

# Abstracts

## Replika 30

*Editorial. Introduction to the 30th Anniversary Issue of Replika*

**Abstract:** Founding editor, Professor Miklós Hadas and member of the current editorial board, Ádám Havas are delighted to present the 30th issue of Replika journal founded in 1990 amidst the turbulent period of the democratic transition in Hungary. The first thematic section of this “special” issue aims to represent the journal’s enduring self-reflexive academic *ars poetica* and its devotion towards disseminating top quality social science in Hungarian language.

*The Absolute Authority. Viktor Karády on Pierre Bourdieu. An Interview by Miklós Hadas*

**Abstract:** In this interview, Viktor Karády, who was member of the Centre de sociologie européenne in Paris for almost forty years from early 1965, recalls his personal memories of Pierre Bourdieu. His account provides a nuanced picture of the professional qualities of the “young genius”, the workshop of editing the *Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales* – a scholarly journal founded in 1975 by Bourdieu in which Karády became the second most published author after the 1980s. The interview contains subtle descriptions of the internal dynamics of the Centre’s life and the complex personality– sometimes with paranoid inclinations – of Pierre Bourdieu. Since Karády was editor of the *Revue française de sociologie* for more than a decade and initially also close to Raymond Aron, his narrative not only tells of the conflict-laden relationship between Bourdieu and Aron, but also gives hints of how representatives of other workshops in French sociology saw the activity of the Bourdieu school. The interview was conducted by Miklós Hadas.

**Keywords:** Pierre Bourdieu, Viktor Karady, Raymond Aron, Centre de sociologie européenne, French sociology

**Abstract:** Even if we do not agree with the ongoing marketization and quantitative measurement of research performance, we cannot ignore scientometrics when evaluating scholarly journals. In the present paper, I offer a brief scientometric analysis of Replika on the occasion of its 30th birthday, and present the results in a critical and interpretative framework. The analysis shows that we should interpret scientometric data in the narrower and broader context of the research subject, since no quantitative measurements can be meaningfully interpreted in a hypothetical social vacuum. The results of the analysis show that Replika ranks high in the league of the leading Hungarian social science journals in terms of all the calculated scientometric indicators, and it performs particularly well in terms of the number of citations per article and the share of cited articles.

**Keywords:** Scientometrics, journal assessment, prestige indicators

*Pierre Bourdieu: Sketch for a Self-Analysis (excerpt)*

**Abstract:** Pierre Bourdieu's *Sketch for a Self-Analysis* recounts and analyses the most significant and successive landmarks of his life on the road towards becoming probably the most important and powerful sociologist of the last third of the 20th century. In this essay, published posthumously, Bourdieu also seeks to tackle or anticipate the oftentimes reductionist critical assessments of his work. As the motto of the book states: "this is not an autobiography", which further stresses his efforts to oppose rigorous sociological self-reflection to what a narcissistic autobiography would look like.

**Keywords:** Pierre Bourdieu, self-analysis, reflexive sociology, epistemology

## Western Exposure / Self-Othering

*József Böröcz: Goodness Is Elsewhere: The Rule of European Difference*

**Abstract:** Reflecting on European colonialism in 1950, a time when discussions about what we now know as the European Union emerged in western Europe, Aimé Césaire wrote: (...) "Europe is morally, spiritually indefensible." This idea is fairly commonplace in much of the post-colonial world and it has some purchase within certain academic and intellectual circles elsewhere. And yet, in the process of denouncing the widely noted presence of racism in Hungary, thirty-six leading Hungarian intellectuals have, in an open letter published in 2001, felt compelled to thank France, and through France, a generic, trans-historical notion of Europe, for what they saw as the latter's profound, *longue-durée* goodness. It is partly my concern for the economic hardship, political marginality, cultural discrimination, and social exclusion faced by the Romanies of eastern (sic!) Europe and partly the precision with which the Letter articulates the topos of west European moral superiority – a central pattern of European identity discourse – that prompts me to raise the following initial questions:

How is it possible to denounce racism by referring to Europe, especially western Europe, the main historic source and promoter of racism as we know it today? What purpose does the genre of the open letter serve and how does it function? How does the signatories' implicit project of geopolitical self-positioning relate to the theme of the West as an object to be emulated, long dominant in the modern history of east-central European ideas of emancipation?

