

English Abstracts

Bayer, Árpád: From Identity to Independence in Suburbia. The Baross Gábor Estate and Its Institutions Before the Second World War

The settlement named Baross Gábor Estate was founded in the early 20th century in the suburban region of Budapest, as part of Nagytétény, only 2-3 kilometres from its centre. At the early stages of development, it was customary for the representatives of the middle classes to buy plots in the area, and only by the interwar period were they outnumbered by industrial workers. As early as 1909 the Civil Circle was formed, and by the 1910s the idea of independence emerged, which was often intertwined with the idea of unification with Budatétény, a settlement in the closer vicinity of the estate. In just a couple of years, a strong sense of identity developed, mostly on the basis of an opposition emerging between the Baross Gábor Estate and Nagytétény. The community of the estate even built their own school and church, however these infrastructural developments were accompanied by controversies.

How did a distinctive, individual sense of identity emerge? By whom and how was this process subsidized? How did the relations between the two settlements evolve? What served as the basis for the conflict of interests? What triggered conflicts and what were the lines along which they could cooperate? During my investigations into the establishment of the school and the church, thus the developments in infrastructure, the traces of a distinctive „Barossian” identity surfaced. In the article, by addressing these questions, I aim to provide an analysis of the reasons for the emergence of a separate sense of identity.

To be able to reconstruct this, three main underlying factors were specified. Firstly, the distance between the Baross Gábor Estate and Nagytétény: not only was the latter considerably far, but it was also unable to compete with the prestige of Budapest of Budafok, which has earned the legal rights of a city in 1923, and was lying in the close vicinity of the estate. Secondly, differences in ethnical (Hungarian and Swabian) and social (rural workers in opposition to industrial workers) background characterized the area. (During the interwar period, a strong sense of identity emerged among the industrial workers.) Thirdly, the formation of the Civil Circle and other civilian organizations not only represented the rights and opinions of the population, but aided the emergence of a strong sense of identity as well.

Bezsenyi, Tamás: “He had no chance, reason or way to like the socialist regime”. The Role of the Mutilation of the Psyche, ‘Political Geology’ and the Saraska-model in the Show Trial against Simon Papp

The study focuses on a unique show trial: the proceedings against Simon Papp, petroleum engineer and the chief executive of the Hungarian-American Oil Industry Corporation. The seemingly absurd peculiarity of the case lies in the fact that the trial itself was used to force the chief executive into cooperation, as Simon Papp, even though he neglected the communist leadership, was irreplaceable on account of his professional competence. Simon Papp, previously sentenced for life imprisonment, was re-appointed as the chief executive of the corporation, consequently he conducted the operation of the same company he allegedly sabotaged. Hence, the state promoted its political enemy to be a (secret) economically.

The analysis focuses on the proceedings ending in indictment, on the grounds of false data, alluding to well control that was never carried out in reality, with the aim of proving the inefficiency of the corporation. (The author uses the term ‘political geology’ to denote the

process of the fabrication of drilling data.) Through the examination of this case, on the basis of the Foucauldian theory, the function and operating mechanism of show trials can also be well exemplified. From among the identifiable features, the most significant is the public display of the representability of criminal behaviour, which replaced the earlier (modern) considerations in criminal justice, especially the pursuit of the understanding of the criminal's soul.

The show trials of the Rákosi Era determine the discourse on existing socialism. The researchers of this period focusing on criminal jurisdiction are predominantly preoccupied with the repressive methods of the state. The study aims to supplement this approach by examining this particular case, showing that the state's willingness to cooperate could influence the application of regulation pertaining to criminal law. By examining the diary and recollections of Simon Papp, an attempt is made to highlight the restricted rationality of state violence.

Gyimesi, Emese: „Mom's tales will be published”. The Interplay of the Public and Private Spheres in the Writing Practice of the Szendrey–Horvát Family

Even though nowadays the history of media and the analysis of ego-documents (diaries, letters and memoirs) stand in the focus of historical research, the interactions between these fields are rarely mentioned. It is less known how the everyday lives of people were affected by the growth of the printing press and the widespread habit of reading newspapers on a daily basis. The influence of this phenomenon on children is a particularly neglected field of research. This study is based on a source that at the turn of 1865 and 1866 provided a possibility for a ten and a fourteen year old boy for playing and entertaining themselves, and also served as a gift for their mother, Júlia Szendrey who at the time established herself as a popular writer. Attila and Árpád Horvát edited a seven-volume 'periodical' meant for familial use.

