions of transgressing racial and regional boundaries are exaggerated to the point that the portrayal of the old Southerner, Tanner in New York City is on the verge of becoming a caricature. The practical joke the protagonist imagines (namely that upon arriving back home in the South in his coffin, he would pound on the lid just to pop out like a Jack-in-the-box and shout “Judgement day!” to his astonished friend Coleman) is at the same time hilariously funny and deadly serious: it calls attention to the relative nature of judgements that are passed and limits that are transgressed. I also wish to investigate the variety of disturbing limits in the text (between father and daughter, friends and neighbors, South and North, rural and urban environment, as well as between imagination and reality) that question human attempts and attitudes of seeing the world in black and white.

**Kérchy, Anna**

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Anna Kérchy is a Senior Assistant Professor at the English Department of the University of Szeged, Hungary. She holds a PhD in Literature from the University of Szeged, a DEA in Semiology from Université Paris VII. Her research interests include intermedial cultural representations, the post-semiotics of the embodied subject, interfacings of Victorian and postmodern fantastic imagination, gender studies, women’s art, and children’s literature. She authored a book on the corporeagraphic narratological analysis of Angela Carter’s body-texts, and (co)edited collections on postmodern reinterpretations of fairy tales, the literary fantastic, the iconology of law and order, and the cultural history of Continental European freak shows.
Melinda Gebbie is an American pro-porn feminist comics artist who became infamous with her *Fresca Zizis* (1977) that was designed without any titillating intent as an autobiographically inspired cautionary tale documenting the adventurous experience of a woman artist in the male-dominated underground comix scene, “a warning and a comfort to all those women who venture out too deep.” Yet the book charged with obscenity provoked a court trial, got banned in Britain, and existing copies were ordered to be burned. This did not prevent Gebbie from devoting 16 years to illustrate an even more controversial book, the erotic *Lost Girls* trilogy, a mixed-genre graphic novel saga she co-created with legendary graphic novel writer Alan Moore, who became her husband throughout the making of the book published in 2006 by the American publishing company tellingly entitled Top Shelf Books. This three volume comics eludes conventional categorizations on grounds of strategically transgressing medial, generic, gender, ideological boundaries; and a result remains banned or restricted by some bookshops and libraries even today. A lecherous web of fabulously illustrated, entangled stories undertake to explore childhood sexual traumas and compensatory erotic fantasies of the most memorable heroines of children’s literature: Alice from *Wonderland*, Wendy from *Peter Pan*, and Dorothy from the *Wizard of Oz*. These predominantly visual adaptations of youth novels combine the iconography of children’s picture books with stock narrative patterns of the pornographic genre to tackle the dilemma “Whose desires emerge in the narrative throughout adult fictionalizations of children’s sexuality?” and to provide therapeutical cure to the abused girls, allowing them to find their lost voices, visions and visibilities through their sexual autobiographical agency organizing the image-text. The aim of my paper is to explore all these transgressive facets of the book which make it such a challenging read.

**Kočan Šalamon, Kristina**

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Kristina Kočan Šalamon is a poet and translator. She completed her PhD Dissertation “America Post 9/11: Responses in Poetry and Culture”. In 2006, she co-translated an anthology of 21 African American poets. In 2008, she published her first poetry collection. In 2009, she translated selected poems by Audre Lorde. She regularly presents her scholarly work at conferences.

**Disillusion in the Traumatic 9/11 Aftermath: Aesthetic Representations in Poetry**

The paper offers an analysis of the responses in poetry to the 9/11 attacks, however it does not summarize the events. A substantial corpus of poetry including several anthologies as well as individual poetry collections emerged as a response to 9/11. The poetry expresses the poetic and completely personal, intimate side of the crisis. The responses of the poets were rarely as divisive as they were on the side of politics and media, and the poets did not feel the absolute need to express closure and certainty in their writing. The responses were, however, as diverse as the individual poetics. After the attacks, many of the poets experienced the immense force of disenchantment which had a strong, direct impact on their aesthetic verbalization. Moreover, the majority of intellectuals and poets responded by voicing a great measure of self-blame, proclaiming America the abuser or by showing their effort to escape the feeling of emotional numbness and homelessness. Some exhibit the desperate urgency to articulate silence, referring back to John Cage. Again, others served almost as cinematic spectators of the traumatic events of 9/11. The paper will also show that there were few
poetic responses resembling the prevailing patriotic response that reverberated in the media and political rhetoric of that time. The paper presents this body of poetic work as a historical narrative that writes an important memoir of the 9/11 trauma.

Kocic-Zambo, Larisa

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Larisa Kocic-Zambo is assistant professor at the University of Szeged, Institute of English and American Studies. Her particular interest is early modern English literature and culture, with particular interest in Donne, Milton and the women writers of the era. Others research interests include fandom studies (secondary orality), comics studies (image-text dynamics, comparative study of postmodern and protomodern emblematics), and critical inquiries into Digital Humanities.

From Obstacle to Settlement: The Shifting Perception of North America during Early Voyages

The European discovery of America, and for that part of North America, was due to history’s most resounding blunder: the discovery of the wrong continent. As the European’s concern over the Ottoman control of the traditional land and sea routes with Asia increased in the fifteenth century, their gaze shifted westward in search of new approaches to the Spice islands and Cathay. When it became clear that the land found is not “the continental province of Cathay”, America became ‘an obstacle to be surmounted’, an ‘en route’ to the primary target of Europe’s geographical exploration. Consequently, throughout the Tudor period, from the reign of Henry VII to the reign of Elizabeth I, hardly any Englishman considered America to be suitable for settlement. Nevertheless, they continued to explore it, although with the principal aim of finding a strait or a passage leading through or around it to the much coveted shores of Cathay. My aim is to track the shifts in the perception of North America during the early voyages of 1497 to 1602 which conditioned the objectives of exploration and determined the nature of exploratory behavior during this voyages.

Kökény, Andrea

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Andrea Kökény is a Senior Assistant Professor at the Department of Modern World History and Mediterranean Studies at the University of Szeged. She graduated from Attila József University in Szeged in 1993 with a degree in History and English Language and Literature. She taught History and English and History in English at Deák Ferenc Bilingual High School in Szeged for fifteen years. She earned her PhD in History in 2005. The title of her dissertation was Anglo Americans in Texas, 1821-1845.

Crossing Boundaries: Immigration on the Oregon Trail

In the 19th century the Oregon Country consisted of the land north of 42°N latitude, south of 54°40’N latitude, and west of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. The area now forms part of the present day Canadian province of British Columbia, all of the US states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and parts of Montana and Wyoming. The primary aim of my research is to study the U.S./Canadian borderlands and the early transboundary history of interactions in the Pacific Northwest. I am
especially interested in the transitional period of 1818-1846 when there was actually no boundary yet, but the whole region was under joint British-American occupation.

The first organized wagon train on the Oregon Trail set out from Elm Grove, Missouri on May 16, 1842, with more than a hundred American pioneers. After several small groups had made their way to the region, a mass migration began in 1843. Over one thousand settlers traveled the vast plains and mountains to make their home in Oregon. The next year brought 1500 more settlers. And in 1845 an additional 3000 arrived.

My paper proposes to analyse the colonization of the Oregon Country and the formulation of communities in the first half of the 19th century focusing on the American immigrants who arrived in the region. Who were they? Where did they come from? What were their motives and expectations? Why did they decide to establish their own government? What role did the British and the American governments play in establishing and securing their claim to the territory?

Kónyi, Judit

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Judit Kónyi graduated in English and Hungarian Language and Literature and Aesthetics from Eötvös Lóránd University. She also completed a postgraduate course in marketing communication at the College for Foreign Trade. In 2003 she joined the English Department of Budapest Business School, College of International Management and Business as a lecturer. Her main research interest is nineteenth century American poetry. She is writing her PhD dissertation on Emily Dickinson’s publishing options. Her publications include articles, book reviews and conference papers on the works of Emily Dickinson.

Variants and Print Resistance in Emily Dickinson’s Poetry

Emily Dickinson is one of the greatest boundary crossers of nineteenth century American poetry. She rejected the traditional ways of publishing and refused to meet the standard requirements of print. The print resistant features of her poems include their unfinished quality. The present paper undertakes to examine the variants as unfixed elements of Dickinson’s poetry and barriers to conventional print publication.

A crucial element of the unfinished state, the existence of variants is obviously controversial to the concept of printing: first, because they contribute to the unfinished quality of the text, secondly because of the difficulties their existence implies both for printer and reader. The word “variant” usually refers to the alternate words Dickinson offered above or beside the lines or below the poems. However, the paper will argue that – using the term in a broader sense – any changes which may influence the identity of the poem may result in a variant. Thus the paper will distinguish in-textual and extra-textual variants.

