

## ARTICLE ABSTRACTS IN ENGLISH

### Andrea Virginás: Liminal Experience: Women in Contemporary (Minority) Hungarian Prose Fiction

According to my hypothesis, contemporary Hungarian writers belonging to canons constituted by “the Hungarian majority / Hungarian minority” dichotomy betray an ironical or ambivalent attitude towards questions of ethnic (national?) and/or gender identification. During the research this argument has been modified, since it is obvious that not questioning in itself, but rather the continuous process of differentiation (generation of difference) is what deserves attention. In this context the main aim of my paper is to examine ways of creating women, womanhood and female identities in such contemporary prose works written in Hungarian that are being constituted, to a certain extent, by the mentioned dichotomy of “Hungarian literatures between and over the borders”. Some examples focused on are: Bartis Attila *A Lázár apokrifek* [*Apocryphals of Lazarus*], Vida Gábor *Fakusz három magányossága* [*The Three Solitudes of Fakusz*], Selyem Zsuzsa: *9 kiló. Történet a 119. zsoltárra* [*9 kilos. A Story Composed on Psalm 119.*] and Király Kinga Júlia: *P. Lujza: Útvesztő alig eltévedt kislányoknak* [*Louise P. A Labyrinth for Hardly Lost Little Girls*].

- Keywords: contemporary Hungarian prose, minority/majority canon, female characters.

### Andrea Tóthova: In Grip Between Texts and Borders

Hungarianness has several spaces, places, and languages. It can be a lived experience, the convergence and divergence of borders, a narrative that holds one in its grip. Sexuality has several spaces, places, and languages. It can be an experience untying its frames, the transgression or disruption of borders, a narrative that breaks up its grip. In between these spaces, places, and languages surfaces the novel of the Slovak writer Alta Vášová *In Grip*. The text writes and rewrites the inner and outer spaces of Hungarianness through the narrative of a Hungarian woman living in Slovakia – in a place where borders surround and divide her everyday experiences. The text is a

wide-ranging experiment: through the narrative of a woman it experiments with transgressing and rewriting the borders of girlhood, womanhood, and motherhood; through the encounter of two women it experiments with interweaving and redefining the inner and outer spaces, places, and languages of Hungarianness and sexuality.

How the language of Hungarianness is written in the grip of heavily underlined borders? How the experience of sexuality is rewritten through the looking-class of the experience of an other sexuality? Is it possible to step out of the grip of these powerful spaces? These are the questions that the present writing seeks to answer.

- Keywords: nationality and sexuality, non-nationalistic belonging, minority female subject.

### **Márta Várnagyi: Feminine Literature and Feminist Literary Criticism in Hungary. Voices and Echoes**

This paper presents types of theoretical and public debate articles denying or attacking the existence of female literature based on different media products in light of the situation of feminine literature in the last ten years, while also examining problems in the argumentation of published works denying the *raison d'être* of scientific gender research. This paper seeks answers to the following question: 1) What are the dominant conceptual and genre dichotomies in contemporary gender-centric literary discourse? 2) What was the discursive mode in the past ten years, what was emphasized, and what inspired the greatest controversies? 3) Whose voices were made heard and how?

The first part of the paper focuses on how women writers have appeared in recent literary circles, what activities and roles they assumed, and how they took on and emphasized a feminine perspective. The second part examines a recent literary phenomenon: in different press releases and literary-critical journals, the reception of feminine literature is cynical, if not outright discriminatory, and the relevance of feminist literary criticism is treated with scorn and condescension. Works denying the necessity of this discourse usually ridicule female literature and literary perspectives motivated by feminism and gender using manipulative communication strategies, rather than well-founded argumentation. The paper analyses in detail several factors behind the motivation of these strategies, and points out that this phenomenon is rooted in social stereotypes, and the way female

literature is presented and consolidated as marginal and different from the norm in public discourse.

- Keywords: feminist literary criticism, feminine literature, literary debates, canon.

