

ABSTRACTS

Mátyás Borsos

■ ***“A Conscientious Historian with a Keen Sense for the Essence of Historical Change”: The Transylvanian Principality in the Historiography of Imre Lukinich***

Keywords: *Imre Lukinich, Transylvanian Principality, Bethlen family, Keresd archive*

Although Imre Lukinich did not devote his entire scholarly career to the study of the Transylvanian Principality, his contribution to this field was nonetheless substantial. His research focused primarily on the reigns of John Sigismund, George I Rákóczi, and Michael I Apafi, with particular attention to the foreign policy of the princes. Over the course of his work, he published a large number of primary sources, most notably from the Keresd archive of the Bethlen family, and also produced several studies of a consistently high scholarly standard. His 1918 monograph *Territorial Changes of Transylvania in the Age of the Ottoman Conquest* examined the shifting western borders of the principality, arguing that possession of the Partium was a decisive factor in the functioning of the new state formed in the 16th century, while the loss of most of this territory led almost automatically to its collapse by the end of the 17th century. In his 1927 volume *The History of the Bethlen Family of Bethlen*, Lukinich likewise reconstructed the history of the Transylvanian Principality – especially its final five decades – through a series of finely crafted biographical portraits.

Johanna Domokos

■ ***Niillas Holmberg’s Joik Verse in Roope Mäenpää’s Symphony Luovus, Performed in Finland and Canada***

Keywords: *Sámi poetry, joik, translanguaging, Niillas Holmberg, indigenous modernity*

This study examines multimodal and translingual strategies in contemporary

Sámi poetry through Niillas Holmberg’s joik-poem *Luovus*, performed in Finland and Canada as a symphony for joik and chamber orchestra composed by Roope Mäenpää. Situating Holmberg within the legacy of Sámi joik and modern Indigenous literature, the analysis addresses code-switching, phonetic improvisation, and the interaction of Sámi and Finnish linguistic layers, and considers how joik, poetry, and classical music intersect within a transcultural aesthetic.

Ágnes Gergely

■ ***Finland as a Pedagogical Myth and a Subject of Critical Inquiry***

Keywords: *early childhood education, play-based learning, pedagogy, gender, Finland*

This article examines the Finnish early childhood education and care system as both an international reference model and an object of critical analysis. It outlines its emphasis on play-based learning, equity, teacher autonomy, and low levels of standardised accountability, while also analysing how everyday pedagogical practices may reproduce gender norms. The study situates the Finnish model as a pedagogical framework that invites ongoing critical reflection.

Hajnal Király

■ ***An Ironic Humanist: Lack and Excess in the Films of Aki Kaurismäki***

Keywords: *Kaurismäki, irony, minimalism, society, excess*

The article analyses how narrative and stylistic minimalism in the films of Aki Kaurismäki coexists with an excess of forms, colours, references, and nostalgic music. It argues that this tension produces the ironic, absurd, or “quirky” effect characteristic of his cinema and prevents sentimental representations of underclass characters. The study situates Kaurismäki’s humanism in his effort to rehumanise marginalised figures by rendering them visible within both social and film-historical contexts.

Eszter Apolka Kovács

■ ***Branding the Finnish Way of Life: Nordic Simplicity as a Visual Strategy of Stereotype Production***

Keywords: *Nordic simplicity, Finnish identity, stereotype, cultural branding, lifestyle branding*

This study examines how the Finnish way of life is visually constructed as a globally recognisable brand through the aesthetic framework of Nordic simplicity. Using a comparative visual-semiotic analysis of Visit Finland's and Marimekko's Instagram communication, it analyses how institutional and commercial actors mobilise similar visual codes to produce coherent yet ideologically distinct narratives. The article shows how Nordic simplicity functions as a normative visual system that stabilises cultural stereotypes and naturalises selective values such as harmony, simplicity, and well-being.

Zsuzsa Máthé

■ ***Water is the Oldest Ointment: The Finnish Worldview in Proverbs and Idioms***

Keywords: *idioms, proverbs, fixed expressions, culture, linguistics*

This article examines Finnish proverbs and idioms as expressions of cultural worldview and linguistic tradition. It analyses how these fixed expressions are shaped by the northern landscape and everyday practices, including references to nature, birds, weather, and sauna culture. The study situates these idioms and proverbs as elements that both reflect and structure the conceptual world of the Finnish language.

Enikő Molnár-Bodrogi

■ ***Revitalising Minority Languages through Literature***

Keywords: *endangered language, endangered literature, revitalisation, Meänkieli, Kven*

This study examines two severely endangered Finno-Ugric minority languages in the North Calotte area by

analysing the emergence of their written literatures in contexts where most authors write in the majority language. Focusing on Meänkieli and Kven, it discusses the role of literary production in linguistic and cultural revitalisation through the work of Bengt Pohjanen and Alf Nilsen-Børsskog. The article defines minority literature written in the minority language as a central symbolic resource for language maintenance and revival.

Tünde Morvai

■ ***25 Years of Finnish Education: PISA Successes, Changes, Challenges***

Keywords: *PISA, the Finnish miracle, comprehensive school, student well-being, 21st century skills*

This article reviews the international reception of the Finnish education system over the past twenty-five years, particularly following the PISA results of the early 2000s. It examines the long-term policies that underpinned this success and analyses recent challenges, including declining performance, increasing inequality, and growing student diversity. The study outlines policy responses such as curriculum reform, extended compulsory education, and renewed attention to student well-being.

János Pusztay

■ ***The World's Linguistic Fabric is Fading***

Keywords: *endangered languages, language globalisation, the Finno-Ugric language family, the Finnish language, saving languages*

This article examines the processes of language endangerment and loss in the context of globalisation. Using examples from Estonian, Finnish, and Hungarian, it analyses the social and political factors that lead to language shift and the abandonment of linguistic identity. The study also considers possible strategies for mitigating these processes and supporting language maintenance.

Dániel Szabolcs Radnai

■ ***Noble Tradition, Artistic Experience, and the Future-Oriented Construction of the Past in Mór Jókai's Hungarian Travel Prose: The Case of the Transylvanian Travel Letters (1853)***

Keywords: *travel writing, Mór Jókai, construction of the past, nationalism, Transylvania*

This study examines the literary record of Mór Jókai's first journey to Transylvania, the *Transylvanian Travel Letters* (1853), in order to identify the narrative strategies through which he articulates a future-oriented construction of the past in the 1850s, and to reconstruct the value system underlying his landscape descriptions. It interprets Jókai's travel journalism in Hungary and Transylvania both as a form of artistic travel (an inspirational journey) and as a reconfigured social practice of kinship visitation, while also addressing the medial and poetic dimensions of his travel prose. The analysis further demonstrates how Transylvanian cul-

ture and mentality – represented as archaic and tradition-bound – are elevated in Jókai's prose to a normative model of conscious adherence to tradition for the Hungarian intelligentsia.

Ferenc Vincze

■ ***Mixing Media in Documentary Comics***

Keywords: *graphic novel, documentary storytelling, multimedia, Finnish history*

This study analyses Hanneriina Moisseinen's documentary graphic novel *Kannas* as a form of multimedia historical narration. Focusing on the intertwined stories of a cowherd girl and a soldier, it examines how individual narratives of the 1944 Karelian Isthmus evacuation are contextualised through the use of photography, sound, and visual montage. The article evaluates the documentary techniques employed in the graphic novel and their implications for documentary storytelling.

