

## ABSTRACTS

### Gabriella Eőry: Szeged Lives in the Nineteenth-Century. The Analysis of Intergenerational Mobility Using a Historical Database

Based on Gusztáv Haberman's *Database for the History of Szeged Burgher Families*, the study examines the intergenerational mobility of a specific segment of urban society under scrutiny. The core of the study is based on detecting the mobility (or propensity for mobility) in the individuals' profession as compared to that of their fathers. At the same time, tendencies of immobility and of the intergenerational transmission of professions are also examined, which were typical primarily among the sons of independent fathers, especially craftsmen and tradespeople. The study concludes that from the early nineteenth century onwards carrying on the father's trade was becoming a less commonly used parental strategy in Szeged. Parallel to this, the intergenerational mobility of professions was on the rise. White collar workers, especially lawyers, displayed the highest degree of professional mobility. The data show that the path of mobility for sons of independent fathers often led them towards white collar professions and there were no significant discrepancies between subsequent generations in this respect. The analysis of siblings' careers indicates that the family strategy of the oldest son inheriting the father's trade, often considered traditional, was not the only option in this segment of Szeged society. The case studies show that the families had a more nuanced approach to choosing their children's future profession, which probably took the skills and ability of the individual into consideration.

In the examined period, the widest path of mobility in Szeged led from physical labour to intellectual work. The findings suggest that the shift from independent worker to employee was the prevailing intergenerational mobility trend in Szeged already before the second half of the nineteenth century. The intensity of mobility, however, was undoubtedly increasing with the progress of time, while the more traditional approach to intergenerational transfer of profession, a strategy prioritising continuity, lost ground and was largely replaced by processes of professional mobility which transgressed the boundaries of the estate system.

*Keywords:* Szeged, profession, intergenerational mobility, intergenerational transmission of profession, family strategies

## András Forgó: Social Mobility in the Catholic Hierarchy: Diocesan Bishops' Appointments 1686–1799

The study presents the composition of the body of Roman Catholic diocesan bishops based on royal appointments between 1686 and 1799. The main angles of the research are social status, education, monastic affiliation, geographical origin, transfers and accumulating benefices, and appointment to cardinalship. The study seeks to resolve the contradiction between two prevalent statements in historical scholarship, which upholds both that the ecclesiastic estate was traditionally an important sphere for social mobility, and that the episcopal body in eighteenth-century Hungary was a closed circle, with a membership based on status and political reliability.

*Keywords:* bishop, ecclesiastic society, right of patronage, Trident Reforms, clerical education

## András Keszei: Merit and Upward Mobility in the System of Estates

Both the self-evident acknowledgment of hierarchies and the human ambition to move up in the ranks of society seem to be part of our ancient heritage. Accepting one's superiors does not necessarily preclude attempts to climb the social ladder. However, this takes place in a social environment where rational considerations are only part of the overall strategy, as it can be seen in the interpretation of and responses to top-down designations; at the same time, behaviour is governed by habitus, which, in certain situations, causes cultural inertia or inflexibility in some groups. This inertia is not interminable, it can be changed by learning processes even in the course of a single individual's lifetime. Upward mobility, however, is not wholly hinged on individual performance, but also on its context. The diverse social domains — including their institutions, the power positions within and between them, and the advancement opportunities achievable through the types of capital owned by the individual — constitute fields in which progress is only possible by exerting effort, similar to spaces familiar from everyday experience. As examples from the last decades of the Estate System clearly show, the synergy of social background, habitus, personal qualities, and external factors together can lead to both upwards or downwards mobility in the social hierarchy.

*Keywords:* social mobility, social hierarchy, habitus, capacity, self-image

## Gábor Koloh: The Diverse Social Mobility of Protestant Clergymen and Teachers in Felsőbaranya Diocese in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century

The study examines the life stories of 106 pastors and teachers based on autobiographies by individuals working in the Felsőbaranya Protestant Diocese (Baranya County) for various lengths of time. Focusing on the career-shaping breaking points and the individuals' responses to these, the analysis reveals that most of these people wished to graduate as clergymen; the teaching degree integrated into their training was a primary goal only for the offspring of peasant parents. While families of clergymen aimed to safeguard their social status, for teachers and urbanites it was an opportunity for advancement in life. Since in many cases this goal was not attained, it is justifiable to suggest that the relationship between clergymen and teachers was not without tension, which was further aggravated by the increasing burdens associated with teaching. In the period under scrutiny here, both pastors and teachers served far away from their birthplaces, which made both their integration into local communities and their influence on their spiritual life very difficult. At the same time, this change explains why moral teachings and their long-suffering earthly representatives had such little effect on deep-rooted and complex problems of local societies.

