

Budapest Workshop
Geography and State Building in Central Europe:
National and Transnational Perspectives

ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, Eötvös Collegium, Budapest, Hungary
Ménesi út 11–13.
September 3-4, 2024



Workshop Organizers

Róbert Gyóri, ELTE Eötvös Loránd University (Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences –
Centre for Geography, Department of Social and Economic Geography)

Ferenc Gyuris, ELTE Eötvös Loránd University (Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences –
Centre for Geography, Department of Social and Economic Geography)

Steven Jobbitt, Lakehead University (Department of History), Thunder Bay, Canada
(Ontario)

Workshop Overview

Bringing together scholars from a number of countries, this two-day workshop provides a unique opportunity to gather and discuss new approaches to the study of geography and state building in Central and East Central Europe. Engaging in recent methodological and theoretical developments in the field, papers will explore how nations have been variously constructed, deconstructed, and reconstructed geographically. Conscious of the political dimensions inherent within the production of geographical knowledge, papers will also explore the role that geographers themselves have played as active participants in the state-building process.

Each session will have three presenters. There will be 25 minutes allotted for each paper, with an additional 30 minutes for critical discussion.

The workshop will also include an optional guided field trip on Thursday, September 5, to the Eastern part of the Great Hungarian Plain. We will visit some parts of the Tiszántúl region in Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok and Békés counties. The trip's stops will include the town of Martfű modeled in the early 1940s on Howardian garden cities around the newly built factory of the Czech Bata Corporation, which, after being nationalized during the communist regime, became Hungary's largest shoe manufacturer in a predominantly agricultural region. We will visit the town of Tiszaföldvár to illustrate how the regular floodings of the Tisza River and, later, river regulations have impacted the development of rural settlements along the river throughout the centuries and the way historical military conflicts in Hungary's Great Plains region resulted in consecutive waves of depopulation and repopulation over the last 500 years, enabling the emergence of a peculiar social setting. Finally, the journey will end in the town of Szarvas, a prosperous rural town with a significant Slovakian community, which experienced its heyday in the 19th century—and where Tibor Mendöl, the pioneer of urban geography in Hungary, spent his school years before attending the university and Eötvös Collegium in Budapest.

There is no workshop fee. However, presenters will be responsible for their own travel and accommodations.

DAY 1: SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS

Opening (10:00-10:10) László Horváth (Director, Eötvös Collegium)

Session 1 (10:10-12:00)

Charles W. J. Withers (University of Edinburgh): Mapping Europe in War and Peace, 1915–1919: B. C. Wallis and the 1919 Peoples of Austria-Hungary Geographical Handbook and Atlas

Margit Kőszegi – Zsolt Bottlik (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest): Jenő Cholnoky and the Innovative Ethnographic Maps of Hungarian Geography at the Turn of the 20th Century

Róbert Győri (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest): ‘Whose Side Do You Think de Martonne Will Take? Shall We Write to Him?’: Pál Teleki’s Attempts to Mobilise his International Network in 1918-1919

Chair: Judit Timár (HUN-REN CERS, Institute for Regional Studies, Békéscsaba)

Lunch Break (12:00-13:15)

Session 2 (13:15-15:35)

Johannes Mattes (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Culture Studies, Vienna & University of Oslo): Karst Geomorphology as a Tool of Empire- or Nation-Building? Jovan Cvijić in Vienna (On-line)

Jiří Martínek (Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of History, Prague): The Expedition of Czech Scientists to Slovakia in 1919

Ferenc Jankó (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest): Study Trips to Burgenland from Vienna and Graz

László Törő (University of Debrecen): Völkisch Historical Writing between Geography and History: Otto-Albrecht Isbert in Hungary

Chair: György Mikle (HUN-REN CERS, Institute for Regional Studies, Budapest)

Budapest mini field trip (15:45-18:00)

Brownfield regeneration and the functional transformation of the Danube waterfront in Budapest District IX. *Márton Berki (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)*

DAY 2: SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS

Session 3 (10:00-11:50)

Ferenc Gyuris (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest): Fin de siècle Hungarian Geographical Narratives of Overseas European Colonization

Matteo Proto (University of Bologna): Mapping the Nation, Building the Empire: Guido Cora in Gotha (1870-1895)

István Vácz (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest): British Geopolitical Traditions and the Question of Iranian State-Building during the Late Qajar Era

Chair: Márton Czirfusz (Periféria Policy and Research Centre, Budapest)

Lunch Break (11:50-13:00)

Session 4 (13:00-14:50)

Michael Heffernan (University of Nottingham): Sarah Wambaugh and the Geographies of Interwar Plebiscites in Central Europe

Bálint Hilbert (HUN-REN CSS, Institute for Sociology, Budapest): Austrian and Hungarian Geography in the Late Habsburg Empire: Fostering Cohesion or Strengthening Fragmentation? (1867-1918)

György Farkas (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest): The Nature of Fluvial Boundaries: The River as a State Border in Hungarian and Czecho-Slovakian Political Geography before and after the First World War

Chair: Géza Barta (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)

Session 5 (On-line) (15:10-16:30)

Maciej Górny (Polish Academy of Sciences, Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History): Geographer of a Failed State: Reading Erwin Hanslik

Steven Jobbitt (Lakehead University): Envisioning the Nation's Hydrological Future: Woldemár Lászlóffy and the Question of Water Management in Hungary after WWII

Chair: Ferenc Gyuris (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)