**Keywords:** European Union, Hungary, European difference, moral geopolitics, identity

*Attila Melegh: In the Traps of Hierarchies. Racist Interactions on the East/West Slope*

**Abstract:** The story of Roma in Zámoly, Hungary reveals several East–West exclusions: the Hungarian exclusion of Roma citizens; the Hungarian government's exclusion of liberals, the Eurocentrism of liberals and their Orientalist perspective on the Hungarian society, the British secret service and immigration officers' exclusion of Eastern European Roma, Eastern Europeans in general, communists, Jews and the Orientals as well as the French left's exclusion of East Europeans. And these pieces of seaweed add up to a meaningful story only in the form of a discursive web of the East–West slope. This discursive framework helps to bring biopolitical racism to life again and again and thus cannot be separated from the issue of Eastern European difference. This is a complex web, some kind of epistemological mud which sucks everything and everybody into itself. This text reveals the above interrelationships by analyzing the emerging discursive positions simultaneously and interactively.

**Keywords:** East/West slope, racism, nationalism, global hierarchiák, discourse

### Discussion in Relation to József Böröcz's Article *Informality Rules*

*Márton Czirfusz: Geography of Informal Relations and Informal Labour*

**Abstract:** This paper contributes to a recent debate in *Replika* about the significance of József Böröcz's paper "Kistérsadalom – kiskapuk" (Informality Rules), published originally in 2000 and republished in 2019 (for a related English writing see his 'Informality rules', also published in 2000). This article argues that the conceptualization of informality according to Böröcz sees informality not only as a social relation, but also as a geographical one which makes it relevant for geographical research. First, the paper offers an overview of Hungarian human geographical literature of the past 40 years and shows that the topic of informality as a multi-scalar relation is largely missing from the analysis of Hungarian society. Second, the article calls for new understandings of Hungarian geographical relations of past decades which take into account the decisive role informality plays in our society. Based on the perspective of the sociology of scientific knowledge, it is shown throughout the paper why informal relations and informal labour were not in the focus of Hungarian human geography in recent decades. Therefore, research questions for further scrutiny are asked, based on the conceptualization of Böröcz's original paper.

**Keywords:** informality, labour, scale, human geography, Hungary

**Abstract:** This paper seeks to contribute to the examination and critique of informality by recalling the mechanisms of social closure that are also present in capitalist class societies. Following the analyses of Max Weber, Frank Parkin and József Böröcz, it argues that it would be more appropriate to supplement the sociology of informality with an examination of contingent closure rather than merely informality itself. The main argument is that it is not informality that distorts excellence-based selection structures but illegitimate or illegal gain or exclusion; the source of the problem is not informality but the illegal or illegitimate use of it. Neither meritocracy nor credentialism would lead to a reassuring solution to the problem, as they reinforce the reproduction of social inequalities and class structure. The paper suggests the employment of the concept of informal social network resources instead of informal capital for further research.

**Keywords:** Social closure, contingent closure, informality, Stände, Weber, Parkin, Böröcz

Ágoston Fáber and Ádám Havas: *The Rise of Heteronomous Academia on the EU's Borderlands*

**Abstract:** The present essay is a response to József Böröcz's seminal article entitled *Informality Rules* published in *Replika* 20 years after its original appearance in *East European Politics and Societies*. More precisely, our work explores some ways informalities may corrupt and endanger the autonomous knowledge production in Hungary. We argue that in addition to the intertwining external forces of neoliberalism and illiberalism, academic autonomy in Hungary is also threatened by the selection processes governed by informal networks to the detriment of academic excellence. Furthermore, evidence is brought to illustrate that the systematic lack of reflection of official scholars on the internal hindrances of autonomous science serves to reproduce the status quo favouring, and upheld by, the domestic academic elite. To analyse the heteronomous functioning of Hungarian academia, the concepts of informalities and simulated protest are applied within a Bourdieusian sociological framework.