### **Judit Kádár: Female Genealogy as Creed – On the Antiracist Historical Trilogy of Lola Kosáryné Réz**

Although Jókai's historical novels were born in the nineteenth century, and the most popular Hungarian piece of this genre, *Stars of Eger* [*Egri csillagok*] was published in 1901, the majority of Hungarian historical novels were published in the next twenty-five years following the First World War. Most of the authors, each influenced by a different worldview, were scouring the symbolic space of history for an explanation as to why Hungary had lost the war. "Our knowledge of the past, our cultural heritage is also a symbolic space that is the site of struggle for the self-representation of social groups, a space that is shaped according to the degrees to which certain groups have access to it" – states Györgyi Horváth in her work on the identifying-constitutive role of the historical narrative; this, of course, is also true of authors in the post-World War I era. They represented their own social groups, which happened to be white, middle class, Hungarian men. Although the period between the two World Wars saw the rise of female authorship, and dozens of historical novels were published by women each year, almost all women writers conceived their novels from a dominant masculine perspective. In this paper, I examine one of the few exceptions, a tetralogy of historical novels by Lola Kosáryné Réz, written from the perspective of oppressed women, and I discuss her stance on the relationship between different ethnicities in discourses of war and responsibility.

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- Keywords: feminist historical novel, Hungarian historical novel between the two world wars, masculine perspective on women novelist, antiracism of women writers.

### **Lilla Bolemant: The Gender Character of Emigration. The Reception of Jolan Földes's *A halászó macska uccája* [Fishing Cat] and Lajos Zilahy's *A lélek kialszik* [The Soul Fading] Novels in Hungary**

In my study I make an analysis of the followings: how does the interpretation of the author and the text appear in connection with some editions of novels dealing with emigration, how does the assessment of the text change and its categorization on the basis of the knowledge of the author's sex, how does the woman's and man's role appear in connection with emigration and how does the role/identity of the male/female performers of the novel change or remain in the family, community or society.

In both novels some stereotypes can be shown by the reveal of the interweave of the identity of gender and the national identity which both root in the "naturalness" of gender roles and national perception of the 19th century. On the other hand a lot of features of the so-called "typically" man's and "typically" woman's way of thinking are present here which are in differences between two slants of life.

I also deal with the effect story of different editions of the two novels in time: how does the assessment of the same text change under the influence of the way of thinking of the society, literary criticism and cultural criticism.

- Key words: emigration and literature, gender roles in society, gender identity and national identity, gender stereotype and national stereotype, "woman's" and "man's" style of writing, sentimentalism, objectivity.

### **Krisztián Benkő: Judith Butler and the Middle-East**

This paper discusses the 21<sup>st</sup> century career of the most prominent scholar in queer theory, Judith Butler. I start by listing the main tendencies in her philosophical work between 2000 and 2010, including her motivation and the theoretical contexts of her rising interest in Middle Eastern politics. In the chapter *Az antiszemitizmus vádja: cionizmus és az identitás felforgatása* ["Charges of Anti-Semitism: Zionism and the Subversion of Identity"], I summarize the argumentation of Butler's important study. Finally, in the concluding chapter, *Terepgyakorlatok 2010-ben* ["Fieldwork in 2010"], I

examine the impact of the professor of the University of California on the communications concerning Gay Pride events, and the subsequent foregrounding of *homonationalism* and *queer nation* as concepts. As a side note, I also discuss an instance of the reception of Butler's new phase in Hungary. I would like to thank the organizers of the conference, Erzsébet Barát and Klára Sándor, as well as Andrea Pető, whose letter of recommendation to the library made this paper possible.

- Key words: Judith Butler, war, zionism, homonationalism, queer nation.

### **Lehel Simon: 'The Role of „Gender Suffragettes” – From University Professorates to Homosexual Intimacy in Light of the History of Science in Hungary**

I examine patterns of dominant stereotypes relating to male homosexuality in Hungary today, by examining contemporary homosexual males, going back almost 50 years in the process, to the era of Lipót Szondi, as conceptions of male homosexuality by Hungarian heterosexuals today has not changed considerably since. My question is, who can offer an alternative in Hungary today?

There is a new suffragette movement in the making in Hungary, a group that fits quite comfortably in the field of gender studies mostly represented by women in academia: I call these people “gender suffragettes”.

The field of gender studies has no dogmas similar to those of orthodox analysis; nevertheless, I conclude by breaking the chains of orthodox scientific szondianism based on modern gender practices. Even in today's Hungary, homosexual males often base their own self-image on the “scientific directives” of the past century.

In this paper, I demonstrate the role of “gender suffragettes” in “twentieth century conditioned” societies such as Hungarian society today. My approach is anthropological and psychological, in order to integrate a gender perspective into everyday, natural, post-subcultural homosexual life. For this reason, I purposefully use “plural perspectives” in the Discussion, to show that this is a collective point of view in Hungary, and not a solitary position.