Kovács, Ágnes Zsófia

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Ágnes Zsófia Kovács is associate professor at the Department of American Studies, University of Szeged, Hungary. Her areas of academic interest and teaching include late 19th and early 20th century American fiction and contemporary American fiction, versions of literary Modernism and
Tracy Chevalier’s *The Last Runaway* (2013) narrates the story of Honor Bright, a Quaker girl from England arriving in the US in the 1840s. This is a story of displacement and border crossing: not only does she move from Dorset to Ohio, from an extended family circle to a group of foreigners where she quickly finds herself in need of locating a husband, she also experiences a different sense of religious commitment in her new home. The different sense of English and American Quaker beliefs culminates in the relationship to the issue of slavery. The aim of the paper is to explore how the representation of border crossings is structured discursively in the text. I argue that the novel relies heavily on 19th century US literary discourses of the domestic novel and the slave narrative. It focuses on lives and conflicts of women in the home who struggle to live up to standards of true womanhood. Also, basic features of the slave narrative like sensational scenes, eyewitness accounts of the brutality of slavery are included as the main point of conflict in Honor’s life. In particular, the connection to Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* is vital in that it is the ideal Quaker home represented there that is debated in Chevalier’s version. At the same time, the text employs basic tropes of African-American Feminism about feminine creativity like sewing a quilt and tending flowers to make the process and direction of the heroine’s identity formation more understandable. As a result of the interplay of discourses, the heroine’s position is identified with that of the runaway slave when she leaves her husband, a staple trope of mid-nineteenth century feminist-abolitionist works. So the position of the idealized Quaker woman as the center of the family state in Stowe is reinscribed as a slave of the home who needs to work out her own sense and experience of freedom in the home setting and return to this freshly aligned idea of home as the happy ending of the story.

**Kovács, Ilona**

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Ilona Kovács librarian, director emeritus Hungarica Department of the National Széchényi Library, Budapest. Fulbright Scholar (1995, 2001-2002, 2003). She gained her diplomas at the Budapest University (ELTE, Hungarian Language and Literature and Library Science 1961) and at Kent State University, Ohio (MLS, 1975), and her PhD degree at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA 1993). Her research area is Hungarians abroad focusing on American Hungarians. As head of the Hungarica Documentation she was director of grants (1984-2001) for collecting information and documentation and building up biographical and bibliographical Hungarica databases and also conducting surveys to publish a series of publications on Hungarica material of libraries in Europe, Australia and Canada. She attended several international conferences in Europe, USA, Canada and Hungary and published over 100 articles, studies and books.
Americanization and Immigrant Education: Mrs Helen Horvath’s Dual Role in Americanization and Identity Maintenance of Hungarian Immigrants in Cleveland – a Unique Model

The concept of Americanization has been debated for decades since the immigration problem was recognized by the American society. The Federal Government kept the immigration under control by rules, statistics, reports, later restriction laws. Immigrants’ assimilation, however, did not proceed as the society expected.

By the 1910s the trust in assimilation was lost and especially following the two WWs different views emerged. On the one hand, conservative programs expected the government to force Americanization. On the other, democratic, tolerant movements considered immigrant culture a contribution to the American society.

The Bureau of Naturalization promoted Americanization by guidelines, but no federal law was accepted to force Americanization. In fact Americanization was organized at state levels and by local civil organizations. One of the first was Ohio to face the problem. Among the US cities the third largest Hungarian population lived in Cleveland.

One of the most successful ethnic educators, Mrs. Helen Horvath came out of this community. She realized the need for balance between integration and identity maintenance. She opened English language and citizenship schools, organized study tours in the US and also Hungarian programs, and trips to Hungary. Her effort finally was recognized by the Cleveland Board of Education and the Hungarian Government as well. The paper discusses the model provided by her example and the Cleveland Americanization program too between 1900 and WWII.

Kozma, Bertalan

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Bertalan Kozma is a second-year PhD student in the Modern and Contemporary World History doctoral program at Eötvös Loránd University. His primary research topic is U.S. foreign policy during the presidency of George Bush in general, and the Gulf War in particular. As a graduate of the North American Studies Master’s program at the University of Debrecen, he has a second research interest, namely the teaching of American Studies in higher education with a special focus on the situation of the discipline in Hungary. Bertalan Kozma spent a semester at Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania and another one at the University of Trieste in Italy as an international scholarship grantee, and has been awarded Erasmus+ scholarship for a one-semester research period at Charles University in Prague starting this October. He published four papers on his primary research topic as a PhD student and participated in several conferences.

The Position of American Studies as a Discipline in Hungary in the 21st Century

The 21st century saw several big-scale reforms in the Hungarian higher educational system, the most important of which was the introduction of the Bologna System. The division of one-cycle programs into three levels made it possible for multidisciplinary branches of studies to gain ground as separate entities in our institutions, among them American Studies. My paper seeks to analyze the progress of how the academia responded to the challenges of educational reforms and what direction American Studies took in the past decade. Namely, a slight shift could be observed towards a more sociological and historical aspect of the discipline from the traditional language training and literature-based profile of the old five-year teacher training programs, which have been recently restored with slightly altered structures. The paper also engages in uncovering the reasons why this more practical approach to
American Studies is on the rise in Hungary and in other countries in Europe and why the study of Transatlantic and Transpacific Relations (and thus the accentuated significance of border crossing) demand an even larger portion from American Studies. The above-mentioned questions are examined in light of historical developments (the shift from a unipolar to a tripolar world) as well, suggesting a paradigm shift of Hungarian American Studies scholars to a more global approach to the discipline in their research. Program structure matrices and HAAS conference programs shall be the sources to examine the progress American Studies has made in the past years and how the scholarly community responded the emerging international trends of the discipline.

Lénárt, András

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András Lénárt is assistant professor at the Department of Hispanic Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Szeged, and recurring visiting professor at the University of Huelva, Spain. He received his PhD in Contemporary Hispanic History. His research interests include the relations between the United States and Latin America, and the 20th century history, culture and cinema of the Hispanic World.

Chicano Reality in the United States

The meaning of the term "Chicano" has gone through several modifications throughout the past five decades. Nowadays, the distinctive status of being Chicano in the United States has gained importance in various fields of the everyday life of this not well-defined segment of the Hispanic immigrants. Their presence in the culture, economy, society and politics of the USA cannot be underestimated. However, it usually implies difficulties to determine what is the real difference between Chicanos and other Latin American immigrants (today, due to the intentional or casual misinterpretations, the standard definitions about their Mexican roots no longer render clear and satisfactory explanations). The aim of my paper is to highlight what it means to be Chicano in the contemporary United States of America and how these communities try to interpret and sustain their own identity. In order to get a complex picture, I make use of a wide range of newspaper articles, essays, studies, statistics and interviews that were published in English and/or in Spanish. Therefore, we can obtain information from the two main and indispensable sources: Chicanos who live in the United States and Hispanics (more precisely: Mexicans) who still remain in their native country, but it is very likely that some of their relatives or friends will soon become members of the USA's Chicano community.

Lénárt-Muszka, Attila

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Attila Lénárt-Muszka received his Master’s Degree in American Studies at the University of Debrecen in 2012. Currently he is a doctoral student and part-time instructor at the Institute of English and American Studies, University of Debrecen. His field of research is Jewish American literature.

Narrative and Identity in Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Everything Is Illuminated*

Every major character in Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Everything Is Illuminated* (2002) embarks on a quest to find an identity to replace a void created by a discomforting urge to reach a stage of inner peace.
Their mission is manifested in a journey to present-day Ukraine in an attempt to revisit the past. The characters act under the burden of their unknown or unresolved emotional heritage, and their crises manifest themselves in compulsive behavior, which sheds light on the nature of their tribulations. My paper will discuss what strategies the characters employ in order to survive the state of lacking a firm identity. I will argue that since all identities are constructed, it is impossible to acquire any single one, if not through the power of will. I will point out that the frailty of one’s capability to fulfill certain roles and the disappointment that results from being unable to succeed in these roles might be interpreted as originating from one’s unwillingness to realize that identities are not essential qualities, but rather elaborate constructions.

Lévai, Csaba

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Csaba Lévai was born in 1964. He is a historian and sociologist, and he was educated at the University of Debrecen and Loránd Eötvös University of Budapest. He is an associate professor of history in the Institute of History at the University of Debrecen, and he is the Head of the Department of World History. His research interests are the history of the British colonies in North America, the history of the American Revolution, and the history of early Hungarian-American contacts. He also studies the history of slavery in British America and the United States. His publications include A republikanizmus-vita. Vite az amerikai forradalom eszmetörténeti hátteréről. (The Republicanism Debate. A Historiographical Discussion of the Intellectual Background of the American Revolution, L’Harmattan, Budapest, 2003); Amerikai történelem és történetirás. Válogatott tanulmányok (American History and Historiography. Selected Essays, L’Harmattan, Budapest, 2013). He also edited Új rend egy új világban (New Order in a New World), a collection of writings by the American Founding Fathers in Hungarian, Europe and the World in European Historiography (Pisa, 2006), and with Mary N. Harris Europe and its Empires (Pisa, 2008).

