

Abstracts

Poverty

Iván Szelényi: Structural Mobility, the New Working Class, and the Ethnicity (as social construction)

I'm not either one of Kemény's followers or experts. This is why the aim of this paper is not to give a comprehensive view on Kemény's oeuvre but to highlight three research topics which made him a pioneer in this field not only in national but also international comparison. These three topics are the following: social mobility, the concept and theory of the new working class, and the research of gipsies, within this, the interpretation of ethnicity as social construction. These two latter fundamentally influenced my then and latter research so I give them more attention.

Cecília Kovai: Influence of István Kemény's Works on the Hungarian Sociological Gypsy-Research from an Anthropologist's Point of View

The paper examines the context of power and knowledge dominating cultural anthropology and domestic sociological Roma research from the perspective of the Hungarian Roma research in Cultural Anthropology. The main question of my paper is how these connections influence the questions and interpretation frames of the researches done in this field. The first part of my paper shows the relationship of power and knowledge in Cultural Anthropology, where the heritage of colonization is the most important factor. I focus primarily on the uneven relationships between researcher and informants, and the anthropological writing as a representation of the „Other”. These problems seem very important in the case of Hungarian Roma studies, too. The next section of my paper discusses Hungarian Roma studies in Sociology through Istvan Kemény's works that I consider paradigmatic in the field. The area of Roma studies in Hungarian Sociology typically focuses on the relations between power and knowledge, which offer a different politicization than that in Anthropology. The Roma studies of Kemény can be seen as a criticism towards the state socialist system. I claim that this kind of criticism towards the system has determined the perspectives, questions and frames of Roma studies in Sociology. My paper shows that due to these determinations, a lot of important problems have remained invisible for research in this field.

Vera Szabari: The Methodological Individualism as the Proper Form of the Keményian Cognition

The article will present István Kemény's research work, its theoretical roots, methodological characteristics and the unique character of his knowledge production, primarily in the context of his research on Hungarian Gypsies, carried out in the 1970s. The article consists of three closely related parts. The first chapter examines how Kemény's works present and apply the Weberian concepts of methodological individualism, objectivity and lifestyle. The second chapter analyses the relationship between Kemény's private and scientific career. The third part outlines the differences between Kemény's research work and mainstream Hungarian sociology in the 1960-70's.

Tünde Virág: The Gypsy Village as Phenomena and Interpretive Framework

The representative survey conducted by István Kemény in 1971 was complemented with fieldwork based on case studies. One of these case studies written by Gábor Havas (1976) has drawn attention to the phenomena of "Gypsy village" which defined the discourse and interpretation of social processes and the notion of Gypsy village in the rural peripheries for decades. In the first section of my paper I analyse those socio-economic processes in the rural peripheries reinforced by the territorial development policy and elimination of Roma colonies which led to the appearance of Gypsy settlements. In the '80s those families living in the Gypsy settlements were connected – even if very fragile – to the mainstream society through mainly the workplaces and educational institutions and the better-off Roma families had capability for residential mobility. Recently due to the socio-economic changes after the collapse of socialist regime the Gypsy villages became the places of racial exclusion. The racial exclusion and the territorial stigmatization are interlocked with the parallel institutions in education and public work employment maintained for the inhabitant of Gypsy settlement and reinforced by the appearance of racist discourses. The last session of the article is a case study conducted in a Gypsy village which highlights the effect of institutional developments in social changes and its impact on the local society.

András Mink: Beyond the Academia – István Kemény's Editorials on the Program of Radio Free Europe

Between 1980 and 1990, the Hungarian sociologist István Kemény read his editorials week by week on the Hungarian program of Radio Free Europe. These short texts provide us a good opportunity to reconstruct what he thought beyond the horizon of sociological scholarship about Hungary, the history of the 20. century history, and the historical chances and challenges of the epoch. From this vast amount of articles this essay concentrates on three topics that seem to be the most important to comprehend the history of the Hungarian regime change and the subsequent failure of the original program of transition: the problem of the revolution; the opposition of the partystate in Hungary; and the problem of free market capitalism.