- Keywords: gender suffragettes, “orthodox homosexual past”, gay studies.

## **Louise O. Vasvári: Gender Work in Political Discourses: From Hungarian State Socialism to the 2008 U.S. Presidential Campaign**

In Hungary the word "feminism" is generally still understood as it was used under state socialism, where it was a contradiction in terms since communism was a state patriarchy. This narrow localized interpretation has contributed to the inadequate development of a post-socialist feminist discourse, as have deep-seated gender stereotypes, which continue not only unchallenged in post-socialist society but in public discourse have actually gone backwards. The dominant masculinized framing of public issues is illustrated, for example, by negative stereotypes of women in professional and, in particular, in political life. While the rise of masculinism is the primary characteristic of gender relations in Hungary today, ironically it also forms the very bedrock of Western liberal democracy, where gender stereotypes are as deep-seated and where the backlash against women in the public sphere has been ongoing. I will illustrate gendered political discourse in the U.S. through a case study of the 2008 presidential campaign, which turned into a kind of plebiscite on gender and sexual politics, with Hillary Clinton and other female political figures depicted in the most traditionally misogynist terms. In contrast, Barack Obama has in some leftist circles been seen as an empathetic figure who transcends both race and gender, although from the political right he, too, has been attacked with racist and feminizing stereotyped invectives.

- Keywords: gender and political discourse, state patriarchy, gender stereotypes, misogyny, hate speech, 2008 United States Presidential Campaign.

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## **Éva Misits: Discourses of Asexuality in Hungarian Cyberspace**

In this paper, I examine discourses of asexuality in Hungarian cyberspace, i.e. discourses that originated in a Hungarian domain, and/or written in Hungarian, from users who either present themselves as asexuals, or are interested in, and discuss, asexuality within the analyzed texts. As a phenomenon, asexuality is controversial to this day, because of the persistence of the view that asexuality (which, in my definition based on the experiences of others, is the lack of sexual orientation) is not an alternative

sexuality, but a disorder, a problem. Since little attention is paid to this phenomenon in the Hungarian context, and the majority of internet discourses are biased towards asexuality and consider it a problem or a fad, the discourses of Hungarian users are also influenced in this direction. I illustrate this point with examples, to show how Hungarian users relate to asexuality, and how these discourses are framed and generated. I also briefly discuss the theoretical background and the challenges inherent within, and conclude from the examples that asexuality as a phenomenon must be examined from new perspectives, and reevaluated in order to become a positive phenomenon, a point of reference and reflection.

- Keywords: asexuality, discourse, gender, sexuality, internet.
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### **Katalin Misad: Characteristics of the Usage of Personal Names among Hungarian Women in Slovakia**

Usage of personal names of Hungarians – both women and men – as members of a national minority varies not only according to the circumstances of the country which represents homeland to them, but also it varies from specific Hungarian speaking community to community and even from individual to individual.

The study focuses on the characteristics of the usage of personal names among Hungarian women in Slovakia. In this particular case, women's names are judged not only by traditional standards, equality and functionality, but also by Slovakian legislation regarding the name usage of minorities, and the name usage practices among women belonging to the majority as well. In this paper, I present the various name forms in the name usage of single and married Hungarian women in Slovakia, and examine, in particular, the usage of the feminine suffix *-ová*. In the second half of the paper, I present a survey conducted among Hungarian women in Slovakia that seeks to answer why Hungarian women belonging to the minority prefer certain name forms and reject others, and if respondents consider the usage of name forms as part of their identification practices.

- Keywords: usage of personal names, regulations of given names and family names usage with national minorities, various forms of Hungarian women's names in Slovakia.

### **Csilla Dér: On the Portrayal of Women and Feminists in Hungarian Antifeminist Books**

I examine three recently published antifeminist books by Hungarian authors (Oravec: *Tűrsarkúban hátrafelé* “Backwards in High Heels”, Bene: *Emancipációs bumeráng* “Emancipational Boomerang”, Bakos: *A helyes asszonytartás* “How to Keep a Woman”) in order to analyse how they portray feminists, what statements they attribute to them, how these statements are discussed, what antifeminist ideologies are operating in each case, and what notions of women are preferred.

Extensive analysis reveals that these books represent a highly prejudiced interpretation of antifeminism based on “folk” interpretations of feminism, according to which feminists are to blame for everything: they destroy the relations between the sexes, and they are responsible for failed marriages, loss of inclination for child-rearing and abortions.

- Key words: antifeminism, biological essentialism.

