

ABSTRACTS

Tamás Beck

■ ***Towards the Concept of Sin***

Keywords: *sin, Heidegger, philosophy, ontology, existence*

In my thesis I examine certain historical antecedents of the Heideggerian concept of sin. More precisely, I select two important precursors of Heidegger from the modern German philosophical tradition to show how, following the changes in their ethical concept, they leave behind the concept of action of sin after a while, reaching the idea of the originality of our sinful existence. I must touch upon the relationship of the two authors to religion or to modern educational theory, and I will also attempt to draw some surprising conclusions about human autonomy and the possibility of happiness using examples from fiction. In my work, I keep in mind that ominous authors have always developed their work within the realm of ethics, and only Heidegger will transform the concept of sin into an existential term, opening a new era in universal ontology.

Lilla Bocskor-Salló

■ ***Transylvanianism and Identity***

Keywords: *identity, intertextuality, imitation, irony, Transylvanianism, authenticity*
András Ferenc Kovács's poetry is unique because it stands at the threshold of a significant era, not only from a poetic but also from a historical-political perspective: the turning point of 1989 significantly reshapes Transylvanian Hungarian literature as well. In this rather complex situation, a new, highly fruitful lyrical discourse is born. This poetry is made unique by the peculiar historical-political-social situation stemming from minority existence.

In the paper, I examine whether these texts contain mere role-playing, irony, and imitation, or if behind the texts emerges an authentic discourse stemming from the unique Transylvanian situation. I believe that poetry reclaims Transylvanian Hungarian poetry's place in both Hungarian and global literary canons through its distinctive form and content. Behind the intertexts and masks, András Ferenc Kovács's Transylvanian

consciousness reflects an authentic poetic identity.

Ágnes Gálfalvi

■ ***Book Publishing in the Hungarian press in Romania in Recent Years***

Keywords: *minority, publishing industry,*
The paper analyses the presence of Hungarian book publishing as a theme in the Hungarian written press in Romania in the last two years (2022-23). The author investigates the extent to which information on the state of Hungarian publishing in Romania reaches the wider public who follows the print and online press. Looking at a year's worth of publishing reports, major book events stand out and set the rhythm of book publishing in Romania. News articles tend to discuss the issues referring to book publishing connected to these events, highlighting current problems, but also positive attitudes.

Artemisz Harmath

■ ***“What Brings the Professional World Together”: Discussing the Possibilities of Institutionalising Contemporary Children’s Culture***

Keywords: *childrens’s culture, criticism, institution, programme*

In an interview with Imre József Balázs, literary critic Artemisz Harmath discusses the new possibilities created through the institutions she created: IGYIC and MeseCentrum are currently the most important hubs of children's culture in Hungary. As Harmath argues, she always tried to create the projects of IGYIC by linking at least two audiences, for example, linking university education and secondary education, or parents and secondary education. Another objective was to link the different (online and written) channels through which they convey their messages. The main objective is to disseminate knowledge, with quality contemporary literature and literary education as the two main pillars of a larger plan, which includes also professional literary criticism of the youth genres.

Zoltán Hermann

■ ***“Sick, very sick was this country...”: Ilona Sziklári of Mrs. Vachott, a historical story for the youth (1861)***

Keywords: *adaptation, historical novel, literary prize, literature for girls, youth fiction*

In the two decades after the defeat of the 1848-1849 Hungarian Revolution, Mrs. Mária Vachott (her husband, Sándor Vachott was a famous literary editor in the 1840s and at the time of the revolution the secretary of Lajos Kossuth) successfully carried out a programme of disseminating Hungarian language youth literature, especially for girls. She edited anthologies and started a series of books (*Vachott Sándoné ifjúsági iratai – Mrs. Vachott's Papers for Young People* etc.). These include her historical patriotic novel for girls from 1861, *Ilona Sziklári*. At the suggestion of her mentor, the writer-politician, Baron József Eötvös, Mrs. Vachott wrote the story as set at the end of the 16th century, during the reign of the Turks in Hungary. However, the story is an adaptation: the turning points in the plot strongly resemble to those of the plot of Christoph von Schmid's biedermeier novel *Rosa von Tannenburg* (1823). Von Schmid was also a popular writer in Hungary, widely read in both German and Hungarian, and in 1850 the '*Tannenburgi Róza*' was published in Hungarian. It is a curious fact that neither the critic of Mrs. Vachott's novel, Ferenc Salamon in 1861, nor the members of the committee that awarded the literary prize to this novel, offered by Countess Karolin Zichy, didn't recognise the obvious plagiarism – or tried to conceal the similarity.

