

Zsombor Tóth

Mohács 500?!

The Characteristics of Transylvanian Reformed Politics of Memory in the Context of the Long Reformation (1500–1800)

(In memoriam Mihály Cserei of Nagyajta, 1667–1756)

Keywords: *Long Reformation, religious persecution, transregional and transcultural perspective, travelling memory, masternarrative*

This paper attempted to interpret the perception of the Battle of Mohács as reflected in sources primarily associated with Transylvania and written by Reformed authors, mainly from the 17th and 18th centuries. Special emphasis was placed on Mihály Cserei, who died 270 years ago and who, in his own texts or in marginal notes added to his readings, vividly illustrated the impact of the grand narrative of the long Reformation on the specifically Reformed assessment of the 1526 battle. In summarizing my line of thought, I conclude that the European-scale early modern Reformed politics of memory – which emphatically marked anniversaries (1617, 1717, etc.) and major sites of persecution (1572, 1620, 1685, etc.) – did not (and could not) allow for much media space to be devoted to commemorating August 29, 1526, within the Hungarian Reformed tradition either. It appears that early modern European Reformed memory politics did not necessarily advocate for commemoration within the framework of the nation-state; that is, it did not treat “national remembrance” as a matter of special significance, but rather made accessible a commemorative universe that also captured the imprint of pan-European events articulated in confessional terms as Protestant and thematically focused on religious persecution – a universe that can be interpreted and studied primarily from a transregional and transcultural perspective.

István Berszán

Encounter with(in) Other Times. On Two Novels by Olga Tokarczuk

Keywords: *multiple temporalities, unreflective learning, rhythm, sympathy, Tokarczuk.*

Olga Tokarczuk’s novels take place in the mazes of time. This paper explores what disjunctions and connections her novels such as *Primeval and Other Times* (2010 [1996]) or *House of Day, House of Night* (2003 [1998]) reveal and how we can navigate between the events of a time, the resonances between times, and the attempts to encounter different times. To what extent do the practices of reading and writing the Tokarczuk novels correspond to art theoretical thinking based on the historical regimes of aesthetics and the notion of historicity, and where do they raise questions that prompt a rethinking of these paradigms? The practice-oriented physics and eco-rhythmology proposed by me should also be put to a similar test in order to see what support they provide for research into the practical orientation of Tokarczuk’s novels in times and where the art of writing under examination prompts new/further hypotheses.

Katalin Ágnes Bartha

Reassembling Ferenc Delly's Pedagogical Networks: The Objects of Stage Reverence

Keywords: *Actor-Network Theory, theatre historiography, acting habitus, non-human mediators, Delly Ferenc*

This study examines the networks of actor, director, and acting pedagogue Delly Ferenc (1903–1960) through the perspective of Bruno Latour's Actor-Network Theory (ANT), with particular attention to the material mediators of theatrical ethics. The paper argues that non-human actors – such as shoes, ties, hats, and clothing – can be understood as active agents within theatre historiography, participating in the performative transmission of professional identity, bodily conduct, and reverence toward the stage. Through the analysis of memoirs, press materials, and photographic documents, the study demonstrates how Delly's pedagogical and theatrical networks became stabilized within the institutional spaces of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureș and Cluj/Kolozsvár. Special emphasis is placed on translational events in which theatrical and everyday spaces temporarily overlap, such as the improvised performance staged in the Del-Ka shoe store in 1929. The analysis reveals that theatrical habitus and ethics are transmitted not only through verbal pedagogical principles but also through practices delegated to objects, capable of repetition and continuation across generations. The paper also reflects on the possibilities of interdisciplinary renewal within theatre historiography.

Imre József Balázs

The Conclusive Reception of the Poets of Erdélyi Helikon: Gusztáv Láng's Analyses of Lajos Áprily's and Jenő Dsida's Poetry

Keywords: *Transylvanian Hungarian literature, modernism, generational shift, reception, Transylvanism*

The article examines how Gusztáv Láng shaped the literary-historical image of the poets of the Erdélyi Helikon group, particularly through his interpretation of Lajos Áprily's and Jenő Dsida's works. Initially, Láng did not primarily view himself as a Transylvanian literary historian, but his research on Dsida and his comprehensive works on Hungarian literature in Romania established him as a leading authority in this field. In his analyses, he always interpreted the poetry of the Helikon within the context of 20th-century Hungarian modernism as a whole, particularly emphasizing its connections with the poets of Nyugat. The analysis emphasizes that the first generation of Helikon poets wrote from a perspective of community and minority identity, while the younger generation—such as Jenő Dsida and Zoltán Jékely—took a more critical stance toward this legacy. However, Láng does not interpret Áprily's poetry as “belated” Symbolism, but rather as objective, modern lyric poetry that is also connected to the new directions of postwar European poetry.

László Büky

On Mihály Babits's *Black Country*

Keywords: *Mihály Babits, Black Country, symbolism, semantic analysis, black as a motif*

The study provides a linguistic and semantic analysis of Mihály Babits's poem *Black Country* (Fekete ország). The paper examines the fifty occurrences of the word *black* by relying on the definitions of the Dictionary of the Hungarian Language. It argues that *black* functions not only as a colour term but also as a symbol of mystery, death, fear and metaphysical depth. The analysis explores the poem's structural units, the poetic function of repetition (seriality and ostinato), and the network of semantic relations. The study places the poem within its literary-historical context, highlighting the influence of Edgar Allan Poe, Huysmans and fin-de-siècle symbolism. It demonstrates that the poem constructs a worldview based on the universal symbolism of *black*, expressing the hidden essence of matter and existence. The author concludes that the interpretation of the poem depends on the interaction between lexical meanings and poetic context, which accounts for its enduring artistic power.