I intend to focus on the methods by which the two children imitated the manner of writing, characteristic of the public sphere, and the representations of phenomena prevalent in contemporary media. How did they contextualise a controversial issue of the time, the debate launched by Pál Gyulai concerning female writers? How did they perceive the publications of their mother? What types of columns did they 'invent' and how did they imagine the debacle of a periodical? During my investigation into the 'family paper' made up of heterogeneous texts (diary entries, poems, travelogues, reports and editorial messages) I mainly relied on the concept of the private writing practice introduced by French historians. Since a newspaper imitation of this kind counts as a unique source rarely standing in the focus of historians' attention, it offers us an insight into a field hardly attainable to the researcher: the influence 19th-century media exerted on the everyday lives of children.

Koloh, Gábor: Remarks on the Historiography of Suicide on the Example of Five Villages in Békés County (1895–1980)

This study, examining the suicide cases of Békés County, is an early result of the research conducted during my master studies. Its main basis is the assertion – deriving from the Durkheimian approach – that suicide is a social phenomenon. Earlier studies have shown the regional differences, underlining the remarkably high proportion of suicide cases in Békés County. In the article, based on the data of five villages showing also micro-regional differences, I aim at exploring the basis on which these suicidal tendencies can be explained. The research was based mainly on official death records, complemented with oral interviews, as the results of descriptive statistical analysis can be well illustrated and contextualised by situating them into the comprehensible framework of individual case studies. The inquiry shed light on gender and age differences, and led to the hypothesis that the high proportion of suicide cases among the younger generations defines the particular 'suicidal character' of the area.

Mátay, Mónika: Remarks on the History of European Publicity

The present article provides an overview about the major changes of the European public sphere on the basis of Jürgen Habermas' classical work. First, the author focuses on the development of public opinion and the critical public. In addition to the Western European organic examples the essay considers the unique features of Hungarian social change. Next, the treatise demonstrates the Habermas model which is based on sociological and historical analysis and suggests that hundreds of years of economic, social and political procedures resulted in the emergence of the modern public sphere. Habermas' work received special professional attention from its first publication in 1962 and historians produced the major part of the critical reflections. Historical research of the past few decades showed that Habermas, who applied the Marxist paradigm, focused on economic changes that inspired the public sphere as dominant forces while neglected other important aspects. According to British social historians much before the revolution, the cancel of censorship and the parliamentary political system public debates on religious and scientific issues shaped the public sphere in England. According to another important criticism, Habermas perceived public debate in a one dimensional instead of a pluralistic format that resulted inaccurate historical portrait. Much before the French Revolution forbidden, low literature played key role in the emergence of critical mentality in France. Habermas, however, failed to provide this important version of public speech. In other words, the public sphere had not emerged as a consequence of the revolution just the opposite was the case. Feminist theoreticians criticized the German sociologist for neglecting the female aspects. As they argue, it was a major mistake, because women's historical experiences of the public sphere had radically been different from those of men. Thanks to the historical works that reflected to Habermas, our knowledge of the European public sphere is much deeper and more sophisticated than a few decades ago.

Mihalik, Béla Vilmos: "...she has taken fatherly care of us". Mothers and Their Sons in an Early Modern Transylvanian Noble Family

This study examines the four generations of the Iszlay family, belonging to the primores strata of Szekler nobility during the 17th and 18th centuries, focusing on the contribution of women to the consolidation of the family's social status. Even though sources are scarce for the 17th century, they nevertheless reveal the active participation of women, especially Zsuzsanna Koczány and her daughter-in-law, Sára Kerestély in the management of the estates, either in agreement with their husbands, or as widows, acting in their own right. In the 18th century, Anna Iszlay was successful in keeping her heritage in spite of the conflict emerging between her and her father, György Iszlay III. However, the wife of György Iszlay III fell victim to the discord between the Iszlay and Kodok families, hence she was unable to acquire an individual set of roles. Consequently, differing patterns of female behaviour and roles were identified by the examination of the four generations of the Iszlay family.