*Keywords:* social mobility, resilience, ecclesiastic history, birth control

## Ágoston Nagy: Insurrection and Social Mobility in Hungary in the Age of the Napoleonic Wars

In addition to the common soldiers conscripted or recruited from the peasantry, as well as the NCOs and officers of the regular army, the four noble levies (*generalis exercitus*) during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars engaged a large number of the nobility, i.e. the members of the Hungarian political nation, in military service. The noble levy of 1809 was unusual because the 1808 law mandated the personal involvement of the nobility, which substantiated the estate system and, within that, the national character of the institution of the levy. The actual deployment of the troops mobilised in this way, however, took place for the first and the last time in the fifth coalition war in 1809. Revisiting Zoltán Tóth's concept of estate norms, the present study uses the example of Veszprém County to demonstrate how personal participation in armed service and subsequent military merits during a noble levy could become the means of social mobility for both the nobility and those below the estate line. The examination of the election of the officers in Veszprém County is followed by that of various forms of rewards after the war, including the renewal of officers in 1810. The sources reveal that after the war both the lord lieutenant of the county and the

wider public strove to reward servicemen for their personal military service on a sliding scale based on their position in the estate system and their local prestige.

*Keywords:* noble levy, social mobility, 1809, Napoleonic wars, Veszprém County, military distinctions

## István H. Németh: Permeability in the Society of the Estate System: Burghers and Nobles at the Helm of Cities

One of the characteristics of early modern society is that the categories of the estate system were more permeable than those in the late Middle Ages. The medieval urban network was transformed after the Ottoman conquests, and some of the former trading centres (Kassa/Košice, Nagyszombat/Trnava, Pozsony/Bra-tislava, and Győr) took the place of the captured cities of Buda, Pest, and Szeged. The country-wide military operations also brought about a significant movement of population: the inhabitants formerly living in Ottoman-conquered cities fled to new urban centers and the predominance of German burghers was diluted with Hungarians and noblemen. Cities began to allow newly established military and administrative headquarters to settle within their walls, and while the nobles working in administration became accustomed to the urban setting, the local burghers found new career opportunities in these offices. Burghers in administration became the first representatives of the *Bildungsbürgertum* educated in Western Europe, primarily in German-speaking territories, and their state employment provided opportunities to prove themselves and attain nobility. Enacted in the last decades of the seventeenth century, the state's new urban policy placed leadership in the hands of new, educated, Catholic employees who were well versed in public administration and economy and were partially legitimized by the state. This new elite was closely affiliated with state administration and was soon largely comprised of civil servants rather than elected representatives. Made up of both noble-born civil servants and newly ennobled burghers, this municipal elite of a rather heterogeneous estate identity soon emerged as a new stratum of society.

*Keywords:* professionalization, urban history, Habsburg Monarchy, *Bildungsbürgertum*, urban nobility

## Csaba Sasfi: The Role of the Secondary School of Győr in the Hungarian Reform Era in the Social Mobility of the Town's Inhabitants

The city of Győr was pioneering in both the process of embourgeoisement and the subsequent bourgeois revolution in Hungary. The present study examines the role of the long-standing secondary school in the life of the town, which, in this respect, was progressive in the Reform Era. The overarching theme for the present inquiry is the significance of post-elementary education (or “higher education” to use the contemporary term) in upward social mobility in the latter years of the Estate System. Previous research has shown that the secondary school in Győr was predominantly used by local families. The present study examines the social composition of the local urban student cohorts. The sons of Győr burghers comprise one third of the whole student body, and two thirds of the local cohort. The social composition by grade shows that the number of burghers' children decreases in higher grades, but it remains one third of all students, and firmly over half of all local students even in the two highest grades in the humanities. Narrowing the scope, the study focuses on the top students who reached the graduating class (second grade in the humanities) without repetition of academic years, and went on to graduate successfully. The case of the top student of Győr revealed that the urban bourgeoisie was not only present in the lower grades of the school, but a significant portion of them completed their secondary education and continued their studies in higher education. In addition, the study also shows that the Benedictine secondary school in Győr fostered the prevalence of Hungarian language use among the educated bourgeoisie, to an equal extent as the Piarists in Pest. Finally, it is observed that only a relatively small portion of the top students continued to live in Győr, which is explained by the upward social mobility attained by their continuing education.