Ronald Erik Hochhauser

■ ***BookTok and 'dark academia'***

Keywords: *BookTok, dark academia, trend, video, visuality*

Visual aestheticization of literature on TikTok has been trending during the last couple of years. The videos encountered by users are color-coded and equipped with light filters, and book covers included into these videos have similar designs. This gives rise to increasingly popular aesthetic trends on the platform, such as "dark academia aesthetic" or "cottage core aesthetic." While these trends did not necessarily originate in the field of literature, each of them is centered around a work of fiction that

incorporates the defining elements of the trend. In the case of 'dark academia', *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt serves as the central piece for the trend. Both BookTok and the dark academia trend gained noticeable popularity during the first wave of the 2020 COVID pandemic. This popularity is understandable as the isolation and suddenly imposed change in lifestyles left people craving for some meaningful reading experiences. The article describes and contextualizes the main elements of the trend.

Anna Juhász

■ ***"Anyone Can Be Topical, Who Captivates You"***

Keywords: *event, experientiality, literature, reading, youth culture*

Discussing her literary events organized in different countries, Anna Juhász answers the questions of Imre József Balázs, highlighting that the key to her events is the personal involvement. Contemporary authors participating in such events mediate this involvement, but such connection can be developed similarly with classical authors. Events consisting of discussions, readings and music follow the same logic: aiming to ensure that all generations are represented in these programmes, to organize events where high school students, adults and grandparents can all experience art and literature.

Péter Zoltán Kovács

■ ***New Opportunities in the Sociology of Literature: Towards Exploring the Characteristics of Reading Patterns among Hungarian High School Students in Transylvania***

Keywords: *sociology of literature, reading habits, high school generation, comparative analysis, textual analysis, generational studies*

My paper is related to my doctoral research, in which I examine the textual characteristics of literature popular among high school students. The basis of this examination is formed by the literature of the field from the past decades. My paper also includes a review of research in the field. Furthermore, I demonstrate where the caesura lies that separates today's high school generation

from previous generations, and I also answer what the basis of this division might be. I present previous studies conducted in Hungary, and I also address the lack of data regarding research focusing on young people, particularly Hungarian youth in Transylvania. I outline the methodology and the questions that any new research must ask if it is curious about what and how the high school generation reads. I also endeavour to present contemporary methods through which these reading habits can be analysed and compared with those of previous generations. Finally, I propose that any new research should not only be preoccupied with the analysis of reading habits but also the comparative analysis of the works read, which is the focus of my doctoral research.

Katalin Lakatos-Fleisz

■ ***The Relationship Between Image and Text in Contemporary Children's Poetry Books***

Keywords: *children's poetry books, text, illustration*

The study examines the connection between text and illustration in contemporary children's poetry books. In most cases, illustrations employ some form of visual enhancement or stylization. Even when they faithfully follow the themes of the texts, they establish their own visual language. Stylization thus emerges as a crucial creative element, uniquely belonging to the medium of the image. Stylization reveals that image and text can never fully coincide, even if the image depicts the same subject matter as the text. The question then becomes to what extent the illustrations align with the spirit of the text or diverge from it. To what extent do they consider the reader as a co-creator, and how much do they engage with the possibility of symbolic decoding? Children's poetry books, compared to prose, offer greater freedom, and enable broader, more metaphorical connections with images. A separate area of examination is the realm of children's drawings and adult illustrations imitating children's drawings, encompassing aspects such as the technique, color

palette, and typographical solutions employed in the images.

