

# Abstracts

## **Body, Mind, Society. The Doctor-Patient Relationship from a Social Science Perspective**

*Eszter Pál: The Rebellion of the Sick: Doctors, Patients, Societies*

Numerous traditionally defined social roles have undergone changes during the past couple of decades in late modern society. The complementary concepts of 'doctor' and 'patient' are ones to have become blurred and somewhat controversial. In this introductory text, I address a few questions related to the changing terminology and expectations in different fields of the health system, while emphasizing the social and cultural embeddedness of the problem. The purpose of this paper is to introduce the historical and sociological articles to follow that situate the issue in different contexts and explore various aspects of the doctor-patient relationship.

*Katalin Simon: The Doctor-Patient Relation in Hungary before Modernization (from the 16th to the 19th Century)*

Although the relationship between the doctor and his patient is of primary importance in regard of the healing process, in historical context it became a relevant issue in medical historical researches just a few decades ago. As after medical achievements, illustrious doctors, then famous patients, finally patients in general became a relevant topic, so new sources also had to be examined in the research processes. The study briefly presents the international historiography of the issue, then analyzes the main changes of the doctor-patient relationship from the 16th to the 19th centuries in Hungary, based on different kinds of sources.

*Eszter Pál: No More Pain: Alternative Methods of Anaesthesia in 1840s Britain and Hungary. A Sociological Analysis*

The article explores a unique chapter of medical history from a comparative angle. It focuses on the first forms of surgical anaesthesia: the writing discusses the so-called magnetic

(or mesmeric) and narcotic pain relief methods in Great Britain and Hungary. The overview describes the circumstances of the emergence and diffusion of these two medical innovations in the two countries. The analysis is sociological, that is, it emphasizes social aspects in the historical overview. Hence, the article argues for a broader sociological horizon in the history of science studies.

*Melinda Kovai: How We Treat Ourselves – What the History of Psychology is Good for. Group-psychology in Hungary, 1945–1986*

This paper explores the way the context of psychology changed after 1945, during the decades of state-socialism, and how the discipline shaped the Hungarian psychotherapeutic field of the time. It also discusses the intellectual habitus of psychologists, including their visions on the aims and meanings of psychology. My analysis concentrates primarily on group psychotherapy. I made this choice because during the 1960s, group techniques imported from the West vastly contributed to the formation of the Hungarian professional field, and therefore, during this process, were adapted to its needs. Furthermore, the group psychotherapy of the 1960s offers us a lens to the process in which the psychotherapeutic field and therapeutic techniques mutually formed each other in a given social context, and it also exemplifies the fate of an imported technology in state-socialist Hungary which was originally developed according to the needs of Western societies.

*Eszter Nádasdy: Doctor-Patient Relationships in American Hospital Dramas*

As a television genre, hospital drama has been popular since the 1950's, and it has evoked a considerable media and academic interest since then. The paper overviews the general characteristics of these series and the main directions their academic studies have taken. By focusing on the characteristics of doctor-patient relationships, the article then provides a content analysis of *Grey's Anatomy*; the popular ABC-produced American prime-time hospital series that currently has thirteen complete seasons. This series focuses on surgical cases. The protagonists represent various surgical fields and occupy different professional positions in the hospital hierarchy. Patients of the presented fictional hospital can be categorised in several ways – these categories will be introduced in this study. The analysis also focuses on physicians' efforts to save the lives of their patients. As it seems, these television doctors are willing to cross boundaries if at stake is the patient's life. They are ready to overcome legal-ethical, scientific and economic barriers; and, in some cases, doctors and patients develop intimate emotional relationships. All these points are illustrated by story-lines, characters and scenes from the series, and their messages and potential effects on the audience are also analysed.

*Charlotte Baarts and Inge Kryger Pedersen: Derivative benefits: exploring the body through complementary and alternative medicine*

Since the 1960s, in Western societies, there has been a striking growth of consumer interest in complementary or alternative medicine (CAM). In order to make this increased

popularity intelligible this paper challenges stereotypical images of users' motives and the results of clinical studies of CAM by exploring bodily experiences of acupuncture, reflexology treatments, and mindfulness training. The study draws on 138 in-depth interviews with 46 clients, client diaries and observations of 92 clinical treatments in order to identify bodily experiences of health and care: experiences that are contested between forces of mastery, control and resistance. We discuss why clients continue to use CAM even when the treatments do not help or even after they have been relieved of their physiological or mental problems. The encounter between the client and CAM produces derivative benefits such as a fresh and sustained sense of bodily responsibility that induces new health practices.

## Changing Szeklerland

*Ágnes Patakfalvy-Czirják and Csaba Zahorán: Changing Szeklerland*

The first paper serves as a theoretical and social introduction to the thematic block on Szeklerland. During the last decades Szeklerland became the authentic territorial representation for the “real” Hungarian ethnicity, on the other hand became the scene of symbolical conflicts in the Hungarian–Romanian relations. Although Szeklerland's borderland-character was evident already in the period of historical Hungary, it is forming – through the cultural differences – the region's identity as well. The articles are shading these processes in different case studies.

