

English abstracts

Mravik, Patrik Tamás

Is the Criticism of Capitalism a Criticism of the System? Anticapitalism and the Narrative of the Falling Financial Elite

The essay analyzes the narratives of the financial crisis of 2008 in American fiction films. Instead of a chronological reconstruction or examining the real-life events, it focuses on how the films are trying to explain the events of the financial crisis and create the correct frame of interpretation for the audiences. The research, grounded on the current criticism of capitalism, argues that the films depict the crisis as a criticism of the financial elite and the greediness of this small group. In this frame of interpretation, the criticism of the elite does not become a comprehensive criticism of the economic and social system. Moreover, this explanation can represent the promise of a happier and more equal capitalist order by recognizing the inappropriate or immoral behavior of its leaders. Eventually, this thesis underlines a relevant approach to the recent criticism of capitalism, namely that inner resistance, as a controlled, intentional self-criticism serves solely to strengthen the system.

Pap, Péter István

An Exceptional Career Start in the 1980s: The History, Cultural-Historical Context, Contemporary Reception, and Questions of the Beginnings of Dénes Csengey's Career

The so-called *népi* (in literal translation “populist”, but in its meaning closer to *Narodnik* or *völkisch*) writers' movement is one of the most influential ideological streams of the Hungarian intellectual life of the twentieth century. After decades of regression, the movement reasserted its role in shaping the public sphere in the late 1970s and early 1980s and later played an essential cultural and political role in the years of transition. The key to this public and political reaccumulation were the middle-aged (born in the 1930s) and young (born in the late 1940s and the 1950s) litterateurs who were attempting to renew the ideology and aesthetic program of the movement. A central figure in this process was Dénes Csengey, who, with his first public writings at the turn of the 1970s and 1980s, suddenly established a wide reputation which led him to enter the elite of the political opposition and become one of the leading actors of the transition. This paper is about this exceptional entryway (according to Bourdieu's field theory) and the analysis of the writings on which it is based.

Szlama, Gabriella Zsófia

"You are not a fashionable lady, dear Györgyi, if there are not thirteen pendants on your bracelet!" The Representation of the Elite Class's Fashion in Hungarian Satirical Periodicals of the Dual Monarchy

In the nineteenth century, more and more satirical journals were published, targeting the middle class as an audience. The secret of their success was the fast response to the different problems and questions related to this social class. Besides politics, various aspects of public life were also portrayed in the articles, for instance, fashion was a popular topic in satirical journals. Utilizing fashion has helped to create a caricature of the aristocracy; on the images, the members of the elite were always wearing monocles, walking sticks, sunshades, or richly decorated dresses, balancing on the verge of ridicule and envy. At the same time, the caricatures were also mocking the members of the middle class who were trying to imitate them. These journals condemned the following of the latest fashion and highlighted its immorality, hiding behind witty comments, caricatures, or anecdotes. Considering all of the above, the satirical journals outlined a strictly closed, separate social system, where the adoption of the dressing style (and thus the habits) of the other social stratum meant crossing an invisible border and a serious violation of norms. This paper examines the elite from the perspective of the middle class, using their representation of the upper class's fashion, highlighting the various formats of jokes related to their style. The research covers the period between 1875–1896 and the corpus consists of the articles of *Bolond Istók* (1878–1919), *Bolond Miska* (1860–1875), *Borsszem Jankó* (1868–1994), *Kakas Márton* (1894–1914) and *Üstökös* (1862–1906).

Tangl, Balázs

The Relationship Between Military Officer Corps and the Local Elite in Szombathely at the Turn of the Century

The relationship between the Imperial and Royal Army and Hungarian society is one of the less researched topics in Hungarian historiography. This is especially true for local approaches, even though they can reveal much more about this complex topic than simply examining the major political events. The Habsburg army, with its supranational ideology, was undoubtedly an outsider institution within the Hungarian nation-state, but Hungarian society, in the towns and on the level of everyday life interacted with this army primarily through its Hungarian, and even local regiments. This relationship can be examined from several perspectives. The present study deals with the relationship between the officer corps and the local elite, using the example of Szombathely at the turn of the century. Szombathely was one of the most important medium-sized towns of Hungary in the Dual Monarchy, with a significant number of hussar and infantry garrisons which were recruited from Vas (and to a lesser extent Zala) county. The study focuses on how the military officer corps in Szombathely interacted with the local social elite in the main areas of everyday life. In doing so, after a general characterization of the local elite and the officer corps, the article focuses on the main arenas of public and

semi-public social life: the world of casinos, clubs, and such major social events as balls and horse-racing, as well as charity events. Finally, I deal with conflicts involving the officer corps, above all duels and officer scandals.