In this article we investigate the relationship between poverty, poverty research, solidarity with poverty, and claims for representing poverty. Our argument is based on two perspectives – one coming from new developments in Roma research and Roma politics, the other one from discussions around the new contemporary wave of middle class activism. In both of these fields, there is a recent struggle around the position of the “spokesman”, organized around the stakes of authentic representation of oppressed groups. In this struggle, next to institutionalized representatives of expertise, new actors have claimed space for themselves in the representation of marginality and poverty, reaching out for the alternative tools of new media, socially engaged art, or civic/NGO activism. The two fields of Roma politics/Roma research and middle class activism intersect in the practice of this struggle, as the research and representation of poverty is always an issue entangled with the stakes of middle class researchers/spokesmen. It is this intersection where this article focusing on contemporary transformations refers back to the work of István Kemény.

Bálint Missetics: The Scandal of Poverty and the Politics of Sociology

Starting from István Kemény’s famous 1970 lecture on poverty delivered at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the essay investigates the relationship between poverty, sociology and power. The censorship on the public discourse on poverty, apparent in the political consequences of Kemény’s lecture, sheds light not only on the oppressive nature of the pre-1990 regime, but also on the increased sensitivity that an etatist political system with a distinctively egalitarian ideology has about the issue of poverty. Not only within the context of political oppression does the sociology of poverty take on political importance: by revealing the mechanisms through which poverty and inequalities are reproduced, sociology is inherently political, since the symbolic efficacy of these mechanisms rests on the concealment of their functioning and consequences. In a society in which the legitimacy of inequalities is based on the denial of sociological facts and regularities, sociologists are—or could be—natural allies to the victims of those inequalities.

Örs Lehel Tari: István Kemény’s Collection in the Vera & Donald Blinken Open Society Archives

The Vera & Donald Blinken Open Society Archives has acquired legacy documents of István Kemény (sociologist, 1925-2008) in 2015. The archival collection has been processed and made available for research last year. As the Blinken OSA collects material related to social and political history of the Cold War and human rights issues, including the situation of minorities, these documents have become a part of the holdings of the most adequate archival institute. The collection provides an insight into the scientific career and public appearances of István Kemény as being produced during the course of social scientific research projects led by him in the 60’s and 70’s, mostly about workers, behavior of managers, poverty and the situation of Roma, while another part of the corpus has been created during the emigration years in Paris,

between 1977 and 1990, when Kemény worked for Radio Free Europe. The collection also documents his work as the chief advisor to the Mayor of Budapest, after his return to Hungary. The collection complements and links together other collections of the archives, providing new possibilities for understanding social history of Hungary, the activities of the democratic opposition movement and the situation of emigrant intellectuals. The present study attempts to illustrate these connections between the Kemény and other collections by introducing holdings of the Blinken OSA Archives and endeavoring describe the Kemény collection.

Knowledge of Time: Concepts, Experience and Constraints

Gergely Csányi: Time, Desire, Power. Depth Psychology, Social Time, and Time-experience as Psychological Inequality in the Capitalist World-System

The aim of this paper is to demonstrate that within the capitalist world-system's multi-dimensional space of inequalities, besides the objective structural inequalities, such depth psychological and partly subconscious inequality dimensions are created through the subjectivation of objective structures, as the differences in time-experience. With the help of the meta-psychology of Freudian depth psychology, the sociology of knowledge, and world-systems theory, the paper shows that in different life situations, individual actors subjectivise different time constraints and time perceptions from very early childhood, and that these different time constraints and time perceptions conserve actors in particular place values of the capitalist world-system. Thus they act against mobility in an inter- as well as intragenerational sense.

Information Society and Computational Folkloristics

Emese Ilyefalvi: Theoretical, Methodological, and Technical Aspects of Digital Folklore Databases and Computational Folkloristics

The study examines the problems and possibilities in the digitisation of national folklore archives and collections in the wider context of digital humanities and the archiving strategies in folkloristics. The primary goal of the study is to present a problem-oriented and critical overview of the available digital databases containing folklore texts (WossiDiA, Sagra grunnur, ETKSpace, Danish Folklore Nexus, Nederlandse VolksverhalenBank, The Schools' Collection etc.), and of the analyses conducted on these, using computational methods. After a concise historical introduction of European folklore archives, the study first presents the historical reasons behind the concepts of folklore databases' contents (genre-centred; collector, and collection-centred approach), followed by the practical, technical, and theoretical aspects of digital content creation (crowdsourcing, markup languages, TEI, digital critical editions etc.). The study then takes a look at the new digital tools and methods applied in the analysis of digitised folklore texts (text-mining, network theory methods, data visualisation), and finally sums up the theoretical foundations of databases and computational folkloristics.