
ABSTRACTS

Zsuzsanna Kiss: “Correct Proportions”: The Agricultural Curriculum in Elementary Education in Nineteenth-Century Hungary

The study examines classroom materials used in teaching the economy curriculum and classes of agricultural subjects in elementary schools at the end of the nineteenth century. First, it addresses the challenges which Hungary, particularly its rural society, faced following the dissolution of the feudal land tenure system. I introduce the concept of “correct proportions” employed by agricultural experts of the era, which designated the duties across all those dimensions of agriculture that these professionals deemed essential for comprehensive economic and social development.

By detailing the post-1848 legal frameworks for elementary education, the second part of the study traces how and when agricultural knowledge was integrated into the curriculum and what content the educators wished to deliver to the students. Lastly, the final section presents the curriculum itself, analysing the format, structure, and content of textbooks used in elementary agricultural education. The study uncovers the methods and content used to convey the complex concept of „correct proportions” to schoolchildren.

Keywords: agricultural education, elementary education, curricula, textbooks, “correct proportions”, nineteenth century

Cecília Kovai – Fanni Puskás: Reserve Army of Labour/Surplus Population or Precariat? Interpretations of the Socioeconomic Status of the Roma Population in Hungary

The study seeks to interpret the relationship between the Roma population and social status using concepts commonly employed in social sciences. Going beyond the state level, these concepts contextualize the development of local ethnic and class relations within broader political and economic processes. The two concepts in question are the reserve army of labour/surplus population and the precariat. The authors demonstrate that class has always played a prominent role in Hungarian sociohistorical and sociological research, but class and ethnicity often remain mutually exclusive in these discussions. The chosen concepts, however, shed light on the fact that their interplay creates peculiar conditions in the rural spaces examined here. Although they originate from different socio-

logical traditions, these two concepts both have advantages for analysis, which are the subject of the present paper. Firstly, they allow the interpretation of local phenomena by placing them in the context of global economic and political processes. Secondly, both concepts bring together ethnicity and class relations within the same frame. Thirdly, both the concept of reserve army of labour/surplus population and that of the precariat highlight that in these rural spaces, ethnic and class relations – and the concomitant ethnicised class conflicts – are organized by the access to the benefits of formal, permanent wage labour.

Keywords: ethnicity, class, precariat, reserve army of labour, Roma

Mátyás Lajtai: The Size and Social Characteristics of the Roma Population in Eighteenth-Century Census Records

This study examines the population size and social status of the Roma population in Hungary based on census records conducted between 1782 and 1785. It presents an overview of earlier literature on the population size of the Roma in the late eighteenth century, which is followed by the analysis of primary sources. The findings substantiate that the Roma population was larger than previously assumed. The Roma population within the territory of the Kingdom of Hungary, including Croatia, was estimated to be around 65,000, while their number in the entire country may have been approximately 130,000. A territorial comparison between the late eighteenth-century Roma registers and the results of the 1893 census, which is considered modern, indicates that the spatial distribution of the Roma population in the Kingdom of Hungary remained consistent between the two time periods. Finally, the study presents the findings of the eighteenth-century Roma censuses, which suggest that the Roma population appear to have been mostly settled and integrated into local society at the time.

Keywords: Roma, Roma censuses, social integration, population.

Levente Olosz: Galicians, Wine Merchants and Raids in North-East Hungary in the Summer of 1918

In the summer of 1918, large-scale raids were conducted under the pretext of enforcing taxation in the northeastern counties of Hungary, and nearly one million crowns were collected from those deemed guilty. Despite the authorities' justification that this was to curb speculators inflating the price of wine and other products, the raids exclusively targeted individuals of the Jewish faith, and their brutality reached unprecedented levels. The study traces the unfolding events from four different perspectives: 1. First, relying on the accounts of the

victims, the local Jews, the study presents the grievances suffered, particularly the discrimination against Hungarian Jewish citizens. The *Egyenlőség* (Equality) provided the most detailed coverage of the experiences of those who were persecuted. 2. The wider public may have perceived the events as justified action against “Galician” price gougers, since the majority of the Budapest press conveyed this image to readers. The second perspective of the study concerns this media campaign. 3. The third part presents the raids from the viewpoint of the financial authorities’ employees, who reported in detail their experiences and results achieved. Evaluating the suppression of Galician traders and their taxation as failures, these reports contradicted the press reports portraying the raids as overwhelming success. 4. Finally, the study examines the impact of the events on the local wine trade, highlighting the fluctuation of wine prices from the perspective of wine merchants. The raids had a devastating effect on wine production and trade, both prospering in the wartime boom. The soaring wine prices of the wine exchanges in Sátorajáújhely and other cities in the grey zone plummeted to a fraction of their former value. Beyond exploring these perspectives, the study also reveals the underlying purpose of this drastic intervention: the raids could have been connected to the imminent monopolization of Ukrainian wine export.

Keywords: Galician Jews, raid, wine trade, First World War, Antisemitism

Pál Nagy: The Roma Population in Transylvania in the Second Half of the Eighteenth Century

The study presents a historical demographic analysis of the Roma population in Transylvania during the second half of the eighteenth century, based on tax records, Roma censuses, and statistics. For a few decades after the mid-eighteenth century, the Roma population underwent a process of settlement and growth. However, from the 1780s onwards, the pace of growth slowed down, and the changes became wrought with geographical inequalities. An undetermined portion of the Roma population remained outside censuses. The sources indicate that the Roma population, comprising around 60,000 individuals, accounted for about 4% of Transylvania’s total population. Regarding their status, the majority of this Roma population were serfs, the rest were cottars. In terms of lifestyle, a larger proportion had settled, while a smaller portion remained nomadic. In Transylvania, Roma people were generally divided into two categories: the settled and the tent-dwelling. Another distinguishing feature was whether they fell under the jurisdiction of the state treasury. Approximately fifty occupations and sources of income can be identified during the examined period, with many disparities. Most Roma heads of families were blacksmiths, cobblers, or musicians. A significant portion of the families had no specific

trades and primarily earned a living as day-labourers and casual workers. The positions of the Roma population were determined by their place within the Estates system and their own internal divisions. Changes were influenced by migration, territorial reconfigurations, as well as structural transformations of society and economy, urban immigration, and searching for employment.

Keywords: Transylvania, Roma population, demographics, Roma censuses, eighteenth century

Ágnes Szokolszky: The Life of Gypsy Musicians in Hungary, as Related in the Family History of a Violinist Dynasty

This study traces the centuries-long history of the so-called „coffeehouse” Gypsy musicians in Hungary through the family history of a famous dynasty of lead violinists. An approximately 40-hour interview series with Sándor Déki Lakatos serves as the starting point for the overview, spanning a long period from the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, through the Horthy, Rákosi, and Kádár periods, down to the transition to democracy and the present. The main events and turning points in the narration reveal the favourable and unfavourable conditions for the seven-generation history of the dynasty in broader historical context. The story of this specific family sheds life to the history in general of their community, which successfully integrated into Hungarian culture and history across the consecutive eras of Hungarian history. The study also delves into the factors that led to the seemingly irreversible collapse of this community after the regime change. In conclusion, the study emphasizes the importance of exploring and understanding the historical narrative of Hungarian Gypsy music across different eras, and of integrating its enduring values into our perception of both the Hungarian and the Hungarian Roma culture.

Keywords: History of Gypsy Music in Hungary, Sándor Déki Lakatos, Coffeehouse Gypsy Music