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Canadian Studies: The Hungarian Contribution

Canadian Studies was launched in Hungary in 1979, when the first course in Canadian literature was offered at the English Department of Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. This article is intended to explore the history of this discipline in the past 40+ years, focusing on the growing awareness of Canada and its culture in Hungarian academic and intellectual life. As early as the mid-1980s, universities in Hungary offered various courses in Canadian Studies, which were followed by a large number of publications, conferences, and the institutionalization of the field. The article gives a survey of Canadian Studies in Hungary in the international context, showing the ways in which interaction with colleagues in Europe and beyond, and with institutions, such as the Central European Association for Canadian Studies, has promoted the work of Hungarian researchers. The article also discusses the fields of interest and individual achievements of Hungarian scholars, as well as the challenges Canadian Studies has faced.

Key words: Canadian Studies; Hungary; university; scholarship; research; history

The study of Canada by Hungarians is usually considered a recent development compared to academic research on the history and culture of other nations. However, evidence shows that, in a sense, the history of contacts between the two countries goes back several centuries. It was in 1583 when the first Hungarian, Stephen Parmenius of Buda, set foot in what is Newfoundland today. He was a poet and chronicler who arrived in the area of St. John's in August 1583 and who is remembered today – as evidenced by a memorial plaque placed in St. John's – as the first European to write poems on this part of the “new found land” (Balázs, “Parmenius István” 61).¹

¹ When soon after their departure from Newfoundland, Parmenius and his shipmates were lost at sea, Edward Hayes, Captain of the Golden Hind, reported the tragedy in these words: “...Amongest whom was drowned a learned man, an Hungarian, born in the Citie of Buda, called there of Budaeus, who of pietie and zeale to good attempts, adventured in this action, minding to record in the Latine tongue, the gest and things worthy of remembrance, happening in this discoverie, to the honour of our nation, the same being adorned with the

Parmenius was a member of Sir Humphrey Gilbert's expedition to North America, "whose task was set by Queen Elizabeth I to establish English colonies in the New World" (Jakabfi, "Paving the Way" 158). Parmenius was not fortunate enough to make it back to Europe; on August 29, 1583, his ship went aground near Sable Island or Cape Breton and he was drowned at sea (Quinn, "PARMENIUS" 2003).

Several centuries had to pass before the next Hungarians, this time agricultural workers, arrived in what was then the Dominion of Canada in the 1880s. They were typically young men in their twenties, farmers who became the earliest Hungarian settlers in Canada. It was this group of Hungarians who provided the first reports on Canada to Hungarians by their correspondence with family left behind at home and through their occasional personal visits to the old homeland. Canadian Studies was far from being born at this time, nonetheless this was the starting point of a growing interest in Canada.

As for immigration statistics, 8,000 people of Hungarian ethnic origin emigrated from the territory of Hungary to Canada in 1870-1914; 33,000 in 1921-1941; and over 49,000 in 1945-1970, making it over 90,000 in total between 1870 and 1970 (Bódy 28). The largest wave of immigration followed the 1956 Hungarian Revolution when over 37,000 Hungarians were offered a new home in Canada. According to the 2016 census, 348,085 people are of Hungarian ancestry in Canada, 83,400 of whom are of a single ethnic origin, while the rest, 264,685 respondents, are of multiple ethnic backgrounds, Hungarian included (Statistics Canada).

Given that a significant number of Hungarians arrived in Canada already in the 1920s (according to the 1931 census, roughly 40,000 Hungarians lived in the country), Hungary opened a Consulate General in Montreal in 1922 and a Consulate in Winnipeg in 1927 (J. Nagy 12), which were the first official Hungarian diplomatic missions in the country. These consular offices operated for about two decades until, as a result of opposing military alliances during World War II, Britain severed its diplomatic ties with Hungary. Ottawa soon followed London, deciding on the closure of Hungary's two diplomatic missions in Canada on April 8, 1941 and declaring a state of war between the two countries on January 21, 1942 (J. Nagy 12-13). Subsequently, until September 1948, the Embassy of Sweden, and thereafter Poland provided for the representation of Hungary in Canada until 1964 when full and mutual diplomatic relations were eventually established between the two countries. This paved the way for closer economic and cultural ties between Canada and Hungary.