Henry Clay and Lajos Kossuth’s Visit in the United States, 1851-1852

Henry Clay (1777–1852) was called the “Great Compromiser”, since it was the fundamental element of his political credo to find a peaceful solution to the problem of slavery, which had occupied a central ground in American politics by the beginning of the 1850s. He opposed the further expansion beyond the borders of the United States since it would raise again the question of the territorial expansion of slavery, which could ultimately lead to the dissolution of the union. Lajos Kossuth, the former governor of Hungary, who visited the United States in 1851–1852, propagated the intervention of the United States into European affairs, and he was assisted by those segments of American politics, which also supported the further territorial expansion of the American republic. As a result of the victory of the United States against Mexico in the war of 1846–1848, and the outbreak of the European revolutions of 1848–1849, there was a strong affection among some American politicians towards further expansion, especially among the members of the political group “Young America”. American domestic politics and his attitude towards the expansionist forces of it clearly influenced Clay’s opinion about the “Hungarian question” and Kossuth’s visit in the United States. Under such circumstances, in the midst of the embittered debates about the territorial expansion of slavery and his proposal concerning compromise, Clay saw in Kossuth and in his ambitions a force that could endanger his efforts to save the union. In such a way, his ideas concerning slavery and colonization also heavily influenced his opinion about Kossuth. There were two interconnected sources of Henry Clay’s opposition to the foreign policy proposed by the former governor of Hungary: his interpretation of the European and
Hungarian revolutions of 1848–1849 in the mirror of American domestic politics and his opinion about the possible consequences of the territorial expansion of slavery.

Limpár, Ildikó

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Ildikó Limpár, Associate Professor of English, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Piliscsaba (Hungary) has a Ph.D. in English Language and Literature and an MA in Egyptology. Her publications include *The American Dream Reconsidered: New World Motifs in Shakespeare’s The Tempest and Their Transformations in American Literature* (2008) and several articles on Shakespeare and American literature. Her primary interest resides in examining the subversion of American myths in the works of contemporary authors, such as Tony Kushner, Marilynne Robinson, Linda Hogan, Diana Abu-Jaber, and Amy Tan.

The Politicized American Adam: Rambo, Jack Bauer and Nolan's Batman

The presentation considers Nolan's Batman character as the remediation of the Rambo and Jack Bauer heroes, and thus seeks to define the roots of their similarities and differences. This reading interprets the three filmic characters as modern, politicized versions of the American Adam type protagonists and will understand their relationship to nature and civilization and their Christ like characteristics accordingly. The diversity in the nature of their victimization will be discussed in more detail, as I will argue that the key to understanding the difference lies in comprehending the three heroes' relations to the Establishment, that is, the symbolic representation of the American Dream, and that the shift in the characters' responses to the Establishment may be explained by the changed political context generated by the terrorist threat, and later specifically by the 9/11 terrorist attack.

Mathey, Éva

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Éva Mathey has been teaching at the North American Department of the University of Debrecen since 1998. Her major fields of research include the history and culture of the United States and the history of Hungarian-American relations with special emphasis on the period between the world wars. Her other academic interests are the theory and practice of American democracy, Hungarian 19th-century travel literature, women’s history. She earned her doctoral degree in 2012.

The Kossuth Excursion to New York in 1928

In the spring of 1928 a delegation of approximately 500 Hungarians, the so-called Kossuth excursion or pilgrimage arrived in New York to attend the unveiling ceremonies of Lajos Kossuth’s statue erected in the city. The members of the excursion represented almost all layers and social classes of contemporary Hungarian society. The pilgrimage was explicitly declared to be a strictly unofficial social and cultural mission and any connections to government or other official or semi-official circles in Hungary were repeatedly denied. That notwithstanding, the Kossuth pilgrimage was a systematic anti-Trianon propaganda campaign in the US. Capitalizing on Kossuth’s moral and political reputation in America,
the participants of the Kossuth pilgrimage took every opportunity to speak up for the inevitability of the revision of the Treaty of Trianon. Although Hungarians hoped to gain some palpable aid from official America, only repeated demonstrations of sympathy were offered. The Kossuth pilgrimage did not bring real political dividends as no official measures followed to support the Hungarian revisionist claims. The pilgrimage, and subsequently Hungary’s political and economic problems under the Treaty of Trianon, however, received extensive media coverage and publicity. And the Hungarian–American communities also profited from it. The erection of the Kossuth statue united the Hungarian–Americans and strengthened their Hungarian national consciousness, thereby boosting Hungarian–American relations with new energies for years to come between the wars.

The presentation proposes to offer an insight into the story of the pilgrimage and present that, despite their ideological and political differences, the idea of revision provided a common cause for American-Hungarian communities in the USA.

Molnár, Judit

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Judit Molnár is Associate Professor at the North American Department, University of Debrecen, Hungary, where she is also the Director of the Canadian Studies Centre. Her main fields of interest include multicultural English Canadian literature and English-language writing in Québec.

Strategies for Survival: From Haeckville (Alberta) to the Metropolis (Québec)

The protagonist, Rosine, in Gail Scott’s novel The Obituary (2010), moves from a small town on the Canadian prairies to Montreal. Her hybrid identity, a lesbian Anglo of Métis descent, is in the process of becoming a Québécoise. Her multifaceted challenge is represented in Scott’s experimental text that circles and spirals both in place and in time. The paper explores what crossing boundaries means in this particular instance. Being physically and mentally fractured, the main character is obsessed with incessantly moving in and out of various languages and with finding the proper space/place for her in-betweenness. I argue that she becomes a representative example of citizens in a Canadian province (Québec) that is still under constant transformation struggling for its own identity.

Németh, Lenke

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Lenke Németh, Assistant Professor at the North American Department of the University of Debrecen, Hungary, teaches courses in contemporary American drama, American culture and literature, transnational studies, history of American art, and the methodology of teaching American literature. Her research interests include postmodernism in American drama, cultural and gender identity in modern and post-multicultural American literature with special emphasis on ethnic authors. She has published several articles on these topics as well as a book “All It Is, It’s a Carnival”: Reading David Mamet’s Female Characters with Bakhtin (2007).
The Woman Traveler and Creativity: The Case of Adrienne Kennedy

This paper is premised on the notion that African American playwright Adrienne Kennedy’s voyage to Europe and Africa in 1960–61 gives rise to a burst of her artistic talents and creates her as a black female dramatist. I will argue that crossing geographical borders for Kennedy means transgressing metaphorical borders in the tormenting process of (re)discovering her people’s history and finding her own voice as an author. With reference to a selection of her autobiographically inspired plays as well as memoirs, I will study the multiple effects that her journey exerts on her arresting imagery and character portrayal in her dramatic art as well as her heroines’ difficult negotiations with both their racial and female identities.

Nowak-McNeice, Katarzyna

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Katarzyna Nowak-McNeice is an Assistant Professor at the Department of English of the University of Wroclaw in Poland, where she teaches American Literature and Culture. She obtained her doctoral degree from the University of Wroclaw in 2005. In 2007 she published a monograph titled Melancholic Travelers: Autonomy, Hybridity and the Maternal (Peter Lang); and in 2010 co-edited a collection Interiors: Interiority/Exteriority in Literary and Cultural Discourse (Cambridge Scholars Publishing). She has published papers on post-colonial literature, as well as translations of essays and poetry (English into Polish). Her research interests include post-colonial literature and theory, American literature, gender studies, and opera studies.

