

ABSTRACTS

János Bali

■ ***NGOs in Rural Space: The Case of the Nógrád Sunflower Association***

Keywords: *NGOs, rural space, Sunflower Association*

This case study focuses on the interpretation of the activities of the Nógrád Sunflower Association, a non-governmental organization founded and maintained in Northern Hungary by a population of mainly retired people. The analysis employs, in particular, the results of the social science discourse of capital theories. The success of the Association was primarily due to its ability to accurately assess and formulate the goals of the organization and its members. They were able to contribute to the creation and enhancement of a sense of community identity and belonging. Substantial community leisure activities were organized. All this was accomplished by reinterpreting and reevaluating the social role of the elderly on the periphery of society. They successfully expanded the various types of capital (symbolic, social, economic and cultural) and converted well from one to the other. The background to this was the precise knowledge of the spirit of the times. In a broader sense, the paper also aims to provide an example of the new thematic and methodological challenges that contemporary field research may face in exploring rural societies.

Karola Dani

■ ***What Does It Mean Today to Be a Single Man in a Rural Environment?***

Keywords: *unmarried men, single, alternative family models, relationship*

The paper covers the basics of being single, from the perspective of males with a rural background, trying to identify the main social character traits and lifestyle choices that lead to remaining single. We more often associate the concept of single people with aspects of careerism, freedom, self-ful-

fillment, individual aspirations and an urban lifestyle, rather than with the isolation, and in some cases, stigmatization of individuals from rural places. The relevancy of this study is backed by the depopulation of the rural environment, which is strictly linked to the problem of high numbers of singles in these areas. To answer these questions and to offer a better overview of the topic, the author conducted interviews with ten single men from a village in Cluj/Kolozs county, choosing the subjects of the interview with snowball sampling.

Csanád Demeter

■ ***Hungarian Irredentism in Romanian Gendarmerie Reports (1945)***

Keywords: *Hungarian irredentism, gendarmerie reports, Székely Land*

The documents from the period between 1945-1949 of the Romanian gendarmerie are accessible to researchers at the Harghita/Hargita branch of the Romanian National Archives, containing various observations and reports on the population. These documents offer the possibility to gain insights into the way in which the gendarmerie saw Odorhei/Udvarhely County in the post-war years. One of the most interesting collection of documents consists in the secret reports on the irredentism of the local Hungarian population, documenting every activity and manifestation that could be interpreted as a potential threat to the Romanian state.

József Gagyí

■ ***Expropriation and Entrenchment***

Keywords: *agriculture, arable land, expropriation, entrenchment*

In the olden days, people used to take shortcuts on the arable land, thus threading new, expropriated pathways. As a countermeasure, the owners dug trenches across the land. The author examines the phenomenon in three different environments (the collectivist

village, the village based on private land ownership and private enterprise, and the village near the city), searching for the constant and the changing elements of the phenomenon.

Iulia-Elena Hossu

■ **“Are We Still a Family?” The Perspective from Romanian Transnational Families**

Keywords: *transnational families, kinship, family practices, Romanian society, “diffuse” family*

In 2015 the Romanian anthropologist Vintilă Mihăilescu wrote about the practice of migration in the case of the Romanian society, showing how it is ultimately deeply rooted, before 1989, in the communist period. Under the pressure of internal migration from villages to cities, the traditional Romanian family suffered a major structural transformation. According to the Romanian anthropologist, the diffuse family – household, as he calls it, seems to be “the grandmother” of the transnational family. The current practices of transnational families were formed based on these roots, of the “diffuse” family. Starting from the idea of Mihăilescu, the aim of this article is to investigate the main (re)structures of the kinship practices in the Romanian society under the impact of external migration after 1989. One of the findings of the study shows that in the Romanian traditional society, preserving kinship cohesion meant a series of obligations and liabilities that were often transmitted from one generation to another without being questioned. The members of transnational families have absorbed these traditional structures, weaving over new formulas to adapt family practices to the specificity of transnational living, reformulating at the same time the traditional rules of kinship and adapting them to the new way of living. The study is based on materials derived from a qualitative research in five communities – three in Romania and two abroad.

Boldizsár Megyesi

■ **The Debate on Embourgeoisement – 30 Years After: The Social Background of the Owners of Current Agricultural Holdings**

Keywords: *peasant embourgeoisement, household agriculture, agrarian economy, regime change, embourgeoisement*

This paper analyses the application of the theories of the eighties on embourgeoisement in rural Hungary on the changes of the last thirty years of the Hungarian agriculture. A well-defined part of the debate on embourgeoisement discussed the role of agricultural production in the second-economy and its impact on the future development of the socialist agriculture. The author discusses the writings of István Márkus, Pál Juhász, Imre Kovách and Iván Szelényi and compares them with the findings of two recent researches on Hungarian agriculture. Based on qualitative and quantitative data, the analysis shows the curriculum of the farmers and the history of the farms, focusing on their experiences in agriculture before the regime change. The farm structure evolved after 2010 is slightly different from the one anticipated by the theories of the eighties: the biggest farmers have an entrepreneurial spirit, but no farming traditions.

Levente Szilágyi

■ **„This is Our Bank”: The Agricultural Cooperatives and Their Functions Today in Two Villages in the Szatmár/Satu Mare Region**

Keywords: *rurality, Szatmár/Satu Mare, decollectivization, agricultural associations, Swabians*

The paper analyses the history of two agricultural cooperatives in the Szatmár/Satu Mare region, North-West Romania. The Hungarian ethnographers from Transylvania dealing with the Romanian postsocialist transformation of rural areas have hitherto focused on family farming. In their papers, cooperative forms of agriculture

appeared only as untapped opportunities or unsuccessful attempts. The purpose of this paper is to provide information about how cooperatives could survive until now – through the example of two villages. What are the factors that made this possible and how did they affect the economic and everyday life of the local society?

András Vajda

■ *The Transformation of Pig Slaughter Practices in Sáromberke/Dumbrăvioara (Mureş/Maros County)*

Keywords: *changing rurality, adaptation, pig slaughter*

This study presents a diachronic analysis of the practices of pig slaughter in Sáromberke/Dumbrăvioara (Mureş/Maros County) and the related traditions. The author seeks to identify the traditions associated with pig slaughter along with the economic and social causes that led to their transformations, while also paying attention to the wider context of these practices.