*Keywords:* secondary education, bourgeoisie in secondary school, social mobility, urban estates, educated social stratum

## Richárd Sebők: The Prosopographic Analysis of Gentry-born Lord-Lieutenants Attending National Assemblies between 1790 and 1848

The study deploys the methodology of prosopography to examine gentry-born lord-lieutenants (the *ispáns*) attending national assemblies between 1790 and 1848. This subject is particularly noteworthy because in the latter years of the Estate System gentry-born individuals began to hold fiduciary positions in the state administration which had formerly been filled by members of the aristocracy only. The emergence of the gentry among the lord-lieutenants of counties indicates the increasingly important role of gentry-born administrators, some

loss of ground by the aristocracy, as well as the transformation of power politics in Vienna.

The period between 1790 and 1848 can be divided according to the national assemblies into two shorter sub-periods, 1790–1812 and 1825–1848, and the attending lord-lieutenants were examined in two distinct groups, with a special emphasis on their family ties and careers in administration. As it emerged, while in the first period state-level positions were attained by those gentry-born lord-lieutenants who had acquired experience across a number of government offices, in the second period, the importance of county-level administration increased against that of previous governmental positions held: higher ranking officials of county administration (the vice-ispán and the notary) remained in their county and aspired for the administrative position of deputy lord-lieutenant and, ultimately, of lord-lieutenant. A closer examination of the family ties of gentry-born lords lieutenant revealed the eminence of a Protestant clan of Nógrád County officials who were able to hold on to positions across generations, as well as at least two groups of related Catholic officials, who maintained and strengthened their social and official status through marriages.

*Keywords:* lord lieutenant, gentry, prosopography, kinship, officials

### Tamás Szemethy: The Rise of Ferenc Gyulay de Gyula. A Microhistorical Analysis on the Social Mobility of the New Elite in the Eighteenth Century

Out of the ninety-one gentry who was granted nobility between 1711 and 1799, Ferenc Gyulay was the only one who became a count, and thus, a member of a more exclusive echelon of Hungarian aristocracy. It took two rounds of promotion, both taking place during the reign of Charles III. Gyulay's rise is an interesting subject for various reasons. On the one hand, although the family was not one of the better known noble kindreds, it brought up one of the most successful accumulators of wealth in the era. On the other hand, in addition to the traditional genealogical works, the level of detail in the available sources allow microhistorical methods to draw a precise picture about Ferenc's extraordinary career from unknown Komárom gentry to lord lieutenant of Ung County, and becoming the tenant of the Ung chamber estate after acquiring a number of other estates. Exploiting an exceptionally detailed source base, this study aims to present a case which probably models many other similar career trajectories in the period. As such, it helps understand how ambitious lower-ranking county nobility could propel into the elite circles of the estate system in eighteenth-century Hungary.

*Keywords:* rising in rank, microhistory, new aristocracy

Árpád Tóth: Courses of Adaptation in the Society  
of the Late Estate System: The Mobility Skills and Practices  
of the German Lutheran Bourgeoisie

The article applies the sociological term *social mobility* to German Lutheran burghers, a small, yet characteristic social group in Hungary, in the last decades of the early modern period (1750–1850). Since an individual's social status in the broader sense encompasses various aspects of cultural identity, the concept of social mobility should take into account the changing of legal status (nobilitation, obtaining burgher privileges), local/regional identity (migration within the urban network), shifting occupation systems, schooling patterns, and the decreasing commitment to the community's cultural boundaries as German and as Lutheran (assimilation in the age of the Enlightenment and the rise of modern nations). The study presents a number of cases of German Lutheran families successfully adapting to the changing social and economic environment.”

*Keywords:* estates, the society of the late estate system, bourgeoisie, assimilation, cultural identity