Joan Didion’s California: Literary Representations of History, Melancholy and Transgression

Joan Didion returns to the theme of California in both her novelistic and journalistic pieces, exhibiting interest in her family history, in her personal stories as well as in the larger narratives, encompassing the stories of the first American settlers in the state. California in her texts is a place that acquires mythic status, as the Eden of the times past. Didion describes California as a melancholy space – melancholy both in the Freudian and Benjaminian sense, as a space contributing to the emergence of a critical agency (Freud) and as a space of ruins where thoughts come into being (Benjamin). The common denominator of Didion’s presentations of California is the act of crossing borders, understood either spatially, such as borders between states, between geographical formations such as the desert and the Great Plains; or temporally, as borders between moments in time, between the past, the present, and the future. The significance of the act of crossing borders – we may assert after Judith Butler – lies in the fact that it is an identity-generating phenomenon. Butler asserts that “Melancholia produces a set of spatializing tropes for psychic life, domiciles of preservation and shelter as well as arenas for struggle and persecution” (1997: 171) and those diverse arenas correspond to the ambivalent reactions of love and hate that are generated in response to the loss of an object. Butler notes that ambivalence may be a reaction to the object as well as a result of its loss. In my presentation I focus on the ambiguities and ambivalences of Didion’s representations of California as a melancholy state.
Oláh, Tímea

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Tímea Oláh graduated as an English teacher – Manager of culture and adult education in 2006 at the University of Debrecen. She finished her PhD in North American Studies at the Doctoral School of Literature in the University of Debrecen in 2012, and is currently in an ABD status. She spent 6,5 months in the U.S. as a Fulbright Visiting Student Researcher in 2012/2013, where she conducted library and archival research as well as field work in the Hungarian-American community on the second generation of “new immigrant” Hungarians in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

The Children of ‘New Immigrant’ Hungarians in New Brunswick, NJ – An Oral History

The children of ‘new immigrant’ Hungarians have received limited attention in Hungarian-American scholarship so far. Most sources write about them as an ‘assimilated,’ ‘tragic,’ and ‘transitional’ group, a ‘lost Generation.’ But what was their trajectory in reality? Did they really assimilate? Or did they consider themselves Hungarians? Focusing on the case study of New Brunswick, New Jersey, this presentation offers members of this generation a chance to tell how they feel about being Hungarian, American, and Hungarian-American. It also gives us, scholars, some important insights into the way these people shaped the future of Hungarian-Americans throughout the 20th century. The presentation is based on interviews conducted during a Fulbright research grant at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, in New Brunswick (NJ), in the fall and spring semesters of the 2012/2013 academic year.

Ótott Márta

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Márta Ótott has just finished her PhD studies in the English and American Literature and Culture doctoral program at the Institute of English and American Studies of the University of Szeged. She is currently writing her dissertation on post-1960s American experimental drama and theater, focusing on the changes of rituality and the discourse of the body as it is represented in the dramatic text. Previously, she has done research on American absurd drama and theater, and the Off-Broadway and Off-Off Broadway theater movements.

Changing Perceptions of the Human Body in Re-ritualized American Drama

In terms of its origins and development as an art form, drama is written to be performed in a ritual event. However, for a long time, the Dionysian aspect of the theatrical event remained ‘backstage.’ American drama, as Susan Harris Smith writes in American Drama: The Bastard Art, from its first appearance, was not considered as a serious form of art, and was rejected from the American literary canon. The Little Theatre movement of the 1910–20s began to establish a legitimate American theatre. This evolved into a crucial process of theatrical innovation that reached its peak in the high experimentaton of the Off- and Off-Off Broadway movements of the ’50–60s. It can be stated that the Offs re-ritualized American theater and drama, for they problematized rituality and reflected on the roots of the dramatic and theatrical arts. Playwrights from a wide variety of backgrounds (e.g. Edward Albee, Amiri Baraka, Maria Irene Fornés and Sam Shepard among many others) could comment on the social issues of the United States on the experimental stage, and in many cases, their dramas present a
shifting approach in the discourse of the human body. The re-ritualized dramas are often ironic, shocking and do not attempt to strengthen a sense of identity or community (as Thomas E. Porter proves in *Myth and Modern American Drama*, this is a major tendency beginning in Eugene O’Neill’s *oeuvre*) by themselves: their meta-theatrical ‘play’ with ironic rituality has the potential to subvert, and to cleanse the audience as a collective body.

**Palotás, Zsolt**

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Zsolt Palotás is a PhD candidate of the University of Szeged. His research topic is the *Corsairing* / piracy in the Mediterranean and the diplomatic and military relations between the Maghreb and the Christian States, with a special emphasis on the relations between the Regency of Tunis and the USA in early modern times.

**Political, Military and Cultural Impact of the North African Muslims on the United States during the first years of the Early Republic (1783–1807)**

„In an indirect sense, the brutal Dey of Algiers was a Founding Father of the Constitution.” Thomas A. Bailey’s statement is an excellent example for one impact of the Muslims on the United States of America (e.g. building a sense of national identity).

There was a significant number of Muslims in the New World during the colonial period. After the War of Independence the relations became vivid between the two cultures. In the American mind, relations with the Barbary States (Morocco, Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli) are generally associated with issues of commerce, piracy, captivity, tribute and war.

The American merchants and sailors were captured several times by muslim corsairs after the Revolutionary War. The confederation was impotent in this matter and there was a need to centralize the government. For example Algiers held approximately 150 American citizens in prison from 1784 to 1796. In the early 1800s several sea narrative and captivity narrative were published about the American captivity. This had an important impact on American literature. Furthermore the first foreign war of the United States was against Tripoli between 1801–1805. Historians connect this war with the birth of the US Navy and Marine Corps. Finally, after the Tripolitan War the Americans citizens met an illustrious muslim diplomat. Sidi Soliman Mellimelli, Tunisian envoy was the first Muslim ambassador in the USA between 1805 and 1806.

This essay aims to present the colourful relations between the USA and the Maghrib in early modern times.

**Pellérđi, Márta**

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Márta Pellérđi is Associate Professor at the Institute of English and American Studies at Pázmány University where she teaches nineteenth- and twentieth-century British and American literature. Her research interests include women’s writing, Early American Literature, British and American short fiction and short fiction theory. She is also the author of a book on Vladimir Nabokov’s American novels, *Nabokov’s Palace*, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing in 2010.
Artistic Boundaries: Industry and Idleness in Washington Irving’s *The Sketch Book*

This paper wishes to focus on the ambiguous role that industry and idleness play in the art of storytelling in two well-known tales by Irving: “Rip Van Winkle” and the “Legend of Sleepy Hollow.” Irving first published the stories in *The Sketch Book* in 1819 under the pseudonym of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent. In the sketches Irving attracts the attention of the reader to his persona, Crayon, the “idle” gentleman who seeks retreat from the busy world by visiting distant places that unleash the powers of the imagination. Two of the most popular tales in the volume also focus on the idleness of the main characters, Rip Van Winkle and Ichabod Crane. By reflecting on the idle nature of the characters, the stories metaphorically highlight the challenges and boundaries the American author had to face in writing for a reading public who, well familiar with the eighteenth-century Franklinian discourse on the subject, regarded the product of the writer’s “idleness,” the literary work of art, with suspicion.

**Peterecz, Zoltán**

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Zoltan Peterecz, PhD is an assistant professor in the American Studies Department at Eszterházy Károly College, where he teaches American history, American culture, and other related subjects. His main areas of research are the Hungarian-American relations in the interwar period and US foreign policy in general, on which subjects he regularly publishes studies and articles.

**Theodore Roosevelt in Hungary**

It is a well-known fact that Theodore Roosevelt was and still is one of the most popular presidents of the United States. It is also somewhat known that he had a relatively brief, and relatively good relationship with Count Albert Apponyi, one of the most defining politicians of Hungary during the first three decades in the twentieth century. Perhaps a somewhat lesser known fact is that Roosevelt visited Hungary in 1910. As part of a European tour in the spring of that year, Theodore Roosevelt spent three days in Hungary.

The courtesy visit was made into a huge and significant-looking event in Hungary behind which there were certain wishes, bitterness and propaganda aims of the Hungarian political leadership. Hungary hoped by the virtue of the ex-President’s visit to prove the country’s equal standing within the Dual Monarchy. Furthermore, the well-educated Roosevelt knew exactly what his hosts wanted to hear and, accordingly although inadvertently, he kindled the flames of Hungarian independence, a concept with which he did not agree.

The paper wishes to tell the story of Theodore Roosevelt’s short stay in Hungary and the importance, and lack of consequences, of such a visit.

**Pintér, Károly**

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Károly Pintér is associate professor at the Institute of English and American Studies, Péter Pázmány Catholic University (PPKE), Budapest, teaching a variety of courses on British and American history and culture, as well as elective seminars on diverse topics such as utopian and SF literature. His study entitled *Anatomy of Utopia: Narration, Estrangement and Ambiguity in More, Wells, Huxley and*
Clarke (McFarland, 2010) won the HUSSE Junior Book Award in the same year. He also wrote introductory textbooks on British and American culture, literary essays on Beckett, Huxley, More, and Wells, as well as studies on the constitutional history of the separation of church and state in the US. His current research interest is the role and functioning of civil religion in the American polity. Currently he is Chair of the Institute of English and American Studies and Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs at the Faculty of Humanities of PPKE.

Civil Religion after 9/11 in the US

The national trauma provoked by the terror attacks on September 11, 2001 was followed by a spectacular wave of patriotic upsurge in the US, which was widely described and discussed by a number of observers. The phenomenon triggered a scholarly reappraisal of American national identity constructions and interpretations, which involved a curious reawakening of the concept of civil religion in American social science discourse. The term and the underlying phenomena enjoyed a significant vogue in the late 1960s and 1970s, but was eclipsed by other approaches in the 1980s and 90s. In my presentation, I wish to discuss some of the new or revived applications of civil religion in the post-9/11 context and raise the question of whether the concept carries a new or altered relevance for American society in the early 21st century.

