

Gábor Biczó

Who is “the Other”? On the Anthropological Portrait

Keywords: anthropological portrait, critical anthropology, interpretive turn

The paper deals with the issue of anthropological portraiture, a genre prevalent in contemporary sociocultural anthropology. The portrait is both a genre and a method, the history of which can be traced from the first decades of the 20th century in the works of the most important authors in the field. The basic question of anthropological portraiture is how the worldview of a single person, made possible by his or her community, can serve as an authentic source of scientific knowledge. The paper introduces the reader to some of the basic theoretical and methodological issues of the anthropological portrait genre.

Laura Iancu:

Fear of God in the Religiosity of a Moldavian Catholic Community

Keywords: folk religiosity, Catholicism, fear of God, mysterium tremendum, Hungarians in Moldavia

The subject of this study is the relationship between fear and faith. In the Christian cultural context, the fear of God – the main topic of this essay – is related to this phenomenon. The data used in this analysis are drawn from the religiousness of a Catholic Hungarian village community from East-Romania. The theme is unfolded by presenting cases and situations that highlight the characteristics of the fear of God. The study discusses the role of the workings of the physical world (nature), the rebellion against God (lack of fear of God), and disloyalty to God (idolatry). The results of the study show that in lived religiosity, the fear of God is an immanent reality, and it is one of the determining factors of a balanced social life.

Éva Luka:

Demonic Possession in Folk Tales

Keywords: folk tale, sin, curse, demonic possession, redemption

In the world of folk tales, demonic possession is often linked to sin. In *The Princess in the Shroud* type tales (ATU 307), the princess falls into a state of demonic possession due to her own sins and the curse placed upon her. The key to redemption lies in the hands of the heroic savior, who, following divine guidance, undertakes the trials and frees the princess from the captivity of death and damnation. Through the hero's actions, not only does the princess receive a new life, but the hero's own fate also improves with the help of divine providence, leading to prosperity and happiness. These tales reflect the Christian perspective on sin and redemption, emphasizing the role of heroic sacrifice and divine providence.

Noémi Kicsi

The Election of a Cantor as a Folk Custom (based on examples from Gyergyószentmiklós/Gheorgheni)

Keywords: official and popular religiosity, minor and major tradition, cantors, cantor election customs, peasant cantors

Based on archival research and interviews, this study presents the customs of election of the Roman Catholic cantors in Gheorgheni during the period of communism, as well as the cantors who served during this time. It seeks for answers to questions such as how cantors were elected after the nationalization in 1948, when the status of cantor-teacher was abolished, and what values the cantors represented in the life of the Church and the local community.

András Beke

The Activity of Vlad Izidor, a Greek Catholic Priest in Ciuc during the Interwar Period (With special focus on the religious conversions in Sâncrăieni)

Keywords: Greek Catholics, Roman Catholic church history, religious conversion, ethnicity, Romanian nationalism, village community, Szeklerland

The study utilizes archival and press sources to examine the activities of Greek Catholic priest Vlad Izidor in Miercurea Ciuc and Sâncrăieni during the interwar period. The author seeks to answer what social, economic, and ideological circumstances led to the conversion of Roman Catholics to the Greek Catholic rite during this time.

Tünde Czeker-Posztuly

Religious Conversions of Former Greek-Catholics in Casin

Keywords: change of rite, historical demography, Greek Catholic, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Casin

Written historical data on the settlement of the Romanian population in Casin are very scarce. Until the 1940s, two denominations coexisted in the five villages of the commune of Plăieșii de Jos: the Roman-Catholic, with a larger number of inhabitants, and the Greek-Catholic, with a smaller number of inhabitants. After the second Vienna decision, Greek Catholics converted en masse to Roman Catholicism. When Greek Catholicism was abolished by the state in 1948, the remaining Greek Catholics were united with the Orthodox Church. Archival documents attest that the conversions were voluntary and of the free will of the faithful. Because of religious conversion and institutional interventions, the number of Greek-Catholics in the commune greatly decreased.

Ignác András

Psychic Images and Supernatural Communication in the Burial Customs and the Cult of the Dead of the Gypsies of Kászonfeltíz (Plăieșii de Sus)

Keywords: soul image, death image, vigil, afterlife, metacommunication

During my research I came to the conclusion that the Roma community of Kászonfeltíz experiences death, the most important life-changing event, in a very particular way. The Roma people of Kászonfeltíz have a very complex image of the afterlife, in which we can find elements of ancient Greek beliefs, the afterlife-image from the time of the Hungarian conquest and Christian teachings. The Roma image of the afterlife has developed over centuries, it has been preserved and passed on from generation to generation. The rapid changing of traditions connected to death, or

their disappearance in some cases, exists here as well, although this process is slower in their community than it is in ours (the Szeklers).

Mária Irén Lőrincz:

"One always learns, little by little every day" – The Connections between Traditional and Alternative Medicine in Lunca de Jos

Keywords: ethnobotany, Lunca de Jos, herb knowledge, knowledge transfer, alternative medicine

The study analyzes the relationship between traditional and alternative medicine through the life journey of a folk healer from Gyimesközéplek (Lunca de Jos). Its aim is to explore the sources of folk healers' knowledge, the social role of healing, and the interaction between traditional and modern methods. The research highlights that folk medicine is not merely a relic of the past but remains an important part of everyday life in the local community today.

Melinda Székely

The Stages of “Disrobing” in the Folk Costume of the Transylvanian Mezőség

Keywords: Transylvanian Mezőség, folk costume, “Hungarian dress”, identity, functions of the costume, change of mentality, embourgeoisement, “disrobing”

The study presents a process that can be dated back to the 20th century in terms of costume history. Disrobing is a process that took place in most of the Hungarian ethnographic regions, as a result of which traditional folk costumes were permanently replaced by civilian clothes. The change took place thanks to various external influences, so the above work presents these stations and external influences that can be recorded in time. Dr. Károly Kós and Béla Tőkés recorded the changes that had taken place in the folk costume of Mezőség by the mid-20th century, and described in detail the pieces of the costume at that time. The aim of this study is to record the changes that have occurred in the costume since then.

György Ruzsa

Saint Constantine of Murom with Four Saints: Two Lesser-Known Icon Representations

Keywords: Russian Icons, Saint Constantine of Murom, folk religiosity, miracle stories

The study briefly presents the hagiography, iconography and important legends related to Saint Constantine of Murom, and then the author presents a rare icon type associated with the Russian saint.

Ferenc Bódi

The “Folk Idea” and the “Third Way” as an Aborted East-Central-European Model?

Keywords: 20th century history of ideas, the “folk idea”, the “third way”, Hungarian sociographic movements, left-wing ideologies, right-wing ideologies, 1989 political change

One of the still-unresolved enigmas of Central and Eastern Europe is whether its history follows its own unique trajectory, or whether it finds its path – or escape route – by being subordinated to larger regions and the ideologies that govern them in the hope of improving its own fate. Is it possible to find inherent solutions to its crises and problems? In other words: do the societies of this intermediary historical region have a nature of their own? Jenő Szűcs posited the existence of a transitional region between East and West, whose culture is neither fully Western nor entirely Eastern. Can the “third way” be a viable alternative for the peoples and nations living in this intermediary region, assuming that it indeed has a distinct nature? The following work is a reflection inspired by a recently published book that explored the intellectual-historical context of the “third way”.