It was partly due to the aforementioned presence of Hungarians in Canada, as well as the strengthening of diplomatic, cultural, and economic relations between the two countries and the relative freedom "goulash Communism" allowed in Hungary that in the late 1970s and early 1980s the opportunity presented itself for Canadian Studies to emerge as a distinct discipline in Hungary, a development that occurred relatively early as compared to other countries in Central Europe.

eloquent stile of this Orator, and rare Poet of our time" (qtd. Balázs, "Budai Parmenius" 8). The collected works of Parmenius, translated from Latin into English and supplemented with commentaries, are available in the book *The New Found Land of Stephen Parmenius: Life and Writings of a Hungarian Poet, Drowned on a Voyage from Newfoundland, 1583*. See Quinn, *The New Found Land*.

Nevertheless, Canadian Studies arose with a delay in Hungary, just like elsewhere in the world.² This belatedness is explained by the fact that English departments at universities had traditionally focused on the study of English and American literature and culture, and Canadian literature, together with other “new literatures,” had been largely neglected for long decades. The first English Department in Hungary was established in 1886 in what then was called the University of Budapest, the predecessor of today’s Eötvös Loránd University, whose roots go back to the University of Nagyszombat (Trnava), founded originally as a Jesuit institution in 1635. In 1886, when the English Department was established, and for many decades thereafter, the central focus was on English literature and the study of English, and even a scholarly interest in American literature and linguistics was a later development. Although American authors were part of the curriculum for many decades, an independent Department of American Studies came into existence only in 1994, together with departments representing other academic fields.

It was in this context that Anna Jakabfi offered the first Canadian course in Hungary at the English Department of Eötvös Loránd University in 1979, just a year after she had earned her doctoral degree with the thesis *20th Century Canada in the Novels of Hugh MacLennan* (Jakabfi, “Kanada stúdiumok” 427). 1979 is therefore regarded as the starting date of Canadian Studies in Hungary, a field which soon began to be embraced by other Hungarian universities in the mid-1980s. Over the course of the next decades, Anna Jakabfi gave a variety of courses in Canadian literature, organized Canada Day events for her students, assisted her younger colleagues in their academic career, authored one and edited two collections of essays in Canadian Studies, and organized a major Canadian Studies conference in 1999 in Seregélyes, which was attended by renowned scholars and cultural figures from Europe and Canada.

The professors who initiated Canadian Studies courses in Hungary in the 1980s saw that Canada was both a fascinating area of research and an uncharted academic field, and they quickly developed a keen interest in its exploration. Besides Anna Jakabfi, Judit Molnár at the University of Debrecen, Katalin Kürtösi at the University of Szeged, and Éva Martonyi at the University of Pécs were the first to give courses in Canadian literature. Árpád Vigh from the University of Pécs was the first professor to study French Canadian literature in terms of its linguistic features. Linguistics was also represented by Tibor Oláh and later by Zsuzsanna Simonffy and Dóra Pődör.

² In Canada, the Canadian Studies Foundation was set up in 1970 (Jaumain 13), while a Centre for Canadian Studies at Johns Hopkins University, U.S., was created as early as 1969. The Association for Canadian Studies in the United States was founded in 1971 and was the first national association for Canadian Studies in the world (Jaumain 17). In Europe, Canadian Studies Centres were established in 1970 and 1974 at the Université de Bordeaux and at the University of Edinburgh, respectively (Jaumain 17). The Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) was established in 1973 at Queen’s University, Ontario, as a forum for Canadian scholars and the International Council for Canadian Studies was founded in 1981 in Halifax. By that time, national associations for Canadian Studies had already been in existence in Great Britain (1975), France (1976), Italy (1979), Japan (1979), and the German-speaking countries (1980) (Jaumain 20). The *Journal of Canadian Studies / Revue d’études canadiennes* was launched in 1966 and the *International Journal of Canadian Studies / Revue internationale d’études canadiennes* in 1990.

As a result of a growing awareness of Canada, Canadian Studies rapidly integrated various subfields depending on the interests of respective scholars. Katalin Kürtösi received her PhD with a thesis on bilingualism in Canadian drama in 1993, while Judit Molnár defended her doctoral thesis *Spaces for Cultures and Languages in Recent English-Language Fiction Writing from Québec* in 1995. Péter Szaffkó from the University of Debrecen was involved in Canadian theatre studies from early on and organized several conferences and workshops where his students staged Canadian plays.