### **Kata Eklics: Femininity in Political Interviews**

The last decade has resulted in the growing number of female interviewers in political programmes. Their special role in the Hungarian political interviews seems to be defined not only by professionalism, but also by their femininity. This analysis aims at revealing how genders of the interactants (female interviewers and male politicians) correspond with the chosen communication styles. Interviewing strategies of four female interviewers are compared, conversation moving speech acts (topic recommendation, acceptance and rejection) and their accompanying nonverbal signs are examined in details.

- Keywords: political interviews, female interviewing strategies, speech acts.

## **Márta Szombathelyi-Konczos, Dr.– Veronika Keller, Dr.: The Relation Between Femininity and Success in Management. Introduction to the Research on „Innovation Generating Activities of Female Managers”**

The authors combined two relevant fields, innovation and female management in this study. The aim of this research was to show the interpretations, practices, motivations, resources and networks of innovation among female managers, and the role of female management in the generation of innovation. The innovation generating practices of female managers – and thus part of the survey – had already been published in other scientific forums.

The research also aimed to show the role of femininity in female management careers. In this paper, the authors focus on findings relevant to this issue.

Quantitative research was conducted in May and June, 2010, through fill-out questionnaires in the area of the city of Győr. 210 female managers participated in the study. The data was analyzed using SPSS statistics software.

- Keywords: female management, success, leadership style.

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## **Ágnes Huszár: The Soul of the Female Minister. Calvinist Female Ministers in Hungary**

In protestant denominations, and thus, in the Hungarian Reformed Church too, women may attend theology, and may be ordained as communion pastors. Although there are more and more women with theological qualifications, they can only obtain lower positions in the hierarchy. The number of female pastors is low, and there are only a few female lecturers in theologies. There are three reasons for that: (1) archaic prejudice against the female body's impurity; (2) reference to the text of the Bible, primarily to Apostle Paul (1 Cor. 14:34); and (3) stereotypes of female immorality.

- Keywords: female minister, clerical marriage, vocation vs. profession, identity construction.

## **Irén Annus: Matyó Patterned Nation Branding: Women, Men and the Representations of Nations**

If nations are indeed imagined communities, as Benedict Anderson (1991) claims, then each cultural representation reflects the image which a given community holds of itself, including the places and roles assigned to men and women in the society. This may be especially fascinating if it is mapped within representations of the nation created for foreign consumption, since such representations also reflect the perceived expectations of the target population. This study investigates certain images of a 2008 series of advertisements called “Hungary – A love for life,” created for the Hungarian tourism office with the purpose of attracting foreign visitors to the country. The study explores the ways in which these posters, connected through the distinctive Hungarian Matyó pattern, represent and define various gendered roles and places within Hungarian society. The paper presents the outcome of research conducted within Wp3a of Languages in a Network of European Excellence (LINEE), funded by the European Commission (FP6, Contract 28388), for which I would like to express my gratitude.

- Keywords: identity, gender, representation, nation, tourism, advertising, Hungary.

## **Rita Antoni: “There are no rules, everything goes”? – The Intersections of Hungarian Identities and Gender on the Goth Scene**

In the summer of 2009, I conducted a comprehensive survey on the Hungarian Goth scene: 167 questionnaires were collected from women and men between the ages 14 and 39, who are interested in the subculture or have attended related events. (The questionnaires were filled out by 105 women, who constitute 63 percent of all respondents, and 62 men, or 37 percent of all respondents). Since there is great emphasis on individuality within the subculture, I considered it were important to provide respondents an opportunity to express individual opinions despite the difficulties inherent within, and did so with an open questionnaire on the possible interpretations, content, communal aspects and culture of the subculture. Although I assumed that participants would not consider gender and sexuality exceptionally relevant, the questionnaire also contained questions

about gender and sexuality attitudes, serving a double purpose: first, to assess the impact of relevant stereotypes (in other words, to see whether the values of the subculture or the national cultural atmosphere had greater impact on individual opinion); and second, to explore the differences of the Hungarian scene in comparison with the Western European and especially the American Goth scenes.

In this paper, following a short introduction to the subculture, I present results that are relevant from a gender perspective, and discuss progressive and less progressive aspects of the scene (relation to gender stereotypes and gender role expectations being progressive, and externals, relation to feminism and sexuality, and degrees of tolerance being less progressive).

- Keywords: youth subcultures, Gothic, gender, stereotypes, gender role attitudes, sexuality, tolerance.