Kinga Makkai

■ ***Read it and Play with Us! A Decade of a Reading Contest for Children***

Keywords: *book fair, childrens' culture, contemporary literature, reading contest, youth culture*

In previous writings, the author discussed the extracurricular possibilities for fostering readership and some methodological characteristics to achieve positive results. This article presents the issue through the experience connected to a reading competition. Among the well-known methods for promoting readership, the approach of reading competitions is particularly appealing to children for several reasons. Firstly, children enjoy activities outside the school setting; they appreciate the opportunity to venture beyond the familiar school environment. Additionally, the voluntary nature of these activities is a key factor. Secondly, competition and rivalry are popular forms of utilizing and applying academic knowledge among students, especially when they can participate in teams. The reading competition is capable of satisfying both of these preferences. The author discusses the history of a reading competition organized annually in Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş, at the local bookfair.

Márton Mészáros

■ ***The Language of a Picture Book: Interpreting the "Kufli" phenomenon***

Keywords: *dialogue, generational studies, humor, picture book, visibility*

The improbable popularity of the "Kufli" series by András Dániel raises questions about its causes. What makes this absurd and unlikely fairy-tale world captivating for both a five-year-old and an adult art historian or literature scholar? The "Kufli" universe is unlike the conventional fairy-tale realm. Its main characters are amorphous, the plot is entirely arbitrary, and the illustrations deliberately defy the traditional beauty ideals of children's books. Moreover, the moral lessons, or rather the lack thereof, go against the norm, as acknowledged even

by the characters within the stories themselves. The series manages to engage the interests of both young children and adults, challenging conventional storytelling norms and aesthetic expectations. The author analyses patterns of the dialogue between text and visuality in the series, that may answer some of the questions discussed above.

Dóra Péczely

■ ***“Anyone who is a reader can find many points of connection with other readers”: Discussing Literary Anthologies for Young Readers***

Keywords: *anthology, classical literature, contemporary literature, music, youth culture*

In a dialogue with Imre József Balázs, Dóra Péczely, editor and literary therapist discusses the possibilities of approaching young readers through specific selections of literature. Four successful anthologies of both contemporary and classical literature, conceived by Dóra Péczely, had a thematic, but also generational approach to what young readers expect to enter the field of reading.

Eszter Szabó

■ ***The 21st Century Reader's Labyrinth and Some Magical Helpers***

Keywords: *book club, contemporary literature, podcast, social media, youth culture*

As an organizer of book clubs, and as a radio editor who runs a literary podcast, the author discusses the possibilities of such endeavours in present-day Transylvania. The goal of these activities is to promote sophisticated literary texts in a widely accessible and understandable manner. This approach has been experimented with extensively in various forms and across age groups, ranging from adults to practically all age brackets: adult book clubs, events for children, operating a Bookstagram page, and a podcast, with a growing sense of professionalism.

Levente T. SZABÓ

■ ***Has the Hungarian Girls' Novel Ever Been radical?***

Keywords: *Backfischroman, feminism, girls' novel, 19th century literature, radicalism*

Although a successful bourgeois marriage was the typical goal of a girls' novel in the period, and thus for the young girls who read the works, my paper argues that a more invisible, and more radical paradigm of the girls' novel emerged at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. This was very much linked to the German Backfischroman, with its rebellious girl-heroes, seen as repulsive in the Hungarian girls' novel. This emerging subgenre is difficult to recognise because in some cases it so subverted the schemata of the standard girls' novel that the texts associated with it were not even called by that term (although they clearly functioned in relation to the girls' novel, playing on it, and subverting its solutions). I argue that this particular, hitherto unrecognised radical corpus of the Hungarian girls' novel can make visible the more subversive young female ideal of modernity, which moves the bourgeois girls' novel towards feminism, naturalism or socially sensitive intellectual trends.