*Gábor Egyri: Encounters in the Jungle. Ethnicity and Identity in Szeklerland, 1918–1940*

The article analyses practices of identification in everyday contexts in interwar Szeklerland. While the region was symbolically close to Hungary and Szeklers were perceived as the most authentic Hungarians, in practice distance dominated relations, due to backwardness and geography. For Greater Romania Szeklers were the archetypal other, but the state aimed to eliminate this distance through extreme nationalizing measures. However, Szekler-Romanian differences were manifested as Hungarian-Romanian divisions.

Behind this powerful discursive and political differentiation everyday practices and interactions revealed mostly contingency and situationality of ethnicity. The article, borrowing from the concepts of identification, everyday ethnicity, and using the typologies of Rogers Brubaker et al. and Jon Fox and Cynthia Miller-Idriss, shows how individual understandings of Hungarianness and Romanianness were connected to certain social milieus, how it brought to light the complexity of a nationalizing state, and how practices associated with ethnicity were used to delineate groups within one's own nations. In the rural world people and state agents had to deal with indifference and customs that were not ethnic for locals but were seen as such by external observers. Middle-class practices, on the other hand, were dominated by what was understood as expressions of Hungarian ethnicity, due to the ethnic and social composition of the region, but these were accepted as signifiers of social status and prestige by the few Romanians too. Thus, they could even express their difference from Old Kingdom Romanians.

*Ágnes Patakfalvi-Czirják and Csaba Zahorán: Borders of the Romanian Nation – Region and Identity in the Szeklerland and the Republic of Moldova*

In our study we examine the interactions between the current (post-1989) Romanian nation- and state-building politics and policies and the local, regional identity politics in the region of Szeklerland in Romania and in the Republic of Moldova. Through border-creation mechanisms and practices we try to grab the essence of these processes and the parallels and differences between them. Based on an anthropological fieldwork in the Republic of Moldova (in 2015) and the Szekler region (continuously) and on the comparative study of the historical contexts we try to understand some contradictions experienced in both regions: integration and differentiation, intervention and indifference, familiarity and strangeness. We focus on such issues as the local/regional identity-building and symbolical practices, nationalist discourses, relations of the minority groups with their kin states, nation-building policies of concerned countries through citizenship etc.

*Julianna Bodó and Zoltán Biró A.: Changing Role of the Practice of Using Symbolical Space*

Our study analyzes the symbolical space using practice in the period from the social-political turnaround of Romania in 1989 to the present in Szeklerland. Our aim is to present the trended changes in the symbolical space using practice in the public space since the regime change. The study is based on results of individual and group research programs conducted at WAC – Centre for Regional and Anthropological Research. These researches were conducted through anthropological, social-historical and sociological methods.

In the first part of the study, we briefly describe the characteristics of the period before 1989, which determined the symbolical place using practice after the Romanian social-political turnaround. Analyzing the results of the research programs, we determined three intervals from 1990 to the present. In the first interval, symbolical space using practice was dominated by rehabilitation processes. In the second interval, creating new symbolic spaces and events was more typical. In the last interval, new processes have emerged, such as integration and individualization. In addition to analyzing the changes, we also aim at presenting the social function of symbolical space using practice in different time intervals.

*Ágnes Patakfalvi-Czirják: Nationalist Subculture and Community-Building – The Hatvannégy Vármegye Ifjúsági Mozgalom in Transylvania*

The paper analyzes the structure of the Hatvannégy Vármegye Ifjúsági Mozgalom (HVIM), a radical right-wing youth subculture of the Hungarian minority in Romania and its position in the Romanian social and political field. On 1st December 2015, right before the Romanian national holiday, the main Romanian counter-terrorist agency has arrested the local head of the HVIM in Târgu-Secuiesc. After a few weeks the regional head of the network has been arrested as well. The locals interpreted these actions as an open abuse of power against the Hungarian minority from the part of the Romanian state, so they organized daily protests against the use and abuse of power and provocation in the entire area of Szeklerland. In the paper – based on an anthropological fieldwork – I show the everyday social and political practices between the Romanian authorities, the Hungarian parties from Transylvania

and the members of the radical right-wing organization, and the ways in which they are embedded in the local community, where the HVIM has a charitable and civic activity.

### **Essay about the Hungarians**

*Miklós Hadas: What is (a) Hungarian? Reloaded – After Seventy-Eight Years*

This essay, the genre of which is scientific prose, offers a historically embedded birds-eye-view-analysis about the long term transformation of Hungarian society. Following the process sociological approach of Norbert Elias, the author intends to reconstruct the main characteristics of the persistently recurring macro-structural institutions, habitus patterns, life strategies (social practices) and symbolic representations that condition the political climate and the everyday life from the Middle Ages to the 21th century. It is pointed out that the nobility and the peasantry are over-represented in Hungarian society, thus national identity and “national genius” are generally defined against the modernising efforts of enlightened absolutist rulers and urban middle classes of mainly foreign origin.

