

European Conflicted Heritage: New Reflections on the Treaty of Trianon 100 years in Perspective (1920-2020)



- October 15th, 2020 -
Online Conference

Hungarian Studies Program
Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies
Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy
University of Toronto

11:00 am ET (Eastern Time):

Robert Austin | *Opening Comments*

Director, Hungarian Studies Program

Historical and Contemporary Analysis of One Hundred Years of Trianon

Moderated by Dr Robert Austin

Professor Attila Pók | *Trianon 10-50-100: Continuities and Discontinuities of Remembrance*

This presentation will deal with some major motives of Hungarian political and social remembrance at the time of three anniversaries of the Trianon Peace Treaty.

Comparisons will focus on messages of official statements to the respective domestic and international public opinions, forms of mourning and warning, limits and options for a revision of the decisions of the great powers, the search for scapegoats. The presentation will try to analyze the place of this peace treaty and its consequences in competing narratives of modern Hungarian and European history around 1930, 1970 and in 2020 both in political rhetoric and collective memories.

Attila Pók is a senior researcher at the Institute of Advanced Studies Kőszeg. He was the deputy director of the Institute of History at the Research Centre for Humanities at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest (1996-2018), Secretary General of the Hungarian Historical Association (2007-2015) and Visiting Professor of History at Columbia University in New York (1998-2013). His publications and courses cover three major fields: 19th-20th century European political and intellectual history, history of modern European historiography with special regard to political uses of history and theory and the methodology of history writing. His works in English include: *A Selected Bibliography of Modern Historiography* (Bibliographies & Indexes in World History, Number 24, Greenwood Press, New York-Westport, Connecticut-London, 1992); *The Politics of Hatred in the Middle of Europe. Scapegoating in Twentieth Century Hungary: History and Historiography* (Savaria Books on Politics, Culture and Society. Savaria University Press, Szombathely, 2009); volume co-edited with Randolph L. Braham: *The Hungarian Holocaust after Fifty Years* (Columbia University Press, New York, 1997); volume co-edited with Stuart Macintyre and Juan Manguerra: *The Oxford History of Historical Writing* (Vol. 4. Oxford University Press, 2011). *Remembering and Forgetting Communism in Hungary. Studies on Collective Memory and Memory Politics in Context*. Institute of Advanced Studies Kőszeg (iASK) and The Institute of History, Research Centre for the Humanities of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Kőszeg-Budapest, 2017.

Professor László Borhi | *The Treaty of Trianon and the Top Down Bottom Up Dynamic of Peacemaking in 1919/1920.*

Hungarians tend to regard the punitive peace agreement in Paris as a product of Entente revenge. This presentation will argue that much of what happened in terms of the territorial rearrangement of Central Europe and the Hungarian borders was not designed and perhaps not even intended by the peacemakers in Paris. Rather, much of it was the outcome of the actions of lower level actors, representatives of the successor states, local Entente officials' military maneuvers and mainly the uncoordinated deliberations of the territorial committees where representatives of the defeated parties were not invited.

László Borhi is a Peter A. Kadas Chair Associate Professor, Indiana University/Scientific Counsellor, Institute of History, Center for Humanities, Budapest. Specialist of the Cold War, international relations history and the totalitarian dictatorships of the 20th century. Books include *Hungary in the Cold War* [CEU Press] and *Dealing with Dictators* [Indiana University Press], *Nagyhatalmi érdekek hálójában* [MTA BTK-Osiris]. Awards include the Ferenc Pataki Prize of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Gold Cross of Merit of the Hungarian Republic.

Susan M. Papp, Ph.D. | *Historical Reflections: Collective Memory Through the Lens of Minority Communities.*

This presentation is an observational study describing the results of an essay competition submitted by students who live in minority status in four different countries surrounding Hungary: in Transylvania in Romania, Slovakia, Transcarpathia in Ukraine, and Voivodina in Serbia. Previous lectures have contextualized the historical issues and challenges presented by the Treaty of Trianon, this presentation examines how the current generation of young people, whose families have lived in minority status for three generations, perceive the Treaty that has had such an impact on their lives.