Márta Zabán

■ ***Sonic Boom Beyond the Smudgy Mountain***

Keywords: *children's literature, verse novel, 19th century literature, cancel culture*

The contemporary landscape of Hungarian children's literature production is characterized by various contexts that reshape, confine, and channel the evolution of children's literature along predetermined trajectories. The verse novel, as a genre, possesses an adequate amount of reflexivity and complexity to formulate responses on multiple levels and to provide a metalevel perspective on these inquiries. In my article, stemming from the interpretation of Dániel Varró's work *Túl a Maszat-hegyen* (Beyond the Smudgy Mountain) I attempt to delineate the literary processes to which Varró's work responds in its poetic and thematic solutions.

SZÁMUNK SZERZŐI

A lapozámot szerkesztette:

Balázs Imre József

Balázs Imre József (1976) – irodalomtörténész, egyetemi docens, BBTE, főszekesztő-helyettes, Korunk, Kolozsvár

Bács Emese (1978) – képzőművész, Budapest

Heck Tamás (1976) – doktorandus, ELTE Filozófatudományi Doktori Iskola, Zalaegecszeg

Hocskor-Salló Lilla (1977) – doktorandus, ELTE BTK Irodalomtudományi Doktori Iskola, Budapest

Demény Péter (1972) – költő, főszekesztő, Mátca, Bukarest

Gálfalvi Ágnes (1970) – doktorandus, BBTE, Kolozsvár, kiadóvezető, Lector

Kisáld, Marosvásárhely

Gömöri György (1934) – külföldi, irodalomtörténész, London

Harmath Artemisz (1979) – kritikus, programvezető, IGYEC-MesseCentrum, Budapest

Hermann Zoltán (1967) – irodalomtörténész, habilitált egyetemi docens, Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem, Budapest

Hochhauser Rósalád Erik (2004) – egyetemi hallgató, BBTE, Kolozsvár

Juhász Anna – irodalmár, kulturális menedzser, Kárpát-medencei programok vezetője, Petőfi Kulturális Ügynökség, Budapest

Kovács Péter Zoltán (1998) – doktorandus, BBTE, Kolozsvár

Lakatos-Fleisz Katalin (1978) – irodalomtörténész, PhD, egyetemi adjunktus, BBTE Pszichológia és Neveléstudományok Kara, Szatmárnémeti

Lázár Kinga (2001) – költő, Kolozsvár

Makkai Kinga (1974) – pedagógia szakos tanár, Mihai Eminescu Pedagógiai Póginézium, Marosvásárhely

Mészáros Márton (1977) – egyetemi docens, Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem, Budapest

Nagy Anita Apollónia (2001) – mesterképzés hallgató, BBTE, Kolozsvár

Nagy Stefánia Andrea (2003) – egyetemi hallgató, BBTE, Kolozsvár

Péczely Dóra (1968) – irodalmi szerkesztő, irodalomterapeuta, Budapest

Szabó Eszter (1993) – rádiós híreszekesztő, bemondó, az Okulusz irodalmi podcast műsorvezetője, Sepsiszentgyörgy

T. Szabó Levente (1977) – irodalomtörténész, habilitált egyetemi docens, BBTE, Kolozsvár

Wierzyński, Kazimierz (1884–1969) – lengyel költő

Zabán Márta (1982) – irodalomtörténész, PhD, egyetemi adjunktus, BBTE, Kolozsvár

TÁMOGATÓK



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„Nagyon felpörgetett az életmódiunk, és az olvasáshoz lelassulás szükséges. Azért kell reklámozniunk az olvasást, mert magát ezt a fajta tevékenységet: az elmélyülést, a kontemplációt, a lassúságot igénylő tevékenységeket is reklámozniunk kell. A slow foodról a slow szövegről. Ezt nem lehet megúszni, hogyha föl akarunk valamit fogni, és el akarunk rajta gondolkodni. Azt a pár percet rá kell számnunk.”

(Harmath Artemisz)

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