**Keywords:** Heteronomy, informality, simulated protest, neoliberal academia, illiberalism, counter-selection, Pierre Bourdieu

### Popular Music in the Kádár Era: Perspectives, Opportunities and Limitations

Ádám Havas and Sára Wagner: *Adaptation or Innovation? Extracts from the History of Hungarian Popular Music*

**Abstract:** In their introduction to thematic session entitled Popular Music in the Kádár Era, the editors Sára Wagner and Ádám Havas attempt to contextualize the three articles within popular music scholarship. They argue that the main conceptual link between the articles is their strong emphasis on the construction of autonomous meanings instead of a passive

reception of mechanically imported (Western) styles and genres. Specifically, we elaborate on the capability of alternative cultural practices in the state-socialist political context, where similarly to other art forms, popular music was controlled by the state apparatus that prioritized system-legitimizing practices and simultaneously undermined open criticism. This tension lends a particular dynamics to the strategies developed by musicians in the course of negotiating between “commercial” success and counter-cultural identities. By exposing topics such as the adaptation of Western genres, the questionable status of the “concept album” and the cultural meanings of Hungarian space rock, the articles serve to demonstrate the relevance of popular music studies in Hungary, in addition to providing innovative heuristic tools for scholars researching this relatively unexplored period of Hungarian popular culture.

**Keywords:** Kádár era, popular music, nostalgia, space rock, concept album

*Ádám Ignác: The Past Returns. The Beginnings of Musical Nostalgia in the Late Kádár Era. Popular Music and Nostalgia in the Late Kádár Era*

**Abstract:** In this paper, I primarily examine what those Hungarian musicians of the 1970s and 1980s who have in common regularly gained success from the recycling of already existing musical pieces, and reactivating the (popular) musical past. The goal of the paper is to develop a popular music history that is not based on the succession of genres and generations, as works usually do that emphasize the trend-forming effect of rock music. On the contrary, I highlight the simultaneities, revivals, and (stylistic-compositional) differences within the genres. I focus first and foremost, therefore, on the joint work of the band “Hungária” and the various appearances of rock and roll in Hungary, trying to prove that certain songs and genres in the history of Hungarian popular music can be linked to different performers and periods at the same time. I argue that we can obtain the broadest and most comprehensive overview concerning the role of rock and roll in the musical nostalgia, if we collect and analyze local practices of imitating and covering Western popular music in socialist Hungary.

**Keywords:** musical nostalgia, covering, socialist Hungary, rock and roll, Hungária band

*Dániel Szabolcs Radnai: Attempts to Overcoming Youth Culture. The First Hungarian Concept Albums (1971–1973)*

**Abstract:** The main topic of my paper is the 1970s music genre called concept album as a special compositional form or medial construction and its positions and functions in pop-rock music of Kádár era in Hungary. At first, I delineate the difficulties of defining concept albums, highlighting some important notions in connection with the birth of this medial construction in the late sixties. In the second part of the study, I carry out an overall analysis about three early Hungarian concept albums (Illés: Human Rights, 1971; Omega: Szvit [Suite], 1973; Bergendy: Hétfő / Hét fő [Monday], 1973). The subsequent career of this special medial form in Hungary will also be investigated. Finally, I attempt to interpret the reception of such records in Hungary by the concepts of fashion, occidentalism and aestheticization.

**Keywords:** Kádár-era, concept album, pop music, Omega, Illés, Bergendy

*József Havasréti: Time Robbers. Hungarian space rock as a paradigm of pop/rock music in the Seventies*

**Abstract:** This paper covers a piece of the history of space rock in the context of Seventies Hungarian popular music. It reconstructs the main forms of space rock (in progressive rock and jazz rock scenes) based on the recordings of three crucial Hungarian bands of that era: Fonográf, Omega and Mini. Each band can be seen as a Hungarian version of a mainstream international genre: for Fonográf folk rock, for Omega progressive rock, and for Mini jazz rock and jazz funk were the most important influences. The characteristic themes and motifs of Hungarian space rock lyrics were (cosmic) exile, diaspora experience, or different fears and utopias concerning technological progress.

**Keywords** Afrofuturism, diaspora, jazz funk, fusion-music movement, progressive rock, roma jazz musicians, science fiction, Soviet bloc, space rock

### **Class, Strata, World system**

*Iván Szelényi: The Class Structure of a Post-Communist Social Formation. Reflections on Fordulat 26.*

**Abstract:** This issue is the outcome of a collective work of young scholars working together in the so-called Situation Workshop (Helyzet Műhely). The review is limited to the first two chapters analyzing the Hungarian social formation and its class structure from a world-system perspective. It praises the theoretical coherence of the work and welcomes the emphasis on class. It expresses doubts about the Soviet Marxist distinction between “socialism” and “communism”, and claims that Marxist class analysis cannot be based on the concept of division of labor, as Marx defined classes on the grounds of relations of production.

**Keywords:** post-communism, post-state-socialism, world-system theory, division of labor, relations of production, class structure