

English abstracts

Balogh, Róbert

The Anthropocene Age as Crisis and the Histories of the Anthropocene as Syntheses

The paper addresses the relationship between the Anthropocene epoch and historiography. It highlights that while there is a need to develop a new historical perspective that goes beyond telling stories about humans, there is already a large body of knowledge on various subfields to build on during the process of reframing the narrative. The first section of the paper talks about the pros and cons of the various proposals related to the possible starting date of the epoch. The second section addresses the issue of naming the new epoch and argues that this debate is overrated and less consequential for research questions than the choice of the starting date. The third section makes the point that synthesizing the results from existing subfields should go hand in hand with shifting scales while describing events of epochal importance. The last part of the paper takes the example of the history of afforestation campaigns to shed light on the types of outcomes and conclusions that such research might reveal.

Baros-Gyimóthy, Eszter Márta

The Plague Epidemics of 1710 and 1739 and Their Impact in the Lutheran Registers of Csetnek

This study examines the changes in the behaviour of the Protestant residents of Csetnek after the plague epidemics of the early eighteenth century. In the first half of the eighteenth century, this region was stricken twice by plague epidemics: the first one in 1710 claimed quite a great number of lives in the congregation. After the crisis, in the spirit of penitence, the members of the community adjusted their marital habits to the orders of the church. This primarily manifested itself in the choice of the date of marriage: the survivors, typically widow(er)s, had their marriage solemnised at the beginning of the week, as preferred by the decisions of the synod. After the pandemic, the number of conceptions decreased considerably, to which the death of women of childbearing age, their temporary or permanent infertility, and the self-restraint performed in the spirit of purification also contributed. This penitent behaviour could be tracked in the registers only for a short time. Two years after the epidemic, the Sunday marriage ceremonies and dances following the old customs were resumed and became dominant again among the members of the community. However, the second plague pandemic that struck the community in 1739 – considered to be “a consequence of their sinful behaviour” – resulted in

radical changes in the marrying habits. The sources reveal that the determined attitude of György Ambrosius, the pastor and bishop of Csetnek, was also played an essential role in this transformation. After the second crisis in the early eighteenth century, claiming much fewer victims, the members of the congregation, urged by the bishop, had the most marriages solemnised on Tuesdays. This, then, became standard for the Lutheran congregation of Csetnek until the end of the century.

Heltai, Gyöngyi

Pandemics in the Theatre: Budapest – New York, 1918 – 2020

The theatre as an institution is prone to all types of crises. Among the possible causes, a pandemic is particularly threatening as – by blocking the simultaneous presence of the actors and the audience during the shows in one space – it endangers the operation of this art and/or commercial entertainment form. Referring to this specificity of the theatre as a medium of communication, the study focuses on the handling of the Spanish flu and the Covid-19 pandemics in professional Budapest and Broadway theatres. The comparison of the 1918 and 2020 practices can reveal diverse consequences that point to the different functions of theatre in the given society. Although the commercial theatre market in Budapest and New York had shown signs of parallel development in the early twentieth century, their operational models diverged after 1945. The paper focuses on the activity of theatrical labour organizations in 1918 and 2020. As the Covid-19 pandemic caused the longest ever forced-break in the operation of theatres, the unprecedented situation generated reform ideas (e.g., streaming) that can influence the aesthetics and self-image of the medium in the long term.

Juhász, Balázs

Italy and the Crisis Caused by the Flood of the Prisoners of War in November 1918

Although the Italian front was a secondary front in the First World War, it contributed to the military defeat of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. One of the best-known episodes was the capture of hundreds of thousands of Austro-Hungarian soldiers by the troops of the Entente. The number of prisoners of war captured on 3–4 November 1918 was much higher than the Italian administration could manage. Therefore, a humanitarian crisis was unavoidable in the makeshift prisoner camps. This study examines the handling of this crisis.

Kovács, Dóra

„Nothing is left in that land...” War and Crisis Management in the Upper Tisza Region in the Late Sixteenth Century

The last two decades of the sixteenth century took its toll on the war-torn counties of Szabolcs and Szatmár: famine, drought, plague, the Long Turkish War, frequent

pillaging by Hajduks, Cossacks, Tartars, and the people of Mihai Viteazu devastated the area. The ongoing armed conflict affected the population of the Upper Tisza Region, especially the villagers. In 1588, seeing the difficult situation of the people, the County Assembly of Szabolcs ordered the appointed officials to compile a census of the grievances suffered by the villagers. This list of injustices proved that the population suffered not only from the raids and pillaging of the Turks and Tatars but also from the looting of unpaid soldiers of the Hungarian border fortresses in the area. Supplying these castles (particularly the castle of Kálló) was a heavy burden on local noblemen and peasants under their rule. This paper examines the crisis in the Upper Tisza Region, its consequences, and the attempts made by the different levels of administration (landlords, the governments of the affected counties, the Kingdom of Hungary) to manage the crisis.