Susan M. Papp obtained her Ph.D. in Modern European History from the University of Toronto. Her dissertation is entitled *The Politics of Exclusion and Retribution in the Hungarian Film Industry, 1929-1947*. She has had a distinguished career as an award-winning broadcaster and filmmaker. She has been a Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Dr. Papp is also the author of many scholarly articles and several books. One of her books, *Outcasts: A Love Story*, is based on historical events about a Christian man who tries to save a Jewish woman during the Second World War. Originally written in English, *Outcasts* has been translated into three languages and made into a documentary film.

Márton Ugrosdy | *Trianon: Influences on Foreign Policy until the Present Day*

The Treaty of Trianon had significant impact on Hungary in the last hundred years, foreign policy included. Between the two World Wars, revision of the Treaty was the major objective of Regent Horthy, which partially succeeded as a result of the Vienna Decisions. After WWII, the communist leadership denied the existence of Hungarians living in the neighboring countries as they thought the world revolution will render nations meaningless; but this was one of the factors leading to the demise of the communist dictatorship as János Kádár did not stand up against the systemic oppression of Hungarians in Romania under the late Ceausescu years. Today, Hungarians living in the neighboring countries are still a focal point of Hungarian foreign policy, but border issues are not on the agenda anymore as a result of Hungary's accession to NATO and the EU.

Márton Ugrosdy is the Director of the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade in Budapest, Hungary. His research interests cover transatlantic issues, energy security, and US foreign policy in Central and Eastern Europe. He joined IFAT in 2015 as a part-time research fellow, to become deputy director in early 2017. He serves as the director of IFAT since July 2018. Before joining the Institute, Márton worked as the editor-in-chief of Kitekintő.hu, Hungary's only thematic news portal dealing exclusively with international relations for seven years, where he also led the North America column. Márton is a graduate of Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest with a major in political science, where he also received the prestigious Republican Scholarship for academic excellence twice during his studies. Márton is also a part-time assistant lecturer at Corvinus University of Budapest. He is an alumnus of the Hungarian-American Enterprise Scholarship Fund, which allowed him to gain work experience at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC.

12:30 pm ET:

Living with the Consequences of Trianon Today: New Perspectives and Fresh Voices

Moderated by Susan M. Papp, Ph.D.

Andrea Bocskor | *The Issues Facing Minorities in Ukraine with Specific Reference to Transcarpathia*

Andrea Bocskor, Ph.D. is a member of the European Parliament, special representative on issues relating to Transcarpathia, Ukraine. At the European Union, Dr. Bocskor is vice-chair of the Committee on Culture and Education. She was born and raised in Ukraine. Dr. Bocskor received her Ph.D. in Cultural History in 2011, she is a Candidate of Historical Sciences at the Institute of the National Academy of Sciences, Kiev (Ukraine).

Ágota Dorottya Demeter | *The Hungarian Minority Community Living in Transylvania: Case Studies of the Minority Intergroup of the European Union.*

Ágota Dorottya Demeter was born and raised in Transylvania, Romania. She obtained a master's degree at Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca-Kolozsvár, Romania in Regional Development. Soon after, she became adviser to Kinga Gál, Ph.D. Member of the European Parliament. Her field of expertise is human rights with special regards to the rights of persons belonging to national and linguistic minorities. Since 2014, she also serves as secretary of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages - the only official forum on the level of the European Union where matters related to national and linguistic minorities can be presented and discussed.

Erzsébet Fanni Tóth, Ph.D | *Motivators of Change - Challenges and Experiences of Five Women in the 20th Century from Trans-Generational Perspective*

Erzsébet Fanni Tóth is a researcher and lecturer at Sigmund Freud University in Vienna, Austria. Dr. Toth is also the coordinator of the International PhD. programme in psychotherapy science. She grew up in Slovakia.

Renáta Laczi, Ph.D. | *Growing up in Voivodina: Multiculturalism and the Experience of Marginalization*

Renáta Laczi, Ph.D. was born and raised in Backa Topola (Vojvodina, Serbia). She earned a bachelor's degree in International Relations (Hungary), a master's degree in

International Business & Economics (Italy) and a PhD in Advanced Economics and Management Technology (Italy).