Pintz, Katalin

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Katalin Pintz earned her master’s degree in American Studies 2009 at ELTE. Successively, she got her other master’s degree in Italian Language and Literature in 2014 at the same university. Since 2010 she has been a doctoral student at ELTE’s American Studies program, under the supervision of Prof. Tibor Frank. Her main field of interest is language maintenance in the field of sociolinguistics and the acculturation and assimilation of immigrants from a sociological and historical point of view (particularly that of Hungarian Americans, but also of Armenian and Italian American immigrants). Besides the topics related to her dissertation, her other main field of interest is Italian dialectology and sociolinguistics, particularly regarding the language and dialects spoken in the Veneto region. In 2010 she was granted the MÖB scholarship by the Hungarian Scholarship Foundation to do three months of field research in Padua on the Italianization of the local dialect.

Ethnic Intermarriages and Language Maintenance in the Hungarian-American Community of New Brunswick, New Jersey

One of the most active centers of Hungarian community life in the United States is New Brunswick, NJ, where approximately forty percent of Hungarian Americans are concentrated within the country. Although the Hungarian Americans of New Brunswick seem to assimilate at a slower pace than the Hungarian Americans of other communities in the country, the question of assimilation is an issue that all members of the community have to face. Many Hungarians who are keen on preserving their ethnic heritage consider assimilation a threat that one constantly has to struggle with within one’s family and community. In the previous decades the Hungarian-Americans of New Brunswick had undergone spatial assimilation and the process of language shift is still taking place. Since the beginning of the 21st century the gradual increase of ethnic intermarriages has also produced a change within the community, due to the shrinking number of Hungarians.

It is generally believed that ethnically mixed marriages may be harmful from the point of view of
minority language maintenance. In approximately 75 percent of intermarriages the Hungarian language is not passed on within Hungary’s neighboring countries of the Carpathian Basin. For similar reasons, not all Hungarians of the New Brunswick area view it positively if a community member marries a non-Hungarian. In spite of the existing stereotypes, there are some families where the Hungarian language has been successfully passed on to the next generation. In my presentation I would like to discuss the factors that have positive and negative effects, respectively, on children’s language maintenance in ethnically mixed families. My research is based on personal interviews, Skype interviews, and e-mail interviews, as well as several years of experience that I was fortunate to have in New Brunswick.

Sári, László B.

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László B. Sári (Ph.D., dr. habil) is an assistant professor at the Institute of English Studies at University of Pécs. His fields of research and areas of teaching include cultural and literary studies, postwar British film history and contemporary American fiction. His latest project is on contemporary minimalist fiction, an area in which he also works as a translator and literary critic. His book "I'm Joe's Grinding Teeth: An Outline of Contemporary American Minimalist Fiction" is forthcoming this year in Hungarian.

Transgression in the works of Bret Easton Ellis

Transgression has always played a vital part in Bret Easton Ellis's fiction, either as a direct challenge against received literary conventions (novel approaches to minimalism in Less than Zero and Rules of Attraction), an open confrontation with institutionalized forms of representation, the contradictions between the regime of political correctness and popular culture (in American Psycho and Glamoroma, respectively), an attempt to re-write generic conventions (those of autobiography and horror in Lunar Park), or, most recently, a return to his initiation into, and a departure from, literary discourse per se. My presentation will focus on how his latest novel, Imperial Bedrooms marks a radical break with his career as a literary author, and can be interpreted as a writerly experiment with and entry into various other, mostly visual, media. I will argue that the sequel to Less than Zero is not only a retrospective compendium of Ellis's oeuvre so far, but signals his preoccupation with visual modes of representation, most notably that of the scriptwriter.

Sohár, Anikó

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Anikó Sohár received her MA in Comparative Literature and History from Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) in 1986, her doctorate in Comparative Literature from ELTE in 1996, her PhD in Literary Studies (Translation Studies) from the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL) in 1997. Her dissertation discussed the cultural transfer of SF and fantasy, including pseudotranslations, after the political transformation in Hungary. She started teaching at ELTE, followed by KUL, the University of Miskolc, the University of West Hungary, and now PPCU. She is interested in the fantastic, hybrid genres, SF & fantasy, translation studies, particularly literary translations, and translator training.
The Migration of Elves to America

In contemporary American urban fantasy a favourite trope is the migration of European mythological creatures, including the Sidhe, to the New World from overpopulated Europe, and their settling down in Chicago (Steel Rose by Kara Dalkey), Minneapolis (War for the Oaks by Emma Bull), Ottawa (Jack of Kinrowan by Charles de Lint) and other locations preferred by other authors (perhaps the best-known is American Gods by Neil Gaiman). Old elves do not generally mingle with humans and keep their distance from the American spiritual realm as well, but the young ones cross the boundaries – exactly as real migrants tend to do. The young elves’ interactions with mortals and the consequences reveal what are considered to be real survival traits and the ways of adaptation to a seemingly very different society. However, as far as I can tell, only one series, entitled Bordertown, a shared universe co-opted by several writers, depicts a truly amalgameted community, in which not only the generation gap is concentrated on, but ethnic, racial, gender and magical issues have to be solved so as to make peaceful co-existence possible. Other fantasy fiction portray the human world, Faerie and the domain of the American spirits strictly separate and focus on those exceptional instances when, due to individual or communal interests, desires, inquisitiveness or folly, there is interaction between them. This paper will present the Sidhe living in the New World and how they changed to become good American citizens.

Somogyi, Gyula

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Gyula Somogyi teaches at the Comparative Literature and Culture Department at the University of Miskolc. He received his PhD at the University of Debrecen in 2011, his academic and research interests include contemporary literary theory (especially deconstruction and its recent transformations), 19th century American Literature, gender and film studies.

Transgression and Photography in Steven Shainberg’s Fur: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus

The conference paper analyzes Steven Shainberg’s Fur: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus (2006), which stages a fictional version of the beginnings of Diane Arbus’s career as a photographer in the 1950s. The movie aims to “reach beyond reality” to show how the protagonist, Diane (Nicole Kidman) came to shoot her first pictures, how she changed from being the passive (exhibitionist) object of the gaze to the active subject of the (photographic) gaze. The movie traces this transformation, the space in between these two stages in her development, which prompts Diane to leave her family and upper middle class life behind. With the guidance of Lionel (Robert Downey, Jr.), she explores her own desires, and experiences the carnivalesque (and sometimes abject) world of the people living on the margins of society because of bodily deformities or marginal sexual practices; that is, the world that the “real life” Arbus’s art later brought into the realm of the representable.

Stróbl, Erzsébet

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Erzsébet Stróbl PhD is a senior lecturer at the Department of Literary and Cultural Studies in English at Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, Budapest. Her interests include early modern cultural history, political theory, urban history, and discourses on feminine authority.
“Grasp My Shore More Closely with Your Saving Hand”: The Vision of America in Stephen Parmenius’s *De Navigatione* (1582)

The paper will explore the image Stephen Parmenius’s poem *De Navigatione* (1582) paints of the American continent. Written as a propaganda piece to raise money for the 1583 expedition of Sir Humphrey Gilbert and penned by the friend of Richard Hakluyt, one of the first promoters of English settlement in North America, the pamphlet presents a unique glimpse of the Elizabethan aspirations and beliefs about the New Continent and the contemporary ideological stance towards its people.

The paper will argue that the central trope of the poem is its reference to the Golden Age, both signifying the state of the natives of America, as well as the Elizabethan era. It will also emphasize its importance in formulating a discourse about the justification of colonization, and in connecting the two parts of the world through a “special relationship” of freedom. By personifying the continent as a young maiden ravished by the Spanish the English were able to don the role of liberators who have the sacred mission of spreading their country’s bounties to the West.

The paper will further attempt to evaluate the significance of Parmenius’s work among similar Elizabethan publications and its role in furthering the establishment of a colony in North America.

Surányi, Ágnes

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Ágnes Surányi used to work at the Department of English at the University of Pécs, teaching contemporary English and American literature and translation theory and practice, Currently she is retired. Her publications include articles on Toni Morrison, Angela Carter and Virginia Woolf. She has research interests in writing by ethnic women writers, in magic realism, literary influences and exchanges.

Difference of Vantage Points in Novels by Pearl Buck, Maxine Hong Kingston and Amy Tan

My paper investigates the representations of Chinese/Asian women by the three authors, highlighting the differences and similarities in approach. I am making an attempt to explore the intricacies of narrative patterns, the presence of realism and symbolism, and the fusion of fact and fiction in their novels. All the three (bilingual) writers deal with the identity problems their characters have to cope with and the conflicts between the women who immigrated from China to the US and the generation already born there.