Lafferton, Sára

The Crisis of the Left or the Crisis of France? The Debate Between Pierre Nora and Jacques Derrida on the French–Algerian Conflict (1954–1962)

The French–Algerian conflict (1954–1962) was subject to various intellectual debates within the contemporary French milieu. To date, this question has had considerable literature, focusing predominantly on the most prominent figures of this intellectual scene, such as Sartre, Camus, Fanon, or Aron. This study wishes to contribute to this scientific discourse not only by focusing on further personalities – the young Pierre Nora and Jacques Derrida –, whose position on the “Algerian question” enjoys significantly less scholarly attention. It also wishes to highlight the role and impact of the “Algerian question” on the broader French political, intellectual, and philosophical context. By disentangling the conceptual stakes of the debate between Nora and Derrida, the study argues that the French–Algerian conflict exposed the crisis of various modern political concepts (such as “rationality,” “republic,” “nation,” or “revolution”), and, correspondingly, the crisis of the political tradition of the French Left as well as the republican heritage of the Dreyfusard intellectual.

Matolcsi, Réka

“Old Francis Joseph should be shot.” Cases of Lese-Majesty During the First World War

The First World War as a crisis provides a special interpretive framework for exploring the diverse and often competing loyalties parallelly present in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. The study examines verbal violence and its interconnections with political culture through cases of lese-majesty in 1914. These may point out such vital elements of political culture as loyalty to the king or the question of trust in power. The study explores how the economic and social crisis of the war transformed the image of Franz Joseph. By examining these cases, one may gain insight into political and social conflicts, personal disagreements, and dissatisfaction with the social and political system during the war.

Németh, Ágnes

Canalization in the Time of Cholera: The Impact of the Cholera Epidemic of 1872–73 on the Development of the Sewer Network in Budapest

The needs and problems that accompanied the urbanisation and the demographic explosion of the nineteenth century reached Pest, Buda, and Óbuda (which merged into the capital in 1873) in the second half of the century, similarly to other European cities. This paper examines how the cholera epidemics and the danger posed by cholera in the 1860s and 1870s had a direct impact on the idea of developing a conceptual general sewage network. Infrastructural improvements offered in response to these problems, in part by the sanitary movement, manifested in the development of water and sewage systems in Europe's major cities. In Budapest, the cholera epidemic of 1866 led to the decision to extend the water pipe system and to build new waterworks. Then, a few years later, in 1869, the first plan for a new sewage system was drawn up by Joseph Bazalgette. In the years that followed, the issue was regularly on the agenda, with further drafts and criticisms, and finally, at the turn of 1873 and 1874, the programme for a new sewage system was drawn up by Ferenc Reitter. During these years, several processes may have influenced the reform of the sewage system: the danger posed by the cholera epidemic, which had been constant since 1866, the related need for public health reform, the start of the process of Budapest becoming a capital in the 1870s, and the financial crash of 1873. Taking all of this into consideration, this paper examines whether the constant danger of a cholera epidemic and the cholera epidemic of 1872–73 can be considered explicit motives for improving the sewage system.

Szlama, Gabriella Zsófia

War Crisis and „Fashion Propaganda“: The Adhocracy and Representation of Women's Fashion in Hungary (1914–1918)

Changes in fashion have received increasing attention in the social sciences in the last few years. Examining the clothing of different ages can bring attention to the events of that era, but the opposite is also true: various past events have incited changes in fashion. One of the biggest events of the twentieth century was undeniably the First World War. The loss of people, the scarcity of raw materials, and general deprivation had an impact on the development of fashion. Therefore, the formative years of the World War are worth scrutinizing from the point of view of the history of fashion design as well. To provide a context, the first part of the paper focuses on the history of fashion in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and then turns its attention to the relations between war propaganda and fashion and their representations in the articles published in the daily press and magazines. Thereafter, the different fashion associations and their activities are discussed, as they played an important role by demanding the creation of a Hungarian industry and rejected the fashion of Paris and London. Finally, the

paper discusses the scarcity of raw materials, which led to the proposal of “new inventions” in fashion by the press, such as sandals made of sedge or dresses sewed of flour bags. By choosing the angle of the history of fashion, the paper examines the four years of the First World War from a less discussed perspective.