

## A Note from the Editor-in-Chief

Anna Fenyvesi

It is my honor to greet the readers of Volume 18 as the new editor-in-chief of *Hungarian Cultural Studies*, appointed as of January 2025, following the untimely passing of Paul Olchvary in early 2024. I am grateful and excited to be in the position of the third editor-in-chief of the journal. My earlier predecessor was the dedicated founding editor Louise O. Vasvari, who built *Hungarian Cultural Studies* to be a leading journal of Hungarian studies published in English with a formidable presence in both the Hungarian and American cultural (humanities and social sciences) scenes.

I am a linguist and an academic with editorial experience and a lifetime of cross-cultural experiences in Hungary and the United States. I hold university degrees in English and Russian from Jozsef Attila University (as the University of Szeged was formerly known), Hungary, from the late 1980s. After the change of regime in Hungary, I seized the opportunity to complete graduate studies in the United States, at the University of Pittsburgh, where I received my MA (1994) and a PhD (1998) in general linguistics. I received my habilitation from the University of Debrecen, Hungary, in 2013.

I have been a member of the Department of English at the University of Szeged since 1988, serving as full-time faculty and holding the rank of Associate Professor since 2001. I taught at the Department of Applied Linguistics, Portland State University, in Portland, Oregon, in 1999–2000. During my time in Pittsburgh, I received training in general linguistics with a specialization in sociolinguistics and language contact. My MA thesis focused on the Hungarian language use of American Hungarians in McKeesport, Pennsylvania—a former steel town near Pittsburgh—examining the effects of language contact with English and the processes of language attrition. American Hungarian language use thus became my first topic of research, in which I authored a comprehensive chapter in a 2005 book about varieties of Hungarians outside of Hungary (Fenyvesi, ed., 2005), and to which I have returned in recent years as the sociolinguist working in the Appalachian Hungarian Heritage Project (AHHP), which investigates the historical, social, and linguistic aspects of former Hungarian communities in Appalachia in a comprehensive and multidisciplinary fashion. In 2024/2025, I was a Fulbright scholar at West Virginia University in Morgantown, working on this project. At a personal level, I have spent my entire life mediating between cultures and living a multilingual life.

My first and most formative introduction into the editorial process was at the University of Pittsburgh, where for three years (1992–1995) I worked as an editorial assistant with *Language*, the journal of the Linguistic Society of America, which was edited by my professor, advisor, and mentor Sarah (Sally) Grey Thomason at the time. The most important volume I have edited since is the 2005 book *Hungarian Language Contact Outside Hungary: Studies in Hungarian as a Minority Language*, published by Routledge. The closest project to my heart, however, is the series of volumes I have been co-editing recently (with Reka Bakos): *Hungarian Roots and American Dreams: Tracing Personal History* (volume 1: Americana eBooks, Szeged, 2024; volume 2 forthcoming; and further volumes planned), documenting stories of Hungarian



immigration to the United States, written mostly by lay authors. Having served as an advisor for students in Szeged (over one hundred fifty B.A. and one hundred M.A. theses, as well as for seven Ph.D. dissertations), all in English, has provided me with extensive experience working with academic/professional texts.

As editor, I aim to continue to uphold its standards of professional rigor and broad interdisciplinary spectrum in the humanities and social sciences, comprising literature, history, culture, linguistics, and a wider social sciences area as well. It is essential for *HCS* to keep publishing papers and book reviews of a more extensive appeal across disciplines than would be necessary for a strictly specialized (literary, linguistics, etc.) journal. It is crucial to attract early-career researchers to publish in *HCS*, thereby providing a stable generational base for the future of *HCS* and, through it, for AHEA as well. Being an English-language publication, *HCS* is in an excellent position to attract readers who do not read Hungarian but have an interest in scholarship concerning Hungarian culture. It is vitally important, I think, to keep such readers at the forefront of attention when editing and publishing this journal, as they are by far the largest body of (potential) readers out there—be they in North America, Europe, or beyond. In practical terms, catering to them also requires keeping a broad focus while preserving high standards. I hail the fact that *HCS* is an open-access journal: open access provides unimpeded, proper access to knowledge without financial obstacles (a serious concern for many academics). On a more personal note, I find it heartwarming that *HCS* is published by the Pitt Open Library Publishing, my American alma mater.

I am grateful to the editorial team of *HCS* for their assistance and guidance during the past several months while I have been trying my best to learn on the job in a timely fashion. First and foremost, I am thankful to Zsuzsanna Varga, the new president of AHEA, for serving as interim editor in 2024 and securing the thematic cluster for Volume 18, as well as for the many conversations we have had in which she generously and tirelessly shared both her vision of *HCS* and her insight into its workings. I am grateful to Klára Papp for her guidance and wisdom regarding numerous issues of the editorial process, which she shared with patience and calm that I have found greatly soothing. I am appreciative of review editor Ákos Farkas's work, securing book reviews and working with their authors. I welcome the journal's new, second review editor for books published in North America, Pongrácz Sennyey. I thank layout editor Katalin Vörös and copy editor Gábor Tamás Molnár for the utmost professionalism, which they bring to the journal. I am also indebted to the many reviewers who worked on assessing the articles submitted to the journal, as well as to the associate editors. I thank the authors of the present volume for bearing with me through the bumps and glitches that sometimes occurred while I was picking up speed as editor. I owe special thanks to Library Publishing Specialist Marin Dremock of the University Library System, University of Pittsburgh, for providing me with an in-person crash course on the workings of the online system that publishes the journal, as well as for always being super helpful with my questions about the nitty-gritty.

I hope Volume 18 is of professional interest to all its readers. In addition to the Thematic Cluster, which includes an introduction and four papers, two more articles have a historical focus. The remaining papers cover literature, documentary film, architecture, and contact linguistics. The eight book reviews span the spectrum of roughly the same academic fields.

Have a good read!

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