Pearl Buck’s novels are outstanding not so much on account of their literary qualities as on that of her (a white American writer’s) interest in and preoccupation with a foreign culture. She was the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1938 and who made the East accessible to the West. Maxine Hong Kingston and Amy Tan, however, though born in the US, never spent an extended period of time in China, which might raise the issue of authenticity. Kingston spoke appreciatively of Pearl Buck, regarding her as a forerunner of Chinese-American fiction for ‘having made Asian voices heard’ and acknowledged the influence she had on her writing. A close reading of the texts will show the originality of each author, the difference of narrative strategies, their use of stereotyping and lack or undermining thereof. I will try to distinguish between ‘cultural bifocality’ and double consciousness as well.
Szabó, Éva Eszter

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Éva Eszter Szabó, Ph.D., Historian and Americanist, assistant professor at the Department of American Studies, School of English and American Studies, Eötvös Loránd University. Member of HAAS, HUSSE, LASA (USA), and SHAFR (USA). Her field of research includes the history of inter-American relations, Latino communities in the U.S., and the correlation between U.S. foreign and immigration policies.

U.S. Latinos: The Newcomers

In American immigration history, Western Hemisphere immigration to the United States has always occupied a special position. In addition to the demands of the U.S. labor market and the war and intervention ridden history of cross-country relations, the correlation between U.S. foreign and immigration policies has led to massive migration flows from the region. The mushrooming Latino communities have turned the U.S. into the second largest Latino country in the world after Mexico with Latinos constituting the largest minority of the U.S. by the 2010s.

U.S. Latinos, however, are far from a homogeneous group. They represent different nationalities, different cultures, and have different histories in the U.S. This diverse ethnic group has expanded considerably in the past ten years. The marked growth is partly attributable to some recently emerging source countries of migration in the Western Hemisphere. These newcomers are the Dominicans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans and Colombians who account for the most recent waves of mass migration and who constitute new challenges to the dominant ethnic groups. The exciting task awaiting us is to analyze the impact of these newcomers through the interethnic tensions arising from within and without the Latino community, and to explore in what ways the newcomers have contributed to the rapidly expanding vitality of the largest minority of the U.S.

Szabó, Andrea F.

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Andrea F. Szabó, PhD, is senior assistant professor at the English and American Studies Institute, University of Pannonia, Veszprém, Hungary. She teaches courses in North-American literature and Gender and Culture. Her research interests focus on Gothic Studies, more particularly on female gothic literature, and, most importantly on Alice Munro.

“Jane Eyrotica”: Fifty Shades of Grey and the Ordinariness of the Extraordinary

E.L. James’s Fifty Shades of Grey has not only become a literary sensation worldwide but it has also become the shorthand term for an American cultural phenomenon that the media has described in the United Stated as the shattering of taboos surrounding female sexuality. The phenomenal success and taboo-breaking discussions about the novel’s portrayal of non-conservative sexual practices and about female sexuality in general on a national level were, on the hand, unexpected and, apparently, warmly welcome, on the other. Judged on the basis of responses, in a sense, the bestselling SMBD romance promises to represent a highly awaited moment which could draw the cultural shift starting with the sexual revolution to its full-blown conclusion. In my paper I provide an analysis of the novel and of the terms which have guaranteed its talked-aboutness in American media but which, nonetheless, have
diverted attention from the phenomenon’s convergence with the momentous changes that the emergence and spread of the blogosphere (as well as the availability of inconspicuous e-books) have effected. I argue that the model of female sexuality and femininity advanced by the novel as well as discussions about it are a lot less transgressive than it is presumed; in fact, the Fifty Shades trilogy recycles the Brontë romance from a postfeminist perspective while marrying it with the blogosphere cult of extraordinary individuality.

**Szente-Varga, Mónika**

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Mónika Szente-Varga got a PhD in History at the University of Szeged in 2005. Her actual place of work is the Institute of Social Sciences and International Studies of the University of Pannonia, Veszprém, Hungary. Modern History of Latin America and the Iberian Peninsula; Migrations; Minorities and the Image of Hungary in the world form her most important fields of interest. She has more than 40 publications, mostly connected to Latin America. Her books are: Hungarian Migration ot Mexico between 1901 and 1950 (written in Spanish and published in Mexico), The stork and the hummingbird. A history of the relations between Hungary and Mexico from the 19th century until today and Mexican elections, 2012 (the latter two written in Hungarian)

**From a Hungarian Major to a Salvadorian Landowner? The Life of Louis Schlesinger in Exile**

At first glance, the title might suggest a lucky and relatively simple story of migration, including the necessity to leave Hungary after the defeat of the war of independence in 1849, a new life in Central America, successful economic and social integration, advantageous marriage and the resulting affluence. The life of Louis Schlesinger contained all these elements, yet the transformation of the Hungarian major into a Salvadorian landowner was much more complex. It included roles such as a member in the expedition that Narciso López led for the liberation of Cuba from Spanish rule in the 1850’s; a prisoner of the Spanish Crown condemned to forced labour in Ceuta, a fugitive making an escape from North Africa to North America; a mercenary, participant in the Central American adventures of William Walker; an enemy of his former commander and in the end, a respectable European immigrant.

This study is based on the writings of Schlesinger and his contemporaries, and complemented by findings of Central American historians. The objective is to trace the itinerary of Schlesinger (including the USA, Cuba, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador) and investigate the decisive changes in his life as well as the motives behind his actions. This analysis will also enable us to see beyond the person and gain a particular insight into political, economic and social developments in North and Central America in the second half of the 19th century.

**Szentgyörgyi, Szilárd**

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Szilárd Szentgyörgyi is associate professor of linguistics and acting chair at the English and American Studies Institute (ÉASI) at the University of Pannonia, Veszprém. He has an MSc in mathematics, an MA in English and a PhD in theoretical linguistics from the University of Szeged. Besides working for
the University of Pannonia, he has also taught courses for English and theoretical linguistics majors at ELTE University in Budapest, for English majors in at the University of Szeged and Selye János University in Komárno, Slovakia and for linguistics majors at the University of Iowa, Iowa City. He has been awarded several grants by the Soros Foundation, the Fulbright Commission, the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA) and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Bolyai Grant).

Evil characters in American movies and their accents

American movies have been dominating the cinema industry for decades and many of them have very stereotypical plots and characters. However, there is also something very interesting in them from a linguistic point of view: the speech variety, dialect or accent that evil characters use. This paper focuses on the speech of evil characters in the American popular motion picture industry, more specifically the pronunciation or accent of these protagonists. We are going to present three major types of bad guys in American films associated with different stereotypical characters: soldiers/spies of the enemy, terrorists and evil geniuses.

We are going to point out the typical accents that these characters most often have – including German, Russian, Arabic and most of all, British English – and also pinpoint those characteristic traits of their pronunciation that will put them down as a non-native speaker of American English: their language specific vowels and consonants that sound foreign to the American ear – like palatalized consonants in Russian, uvular and pharyngeal consonants in Arabic, or peculiar vowels in British English – and also the pronunciation rules transferred from their fictional mother tongues – final devoicing in German, palatalization in Russian or R-dropping in British English – or the lack of rule application of native pronunciation rules of American English – the lack of L-darkening, flapping.

Szép, Eszter

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Eszter Szép is a second year doctoral student at the Modern English and American Literature Doctoral Program at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. She researches comics and graphic narratives, with a special focus on comics journalism and autobiographical comics. Her dissertation, which is called “Representing War, Violence, and Trauma in 21st-century Graphic Narratives,” approaches the medium of comics through trauma theory and W. J. T. Mitchell’s iconology. Eszter also enjoys reading and studying graphic narratives which ask questions about their own representation strategies. As a recipient of the EAAS Travel Grant 2014, she cannot wait researching at the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum, Columbus, OH. She is the Hungarian news review correspondent to the Comics Forum, and she is also a member of the jury of Hungary’s yearly comics awards, “Alfábéta” and “Korcsmáros Pál Prize.” She was co-organizer of the 10th International Comics Festival, Budapest.

Identity Construction in Miriam Katin’s Graphic Narratives: A Study in the Medium of Comics

My paper focuses on two of Miriam Katin’s autobiographical graphic narratives, We Are On Our Own (2006) and Letting It Go (2013), and examines the following questions:

(1) I briefly introduce comics as a medium at the borderland between literature and visual arts, high culture and low culture, art and cult. In the rest of my paper I rely on the representational and narrative strategies that are specific to the medium of comics.

(2) I analyze psychological boundaries: in We Are On Our Own, a graphic narrative by a Hungarian-born American author, I follow the topic of identity construction and redefinition in times of
war. *We Are On Our Own* is a story of a Jewish mother and daughter in the middle of World War II in Hungary. To survive, they have to cross personal boundaries that make the little girl question her relationship first to God, then to the only person who she could rely on, her mother. In this part of my paper I also compare the way the above problems are represented in the two temporal layers of the book, the layer of the past trauma, and the present challenge of becoming a mother.