Tóth, Kelemen

The Metamorphosis of Palatinus Pista: From Archduke of the House of Habsburg to Palatine of Hungary?

The life of Archduke Stephen, his appointment to Palatine of Hungary, and his exile are described in surprising detail in András Gergely's book entitled *Áruló vagy áldozat? (Traitor or Victim?)*. Despite the thoroughness of the volume, however, the author forgets to mention one element that is undoubtedly significant and decisive for Stephen's life, his perception, and how he is preserved in collective memory, namely his long and pointed moustache, and the reason of the birth of this significant facial ornament. This study attempts to explore the process by which Archduke Stephen, who was raised among the peasant children of Alcsút, became – even if only for a short time – the Palatine of Hungary, not only in title and administrative function but also in his appearance. In addition to the pictorial depictions, the memoirs of persons who knew the Archduke directly, as well as articles published in the contemporary press, mostly about the reception of the Archduke in 1847 and his retirement in 1848, can help us to understand this process or metamorphosis. What is certain is that Stephen, when it came to symbolic politics, followed in the footsteps of his father, Palatine Joseph. But what happened to an Archduke, who wanted to be the Palatine of Hungary, when the direction of the Hungarian social and state development came into conflict with the interests of the House of Habsburg?

Vámos, Eszter

Leisure and Representation: The Balls of the Elite of Pécs in the Interwar Period

After the Treaty of Trianon, the main goal of Hungarian cultural policy was to gain cultural hegemony and to naturalize national identities. However, this national cultural policy coincided with the spread of jazz and new forms of dance, which affected not only the American and Western European public but also the Hungarian. The new popular music and dances violated the conventions in most countries, but in Hungary, they also threatened the constructed national identity. The Hungarian authoritarian government – as it could not eliminate it – attempted to monitor and control this new form of leisure.

The new dances and music also challenged the conservative elite of the Horthy era. Even though the new and popular moves were taught in dance schools, the Charleston and the foxtrot were rarely danced at formal balls. The dancing events of the elite became regulated between the two wars: their balls have become venues for national representation.

This paper aims to show how power and society have responded to modern dances and new music, and how the function of dance parties and balls has changed in the era. Although my research focuses on the city of Pécs, it places great emphasis on macro-processes, as both local, national, and international trends have influenced the entertainment habits of the period.

Varró, Orsolya

The Transformation of the Aristocracy in 10th- and 11th-Century Southern France and Provence

“As long as the law prevailed, the world was at peace. / The laws are withering now and peace is fading away. / The customs of the people change, and the order changes too,” the Bishop warns the King in Adalbero of Laon’s *Carmen ad Rotbertum regem*, written around 1030. During the twentieth century, numerous scholars thought to have discovered this chaos and radical change in late 10th- and early 11th-century French and Provençal society, but the theory of feudal transformation or revolution became the target of vigorous criticism in the 1990s. Although the debate seems to have been settled, the questions raised during the discussion are still relevant: what kind of transformation did French society go through in the 10th and 11th centuries? What factors did determine it? In what relation was it with individual and collective identity? This paper examines the social dynamics of French provinces south of the Loire and Provence (the territory of the Kingdom of Burgundy), relying on contemporary diplomatic materials, narrative sources, and socio-philosophical texts, including hagiographic works and miracle collections. The analysis takes into consideration the circumstances that determined the birth and survival of sources necessary for the reconstruction of aristocratic society, the different understandings of proprietary rights, and the coexistence of systems of social theory. It is particularly important to explore how different groups of society defined the criteria of peace and what roles they assigned to themselves and others in establishing it. By reflecting on these issues, we can gain a closer understanding of the problems of French and Provençal society around the first millennium.