Blanka-Boróka Buna

“In her third life.” The Images of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary in Early Modern Hungarian Sermons and Legends

Keywords: *saint woman, evangelical model of life, dynastic appropriation, Elizabeth's reception.*

Research on the medieval legends of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary has revealed numerous subtle cracks, since the innovative holiness of a married woman stretched the contemporary canon beyond its limits. Her contemporaries attempted to portray her according to the traditional ascetic model, while later generations integrated the holy woman so thoroughly into the very ideal of sanctity that she herself had helped to establish that they lost sight of her reforming character. Sermons addressed to women and/or concerning women generally show, however, that Elizabeth's example did not have a long-term influence on general thinking about women, despite her extraordinary popularity throughout Europe. In my study, I seek to trace the development of Elizabeth's reception in early modern Hungarian ecclesiastical literature within the broader context of social changes, uncovering further subtle cracks in the saint's portrait.

Eszter-Júlia Salamon

An Empirical Study of an Intransitive Verb Construction

Keywords: *construction, construction grammar, intransitive verbs, agreement*

In Hungarian, the morpheme *-lak* refers to both the first-person subject and the second-person object. Accordingly, one would expect it to be attached only to transitive verbs, specifically when the predicate in question can have a second-person object. However, it also appears with intransitive verbs in constructions where the complement of the intransitive verb is an infinitive attracting a second-person object (e.g., *jöttelek meglátogatni* – *I came to visit you*). I treat this structure as a construction, basing my research on the framework of Construction Grammar. The aim of this research is to identify certain morphological, syntactic, and semantic aspects that may be relevant for further analysis of the construction.

Zsigmond Máté

Intersections of Narrative Architecture and Stage Configuration: The Intergeneric Reconfiguration of the Representation of Revenge, the Body, and Otherness

Keywords: *revenge, body, otherness, adaptation*

In 19th-century Hungarian literature, the themes of revenge, the body, and otherness intersect at particularly sensitive points with the functioning of different media. A novel and its dramatic adaptation clearly demonstrate how the same story transforms under different poetic and medial conditions. The novel employs a complex narrative structure with significant psychological depth, while the drama presents the plot in a condensed, visual, and performative form. In the novel, identity is shaped through narrative mediation, whereas in the drama the visibility of the body becomes the primary carrier of meaning. Accordingly, racial otherness appears as an internal experience in the novel and as a visual marker in the drama. Medial differences fundamentally shape the production of meaning, as a result of which ethical questions are also reconfigured.

Tímea Ildikó Kosztándi

“I thought you got full with smell.” The Embeddedness of Humour in Conversational Structures

Keywords: *humour, embeddedness in conversational structures, interactional humour, conversational humour, interactional talking point, conversational talking point, punch pass*

The following publication examines when and in what context humorous verbal manifestations appear in everyday conversations in a settlement's social event in Szekler Land. The paper searches the answer to what influences the humorous verbal manifestations' origin, as well as whether there are certain topics which trigger humorous remarks. Furthermore, the research also aims to examine in what way these humorous verbal manifestations happen, and how they are embedded in conversational structures. It seeks any possible regularities in using an unusual humorous visual element, and which factors are related to this phenomenon.

In the first part of the publication I will present the theories about verbal humour which were used in the analysis, later on I will display the characteristics of the field-work, formulating the hypothesis and analysing the collected data in view of the hypothesis. As the last element of the publication the conclusion and further assessments (ideas) will be formulated.

Magda J. Kovács

Trends in Given Name Choice in the Swedish, Hungarian, and Romanian Name Systems

Keywords: *naming law, most popular first names, most frequent first names, new and unusual names, registrable given names, traditional national first names, normative first name lists*

The primary objective of the study is to provide a comparative analysis of given-name selection practices in 2024 in three countries – Sweden, Hungary, and Romania – and to examine the legal framework governing naming practices in each country. An analysis of the one hundred most popular given names in Sweden and Hungary reveals that 76% of Swedish names are also included among the names recommended for official registration in Hungary. In addition to the most popular names, the author also considers the most frequently occurring names, demonstrating that

the Swedish, Hungarian, and Romanian naming systems exhibit significant similarities, as the majority of individuals bear national and traditional names. The expansion of the given-name inventory and the preference for unique and distinctive names continue to represent a strong social demand. Nevertheless, despite their originality and novelty, such names have not yet become widespread.

Zsuzsa László

“The four impressions... form a curious composite photograph” – The Correspondence of Mészöly, Polcz, Nemes Nagy, and Lengyel

Keywords: *Miklós Mészöly, Elaine Polcz, Ágnes Nemes Nagy, Balázs Lengyel, correspondence, microhistory, collaborative authorship, epistolary practices, literary networks, writing and travel*

This study examines the correspondence exchanged between Miklós Mészöly, Elaine Polcz, Ágnes Nemes Nagy, and Balázs Lengyel between 1955 and 1997 from a microhistorical perspective. Through the analysis of the letters, I argue that the relationships within this literary circle and their collaborative creative practices were far more complex than the hierarchical interpretations traditionally associated with the Mészöly–Polcz partnership. Paratextual elements, instances of speaking on one another's behalf, epistolary habits, and the close connection between writing and travel reveal a model of collaboration in which roles are constantly negotiated and shared. The correspondence provides insight not only into creative processes but also into the functioning of intellectual networks, the representation of everyday experience, and the dynamics of gender roles in the second half of the twentieth century. The study demonstrates that writing, observation, the collection of experience, and travel should be understood as equally valuable and mutually reinforcing forms of creative work rather than as activities arranged in a hierarchy. In this way, the correspondence offers a new perspective on the Mészöly–Polcz collaboration while situating it within the broader literary and cultural context of the period.