(3) Finally, I analyze the topic of crossing physical borders: in *Letting it Go* Katin shows her uncertainty about her identity from a completely different angle. She represents herself as an American citizen, a mother, whose adult son would like to apply for German citizenship. This leads to a serious inner conflict in her, which is represented using utterly different strategies from her previous work. This second graphic novel, as its title suggests, is about coming to terms with the burden of the past. Identity, nationality, the roles we perform in society are all addressed, while visually the book rejects panels, frames, or any graphical indicators of boundaries. I intend to look at how this seemingly freer style interacts with the changed focal point of the narrative.

**Szukovényi, Katalin**

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Katalin Szukovényi (1977) graduated at ELTE as a Hungarian and English major. She is a PhD student at the Modern English and American Literature Program of ELTE. Her first book of poetry, *Kísérleti nyúlorr* (2005) received Gérecz Attila Award for best first book of the year, and the second, *Hamis nosztalgiák*, was published in 2013. She also translates from English and German, and she is the Vice President of MEGY (Association of Hungarian Translators).

**Stays in the Family: Revisions of Identity in Jewish American Short Stories**

My paper is based on a chapter of my PhD dissertation “Irony, Self-irony and Humor in Twentieth Century Jewish American Fiction”, which introduces the concept of self-irony related to the thorough analysis of the literature on irony and humor, and investigates how issues of identity are addressed in Jewish American literature by means of irony, self-irony and humor.

This presentation focuses on family stories of conflicts between first and second generation immigrants as depicted in Abraham Cahan’s “A Ghetto Wedding”, Isaac Bashevis Singer’s “The Little Shoemakers”, Bernard Malamud’s “The First Seven Years” and Saul Bellow’s “The Old System”. Each of these narratives represents a clash between “old” European and the “new” American value systems, but instead of culminating in the triumph of either paradigm, they offer absurd yet unavoidable integrations of the two.

The aim of my analysis is to demonstrate how self-irony can be an apt means of representing various identity crises by fully exploring their controversial aspects and offering resolution without erasing the depth and the significance of diverse components.

**Szokonya, István**

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István Szokonya received his double MA degrees in English Language and Literature and Communication Studies from Károli Gáspár University of the Hungarian Reformed Church, Budapest. Currently, he is pursuing a PhD degree in American Studies at ELTE, researching the culture and literature of the American South.
Crossing the Boundaries of the South in Flannery O’Connor’s Fiction

Although the United States of America is a country with clear borders, there are some boundaries within the USA which are not as clean-cut as the country’s boundary line. The South has several different definitions of its borders; some include only five or six states, while others cover even more than ten. However, no matter how many states are considered Southern, leaving the region which once meant home for certain authors and characters is often an action bringing about changes.

In my conference paper I wish to focus on Flannery O’Connor’s fiction and one of her short stories in specific. Although most of the author’s works take place below the Mason-Dixon Line and her characters rarely leave the South, “Judgment Day” is set partly in New York City and through interlocking flashbacks in the small town of Corinth, Georgia. With her last piece of writing, O’Connor left the boundaries of the South and presents the non-Southern city as “no place for a sane man.” In the conference paper I wish to pay attention to the cities which are depicted in the short story and the figurative boundary which is crossed by the pivotal character. Furthermore, I also wish to examine the question of whether it is possible for a Southerner to find home after leaving the boundaries of the South.

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Andrés Tarnóc presently serves as Department Head of the Department of American Studies at Eszterházy Károly College of Eger, Hungary. Between 2001 and 2004 he served as the Treasurer of the Hungarian Association for American Studies, and presently he is member of the board awarding the László Országh prize. He earned a PhD in 2001 and completed his habilitation process in 2013. As an associate professor he is teaching subjects covering American history, literature, and cultural studies. His main field of research is autobiographical literature, with special emphasis on captivity narratives, slave narratives, and travel writings.

The return of “God’s unworthy handmaid:” techniques of subject construction in The Journal of Madam Knight (1705)

The Journal of Madam Knight commemorates the details of Sarah Kemble Knight’s trip taken from Boston to New York from October 2, 1704 to March 3, 1705. The Journal, after Mary Rowlandson’s Narrative is considered the second travel text authored by a woman and said trip made fully on horseback is all the more remarkable as Mrs. Knight reached her destination without the relatively convenient travel options available to her nineteenth century counterparts. At the same time, her lifetime achievements indicate a substantial challenge to patriarchal attitudes restricting the social and economic mobility of women. In addition to taking care of family business in lieu of her ailing husband the protagonist was able to loosen the binds of romantic paternalism by running a boarding house, organizing a writing school, and working as a court scrivener. The primary objective of the essay is to explore how the multifaceted border crossings contributed to her personal development entailing the potential achievement of agency and subject status, in fact substantiating Bollobás’ conclusion that “self-creation can only happen […] via narrating oneself in one’s terms.” In order to realize the abovementioned research goal the author will deploy a theoretical apparatus including Neisser’s cognitive mapping model, Foucault’s concept of pastoral power, De Certeau’s theory of walking, and the Austin-Searle-Bollobás continuum of the performative.
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Gabor Tillman is a Ph.D. student at the University of Pécs. His field of research includes nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature and popular culture. The dissertation he is currently working on explores issues related to the autobiographical and performed identity of nineteenth-century frontier heroes.

The Rise of the New Artisan by Falling: The Challenges of Early Nineteenth Century Society through the Life of Sam Patch the Famous Jumper

Sam Patch is probably one of the lesser-known American self-made men, yet his short-lived success constituted an important milestone in popular culture. Originally a cotton-mill hand from Rhode Island, he gained notoriety by performing jumps into waterfalls. He was the first person known to jump over the Niagara Falls and survive, becoming the first American daredevil who paved the way for many fame-hungry candidates to come. To say the least, his performance can be perceived as a means of conforming to the standards of contemporary masculinity. Nonetheless, the ‘Sam Patch phenomenon’ also highlights a subconscious anxiety of the working class induced by the emerging industrialism at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Artisans had to migrate in order to obtain employment, while facing the disheartening fact that their acknowledged craftsmanship—their form of art—was gradually overwhelmed by a growing demand for new forms of arts. This romantic ideal of high culture was promoted by the bourgeois but found little welcome in different layers of society. Instead, popular culture cherished and embraced drunkards and eccentrics, providing colorful forms of entertainment for the curious eye.

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Zsófia Anna Tóth received her PhD in British and American literature and culture from the University of Szeged and is currently an independent scholar. Her general research interests are film studies, cultural studies, gender studies, literary theory, English and American literature, American cinema. Her main research field is concerned with the representation of female aggression and violence in American literature and film. Her first book entitled Merry Murderers: The Farcical (Re)Figuration of the Femme Fatale in Maurine Dallas Watkins’ Chicago (1927) and its Various Adaptations was published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing (UK) in 2011, which was soon followed by her second one (which she edited) entitled A varázsgyűrűtől az interkonfesszionális kommunikációig: Információ tudományi meteszéspontok bölcsészeti megközelítésben (Primaware, Szeged, 2011). In 2012, her two other edited works came out (both coedited with Zoltán Vajda): American Studies and Visuality – on the horizon of information society, Special Issue, AMERICANA, E-Journal of American Studies in Hungary, and Amerikanisztika és vizualitás. Metszéspontok az információs társadalom horizontján. AMERICANA eBooks.

Mae West’s Challenges and Transgressions

In my paper, my aim is to discuss how Mae West challenges us with her (apparent) transgressions. I am going to examine how she challenges us all through her comic and witty speech as well as actions in
her plays (Sex (1926), The Drag (1927) and The Pleasure Man (1928)), in her novels (Diamond Lil (1932) and The Constant Sinner (1937)) and in her films, namely, in I’m No Angel (1933), She Done Him Wrong (1933), Goin’ to Town (1935), Klondike Annie (1936), Go West Young Man (1936) and My Little Chickadee (1940). In these works she challenges the questions and boundaries of gender, race and class and through her witticisms and comedic acts she borders transgressions and seemingly trespasses boundaries while, in fact, she hardly ever does or says anything with which she concretely ‘commits transgressions’ while she always appears to do so. As a writer, author, auteur, actress, performer and public persona West’s work was always about transgressions and challenging norms, rules, boundaries while actually she did not transgress the given rules and norms despite her constant battles with censors. My intention is to investigate this interesting duality: how she was and was not (at the same time) a (cultural and artistic) transgressor.

