

ABSTRACTS

Vilmos Keszeg

■ *The Function of Narratives in the 20th Century*

Keywords: *(auto)biographical discourse, cultural memory, autobiographical strategies, careers*

The author has been researching biographies for decades. Careers and biographies of noblemen, ministers, folk artists, teachers and “intruder” writers (self-taught people) have been investigated within the Hungarian Department of Ethnography and Anthropology in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. The author has analyzed and presented various biographical and autobiographical strategies on numerous occasions and analyzed the relationship between cultural memory and writing, the contexts and strategies of autobiographical discourse, as well as the registers of biographical narrations. This work presents some of the events of the 20th century, which had a decisive effect on both individual and collective careers, and describes the strategies of the (auto)biographical discourse.

Elena-Despina Naghi

■ *The Neighborhood and Its Narratives*

Keywords: *Romania, communism, post-communism, micro-community, everyday life, flats*

This study focuses upon personal narratives of living in flats in the period 1980-2000, with particular interest in the mundane aspects of everyday life and their changes brought upon by the transition from the communist regime to the present in Romania. These narratives blend the personal histories of the residents and the larger narrative of a micro-community (the neighborhood). The presented narratives have been collected from the residents of neighboring flats in the vicinity of Primăverii Boulevard in Bucharest, who form a micro-community which has been established in the course of thirty years.

Anna-Mária Szalma

■ *Photography in the 20th Century*

Keywords: *private photography, autobiographic narratives, private rituals, communication*

The author presents her research of three private photographic corpuses, each studied from different viewpoints: as a possible (auto)biographic narrative, as an instrument for the segmentation of private space and time, as a ritual action, and as a form of communication, which functions within the confines of a narrow social unit (the family or a local community). During the 20th century, photography has become a medium of biographic discourse. The actuality of its study is supported not only by the fact that photography has become a part of everyday life, but also by the way in which it began to demand its rights in the discourse of the human sciences.

Narcisa Știucă

■ *Methods and Procedures in Oral History*

Keywords: *oral history, official history, narrative research, biographical narratives, methodology*

Narrative research is among the most beloved methods today in the human sciences, although its investigative methods are rather defective. One of the problems which it raises consists in the substantial dissociation between “biographical narratives” and “oral history”. In the author’s opinion, the recording of information and testimonies resulting from the recounting of one’s life cannot be brought in essential accord with official history, and even less could it offer an alternative to it. The reason for this is that the recounting of one’s own life experience is inevitably and purely subjective, as the role of the researcher consists not in confronting the testimonies with the recorded truths about the same events, but in their open reception, while in the case of oral history many more scriptural and visual testimonies are consulted.

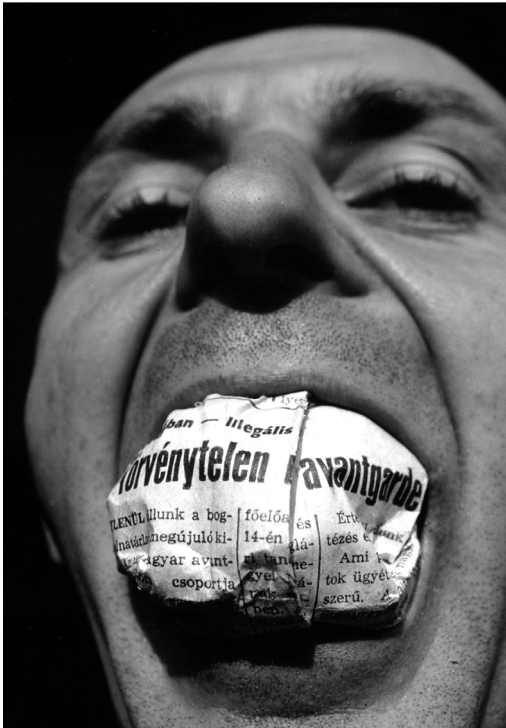
Vilmos Tánzos

■ *On the Past, Present and Future of the Kriza János Ethnographical Society*

Keywords: *Kriza János Ethnographical Society, Hungarian ethnography, ethnographic research, traditional cultures*

The Kriza János Ethnographical Society was founded in 1990, and ever since it has been showing a continuous and highly diversified activity. The Society's library was moved to its current location in the year 1994, and it holds more than 10.000 volumes including the most relevant Hungarian and Transylvanian ethnographical works. The Kriza Society gathers most of the Hungarian ethnographers from Romania, representing their professional inte-

rests, organizing annual conferences, special meetings and workshops. The Society coordinates several projects with the help and attendance of many researchers from the country and from abroad, including university students. The objectives of its projects are related to the tendencies of Hungarian ethnography and Hungarian social sciences in general: the Society organizes basic ethnographic and anthropologic researches in Transylvania and Moldova, along with specific theme-oriented fieldwork. With these researches it wishes to contribute to the formation of an authentic scientific image of the continuously changing traditional and popular cultures.



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Támogatók



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„A 20. század eseményei jelentős mértékben megváltoztatták az élettörténet-stratégiákat is, valamint az élettörténetek értékesítésének, használatának stratégiáit. A legjelentősebbnek nevezhető változás az, hogy a biografikus beszédmód esetenként egy adott helyzet (viszony), egyéni és közösségi státus alátámasztását szolgálja. Az egyén története összekapcsolódik egy politikai-ideológiai-gazdasági helyzet, egy intézmény, a személyi státus történetével. A másik, jellegzetesen 20. századi narratív stratégia – az előbbi eljárással ellentétben – a kontraprezentikusan működő történetek forgalmazása. Az utóbbi kategóriába tartozó élettörténetek az egyénnel az adott helyzettel való szembenállását, fenntartását fejezik ki.”

(Keszeg Vilmos)

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