Abstracts

A Discussion About György Szabados

Bulcsu Bognár: „Let us State, Instead of Denying the Negation." A Discussion About György Szabados' Life Work. Part I.

The discussion interprets György Szabados' life work. The train of thoughts attempts to reconstruct the social philosophical concept of the well-known jazz and contemporary music composer. So a better understanding of Szabados' relationship to classic and contemporary music and his specific musical world – that is based on traditional folk music, Bartók and jazz – can occur. The discussion interprets Szabados' relationship to sacrality, to the Enlightenment and to Schönbergian atonality, and also gives an image about the sociology of East-central European art music. The interview deals with how Szabados' folkish engagement affects his world vision and music. Finally, the interpretation of the parlando-rubato nature of Szabados' music attempts to highlight how Szabados tried to grab the essence of the authentic being in his music.

The Kaleidoscope of Science
The Question of Objectivity in Contemporary Science Studies

Eszter Pál: Introduction: The Kaleidoscope of Science. The Question of Objectivity in Contemporary Science Studies

There is a certain ambiguity in the understanding of the nature of science. Arguments claiming its authority are frequent, ideas about its reliability, factuality, and so forth, are still held widely, while a strong skepsis about scientific achievements is also present. The introductory essay argues that science-production has never actually been congruent with the 19th-century understanding of science whose central notion was objectivity – an idea that still exists in different forms. The article addresses three aspects of objectivity explored by the following papers in more details: the unity of science, the impartiality of the practitioner,

and the expertise of the observer. The essay suggests that it is worth reflecting on different dimensions of science production, and that such a reflection will yield a picture of science far more interesting and exciting than that of 19th-century idealizations.

Gábor Zemplén: Towards an Epistemic Understanding of Prolonged Scientific Debates and Polarisation of Opinions

The essay focuses on controversies where the debated issues are complex, the exchange involves several participants, and extends over long periods. In some cases controversies lasted for several generations, and polarisation is a recurring trait of the exchanges. The reconstructions and evaluations of the partly (but not only) polemical exchanges also exhibit heterogeneity and polarisation. The protagonist presenting a bundle of claims (complex utterances) to a non-unified audience cannot fully control meaning-attribution of his utterances, and, given what we know about individual cognition, the more heterogeneous audience he succeeds in persuading, the less clear the meaning becomes. While advancement increases potential for action, the growth in consent comes together with a fuzzy content. To problematise the role of polarisation, the significance of this puzzling description with respect to knowledge-production is investigated from both an individual and a social epistemological standpoint to answer the question: How is rhetoric epistemic in cases when at least two views on a given issue are seen as persuasively supported by communities? If engaging in a controversy is a means-to-an-end activity aimed at persuasion, directed at achieving attitude-change in recipients, how does the argumentative goal of an individual translate to episteme in extended scientific controversies? I pick an early example of the Newtonian controversies to investigate the specific type of situation discussed.

Helen E. Longino: Theoretical Pluralism and the Scientific Study of Behavior

The author examines scientific studies of behavior. Researchers agree that there is a multiplicity of causal factors involved in behavior. This paper points out that since it is impossible to measure all of them simultaneously, research approaches must inevitably select from among these the ones they will measure. Each selection constitutes a different parsing of the causal universe, creating different effective sets of alternative causes. These support different research approaches, each able to answer a distinctive subset of the possible research questions one might have

Judit Gárdos: Sociological Explanation and the Horizon of Expectations of Sociologists. A Case Study about a Hungarian Research on Prejudice

In my case study I analyse a sociological article presenting the results of a research about prejudices against Roma. I study also some of the researchers' practices leading to the data underlying their article. One of the foci is how the social scientists formulate causal links and how they try to explain their findings. I synthesize four theses that are crucial of the explanational structure of the analysed article. The theses have explanatory function in the

text; I point out that explaning means lining up theses that are aimed to explain but that they are not objects of the research itself. One such thesis is the prejudiced nature of majority Hungarian society. This notion of society – among others – is what influences how research is done, how the questionnaire is constructed, how data are produced and interpreted and conclusions drawn. But we find no analyses based on the researchers' data about how they envision the social mechanisms resulting in those data.