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Zoltán Vajda is associate professor of American Studies at the Faculty of Arts, University of Szeged, Hungary. His main areas of research and teaching are early American intellectual and cultural history, antebellum Southern history, Thomas Jefferson and US popular culture. He serves on the editorial board of Americana, an electronic journal of American Studies and Aetas, a historical journal, both edited in Szeged.

Sentimental Ambiguities and the American Founding: The Double Origins of Political Sympathy in The Federalist Papers

Early American political thought was, to a great extent, informed by contemporary ideas derived from sentimental philosophy. Although not so obviously, one major group of writings of the period, the Federalist Papers, were no exception: they offered an image of the nation that in many ways was based on the sentimental ideal of the nation. Sentimental elements in the argument of the Federalist have been noted by scholarship, yet their mechanism in the federal Union as imagined by Publius still leaves much to explore. This essay is proposed to explore the origins of political sympathy and affection in the Federalist Papers and argues that their three contributors utilized two discourses of political affection and sympathy to suggest two, diametrically opposed sources of origin for sentimental bonds in the federal republic. The first of these posited the United States, in part, as a result of artificial development of affectionate bonds among members of the nation to be generated by the new federal government. The second, at the same time, posited the same federal nation as an already existing one, a sentimental community by nature with ties of affection derived from natural kinship as well as cultural ties. In employing the discourse of natural origins, Publius connected his argument to a pre-modern paradigm of sympathy, while his emphasis on the artificial origins of sentimental bonds pointed toward modern America. Finally, by employing the discourse of natural origins the argument offered by Publius shared features of the anti-Federalist conception of the sentimental republic.
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Gabriella Varró is Associate Professor at the Institute of English and American Studies of the University of Debrecen. She has been teaching courses on American popular culture and American drama and theater history since 1992. Her research includes the American blackface minstrel tradition, postmodernism and American drama, with a special emphasis on Sam Shepard. Her major publications include Signifying in Blackface: The Pursuit of the Minstrel Sign in American Literature (2008), Jim Crow örökösei: Mitosz és sztereotípia az amerikai társadalmi tudatban és kultúrában [The Heirs of Jim Crow: Myth and Stereotype in American Social Consciousness and Culture] (2002), and Mesterek árnyékában: Sam Shepard drámái és a hagyomány [Shadow of the Masters: Sam Shepard’s Works and the Dramatic Tradition] (2013).

How Great is the new The Great Gatsby?

The presentation will offer a detailed analysis of Baz Luhrmann’s 2013 adaptation of The Great Gatsby, highlighting problematic aspects if viewing the film from the vantage point of one of America’s greatest classics, i.e. Fitzgerald’s novel. The situation radically changes, nevertheless, if we allow the film to be perceived entirely independently from the text that prompted its birth. How great is The Great Gatsby if we disregard the ur-text that inspired it? Can and should we block out the intertextual resonance entirely? The paper further meditates on the timeliness of this most recent adaptation, and its possible filmic inspirations.

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Balázs Venkovits is an instructor at the North American Department, IEAS, University of Debrecen. His research interests include travel writing studies, images of Mexico and the United States in 19th century Hungarian travel writing, US-Hungarian relations. He is preparing for the defence of his dissertation on 19th century Hungarian travel accounts on Mexico and the United States.

The Rise and Demise of Habsburg Maximilian’s Mexican Empire: Inter-American Repercussions and Transatlantic Links

2014 marks the 150th anniversary of Habsburg Maximilian’s ascent to the throne of Mexico. The success of the “Mexican venture” (with more than 1,000 Hungarian participants) greatly depended on international events, especially those taking place north of the border, i.e. in the United States. This presentation aims to briefly discuss the steps that led to the involvement of a Habsburg in Mexican affairs and then presents the inter-American and transatlantic repercussions of the undertaking. What happened in the United States at the time of the occurrences under consideration (in particular the ongoing Civil War) influenced what could be achieved in Mexico and what could happen in the country in the longer term. I present the various official and unofficial contacts between Mexico and the United States during the Second Empire, including questions of diplomacy and propaganda, and the issue of possible US recognition of Maximilian’s Mexico. At the same time, I focus on Hungarian participation, the legacy of Hungarian soldiers in terms of the development of the Hungarian image of Mexico, and also the participation of a Hungarian (?) in the
propaganda activities of Maximilian’s government in the United States. The presentation involves numerous forms of border crossing, both imagined and real, including the crossing of the Atlantic (by both soldiers and ideas), the US-Mexican border (by people and weapons), as well as ideological and cultural borderlines (including the adaptation of European principles in North America).

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István Kornél Vida (b. 1977) is Assistant Professor at the North American Department, Institute of English and American Studies, University of Debrecen, Hungary. He has research interests covering the 19th century history of the United States, with particular focus on the Civil War Era, migration history, and Hungarian-American historical links and contacts. He is co-founder and Secretary of the Center for International Migration Studies, established in 2012 in Debrecen, Hungary. Currently he is doing research on the historical memory of the Great Emigration to the United States from Hungary.

Death of a Nation? Debating the Great Transatlantic Emigration from Hungary (1890–1914)

The turn of the 19th and 20th centuries brought about the largest mass emigration from Hungary to the United States in the country's history. Seeing the sheer size of the outflow of people, many thinkers, politicians started tolling the firebell, envisaging the imminent demise of the nation which would not survive the ultimate loss of approximately 1.3-1.5 million people. The questions raised started a series of debates in which leading historians, sociologists, economists as well as politicians took part, and they involved such topics as the causes of emigration from Hungary, the necessary changes in the government's emigration policy, the activities of emigration agents, maintaining the language and culture of the emigrants, as well as inducing return migration. In my paper, I'm going to take a closer look at the most significant channels of the debates, the participants and their possible motivations, and the differences in the final conclusions drawn.

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Gabriella Vőő is Assistant Professor at the Department of English Literatures and Cultures at the University of Pécs. She specializes in nineteenth-century American literature and culture. Her publications include essays on antebellum fiction and poetry, the American frontier, and gender in the context of nineteenth-century cultural politics. She is also interested in Reception Studies: her essays on the reception of anglophone authors in interwar Hungary were re-published as a book in 2011.

Crossing Hemispheres: the Monroe Doctrine, the novel, and the passage to virtue and liberty

The paper will discuss three historical novels, James Fenimore Cooper’s The Prairie (1827), Catharine Sedgwick’s Hope Leslie (1827), and William Gilmore Simms’s The Yemassee (1835) in the context of Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams’s notions of America as an “empire of liberty” situated on the “hemisphere . . . of freedom.” Apart from featuring Native American characters, the plots and themes of these novels have little in common. Still, the authors of all three works of fiction explore issues (womanly and civic virtue, liberty and bondage, losing and finding a home) present in the public
discourses of the 1820s. Also, they dramatize shifts of identity from English to American, while debating the place of the racial other in the national space. Relying on critical approaches of the American “liberty discourse” by Laura Doyle, Gretchen Murphy, and John Carlos Rowe, the paper will point out instances of intersection and mutual reinforcement between political statements and cultural discourses.

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Ingrida Žindžiuvienė, Professor of English and Literature at the Department of English Philology, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania, teaches contemporary American Literature. Currently she is the Head of English Philology Department and a Chairperson of the University Senate Committee. Žindžiuvienė has published articles on contemporary British and American literature, comparative literary studies, and American Studies, and has participated in conferences worldwide. Ingrida Žindžiuvienė is the co-author of the books *English at a Glance* (2002), *Modern North American Women Writers* (2005), *Doing Research on ELT* (2013) and others. She is currently working on two projects: a study on contemporary American authors and research into literary representation of collective trauma. Her main research interests include comparative literary studies, literary theory and cultural studies.

**Graphic Language of the American Dream in the 2008 Obama Campaign Posters: Crossing Boundaries between Art and Ideology**

The paper examines the graphic representation (poster art) of the American Dream and discusses the cardinal issues of this ideology in the Obama campaign (2008) posters made by and for the campaign in the period of 2007–2008. The electoral process, which is best revealed in the Obama posters, will be analyzed from the following aspects: the decoded text of the social message of the posters, the language of the new American symbolism versus American official symbolism, the development and traditions of American poster art and the language of colors in American *grassroots* poster art. Conceptual and aesthetic standards of American poster art examined. Although the novel form of graphic art can be noticed in the Obama posters, distinct features of American graphic identity stand out in them. Unconventional imagery and novel style suggest of a new statement, loaded, however, with traditional, and thus seemingly unavoidable, patriotic clichés. Possible steps of targeting and modeling the audience are represented in the social message of the Campaign posters that “speak” the language understood by all the Americans – the language of the American Dream, both verbally and visually encoded in the Campaign posters. Although recently certain traces of decline of the ideology may have been noticed, the ideology has attracted a great number of new “believers” or “followers” all over the world. The presentation will also focus on the aspects of American identity as disclosed through the verbal and visual language of the posters for the 2008 Obama campaign.