Katalin Mund: Citizen Science

Most of our scientific knowledge originates from respected representatives of scientific research. We believe them because the scientific community, rigorous scientific education and strict methodology seem to guarantee their reliability. However, a new methodological trend has appeared in natural sciences in recent years referred to as "Citizen Science". It signifies scientific research that is altogether or in parts conducted by amateur or nonprofessional scientists. Citizen science is sometimes described as "public participation in scientific research". The first article evaluating the results of a research conducted with this methodolody appeared in Ethology in September 2015. Dog owners could register to participate in the research on the website "dognition.com". Half of the dog owners even paid for participating in the tests, so they not only supported the research by collecting data but also with money. In exchange they received an evaluation of the performance of their dogs. If dog owners can do the testing reliably, this opens new perspectives in ethological research. It poses great difficulties for scientists to find 20–30 dogs for laboratory testing, in contrast, participants in citizen science can test hundreds of animals from all over the world. But how reliable are the owners' results? How will this new method transform ethological research?

East European Studies in the United States

Iván Szelényi: The Rise and Fall of East European Studies in the United States

This paper offers a brief overview of the "golden age" of East European Studies in the United States 1970-1995. Before 1970 research in the US was driven by national security concerns, was practiced primarily by political refugees, their data often came from interviews with refugees, results tended to be descriptive and were rarely published by major presses and major journals. From the 1970s onwards East European Studies was gradually separated from Soviet Studies. Research projects were increasingly driven by theoretical consideration and based on field research. Such research attracted some of the most able graduate students and young faculty members in sociology, political science and anthropology. The paper praises the contributions of Ken Jowitt, Dan Chirot, Katherine Verdery, Gail Kligman, Roman Laba, David Ost and in particular Michael Burawoy and David Stark. Articles written by them appeared in the leading journals and their books were published by the best university presses. After 1995 research funding became scarcer and the intellectual excitement of earlier years also vanished.

Hungarian Startups and the New Spirit of Capitalism

Natasa Szabó: Hungarian Startups and the New Spirit of Capitalism. Moral and Economic Catching Up Strategies on the Semi-Periphery

This paper investigates how the *Bridge Budapest*, a CSR organization founded by leading Hungarian IT startups, attempts to shape the values of Hungarian society towards capitalism in general, and towards entrepreneurship in particular. In my paper I argue that the central aim of the organization is to facilitate Hungary's catching up with the core capitalist countries through the transformation of the attitudes and the ideologies surrounding capitalism in the Hungarian context, i.e. *the local spirit of capitalism*. This consists, on the one hand, of restoring the legitimation of some of the core institutions of capitalism, such as the enterprise and the entrepreneur, and of confronting the risk-taking, innovative and ethical figure of the entrepreneur hero with the provincial figure of the 'postcommunist cheater'. On the other hand, it also consists of propagating a new management of work that aims to produce self-controlling and self-motivating employees. In the narrative of Bridge Budapest IT companies appear as the perfect moral and economic subjects – the bearers of the new spirit of capitalism – that have the expertise to offer solutions to the problems of Hungarian society, and around which the local capitalism should be built.

Review

Gabriella Vadász: ICT, Youtouber, Media Usage. Review About a Thematic Issue of 'Information Society'

The review expounds the thematic issue 'Information Society 2015/2'., that deals with the media consumption and infocommunicational tool use of different generations. In their studies, József Hack-Handa and Róbert Pintér demonstrate the generational differences of media consumption, Gyöngyvér Tőkés explores the results of the qualitative data acquisition happened after EU Kids 2013 data collection, Rita Glózer and Ádám Guld make a wider context to the phenomenon of YouTube vloggers, Barbara Sólyom presents the results of the qualitative research dealing with the use of smart phones among the members of the younger generations, Márta Kőrisné Mikis highlights the edifications of a supplementary study group was established to make students more conscious in terms of internet usage, and finally, in the last study, Zita Merényi presents the museum pedagogy program that has been established to foster the dialogue between generations.