The popularity of Canadian Studies in the early 1990s was quite impressive, and it is perhaps not out of place to make a personal note here. When I began teaching classes as a doctoral student in 1991, I gave a course on Northrop Frye, discussing his first book on the Bible, *The Great Code*. I was assigned a small seminar room for my course and in the first meeting of the semester, I was rather amazed to see there were about 30 students intending to enroll. An absolute beginner, I had a class with about the same attendance as only very few outstanding colleagues. The students were determined to stay in the course, and eventually I managed to book a more suitable seminar room. The popularity of this course was, no doubt, due to its topic: it was just one year after the first free elections in Hungary, and a course on the Bible interpreted on the basis of a Canadian author turned out very appealing indeed. Frye had been known to Hungarian academia for a long time, his "Polemical Introduction" from *Anatomy of Criticism* was a required reading for English students at the English Department of Eötvös Loránd University in the 1980s, and scholars, such as Péter Dávidházi, Tibor Fabiny, Éva Federmayer, Aladár Sarbu, Ferenc Takács, and Zsolt Virágos, had employed his theories in their own work or teaching. József Szili had translated *Anatomy of Criticism* into Hungarian in the 1980s, although it had to wait until 1998 to be published.³

The study of Quebec and French literature was also eagerly undertaken starting from the late 1980s and early 1990s. Éva Martonyi's academic output in French focused on Quebec literature, while Árpád Vígh explored French Canada in terms of stylistics and lexicography. In 2004, he was the first scholar in Hungary to earn a DSc degree from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences with a Canadian topic, *L'écriture Maria Chapdelaine: L'explication des québécoisismes et le style de Louis Hémon*, published in 2002. He also authored a literary history of French-Canada in Hungarian, entitled *Kék mezőben fehér liliom* (2007). Zsuzsanna Simonffy from the University of Pécs and Anikó Ádám from Pázmány Péter Catholic University were also involved in the teaching and exploration of Quebec's Francophone literary and cultural features, whereas Judit Molnár studied English-language writing in Quebec and Katalin Kürtösi Quebec drama and theatre.

A host of other colleagues joined the above small community of Canadianists, some of whom were still students in the 1980s, when Canadian Studies gained ground in Hungary, and who quickly became fascinated with Canadian literature and art. Edina Szalay's PhD thesis *Gothic Thinking and Female Individuation of Contemporary North American Female Writers* (1999) discussed the work of Alice Munroe and Margaret Atwood, among others, and it was published in a revised form in

³ Frye's *The Great Code* (1982) and *Words with Power* (1990) were also published with some delay in Hungarian, in 1996 and 1997, respectively, translated by Péter Pásztor, while his other major works still remain to be translated.

Hungarian in 2002.⁴ I received my doctoral degree with the thesis *From Blake to the Bible: Northrop Frye in Modern Criticism* in 2000, which was followed by the book *Revolving around the Bible: A Study of Northrop Frye* in 2003, while my habilitation dissertation (2014) focused on contemporary Canadian multicultural literature and art. Krisztina Kodó received her PhD in 2002 with her thesis *The Eternal Balance of Good and Evil within the Works of Shakespeare and Robertson Davies* and earned a habilitation degree with her dissertation *Variations on a Canadian Theme: Identities, Icons, Stereotypical Images and the Northern Myth* in 2013. Judit Kádár's involvement in Canadian literature has also been extensive; her PhD thesis dealt with *Alternative Histories in Western-Canadian Fiction between 1975-1985* (2003) and her habilitation dissertation discussed the topic of *Going Indian: Cultural Appropriation in the Narrative De/Re-Construction of Ethnic Identity in Recent North American Literature* (2013), which was based on her book of 2012.⁵ Gabriella Espák's doctoral thesis, completed in 2003, was entitled *Federal Multicultural Policies and the Politics of Indigeneity in Canada and Australia between 1922-1992*. Sára Tóth chose Northrop Frye's literary theory as the topic for her doctoral thesis, which she defended in 2004 and which was published in a revised version in 2012 with the title *A képzelet másik oldala: Irodalom és vallás Northrop Frye életművében* [The other side of the imagination: Literature and religion in Northrop Frye's oeuvre]. Judit Nagy defended her doctoral thesis under the title *But a Few Acres of Snow? – Weather Images in Canadian Short Prose (1945-2000)* in 2009, while Andrea Szabó's doctoral thesis, *Alice Munro's Neo-Gothic: Short Fiction From the 1990s*, was defended in 2011. In 2017, Eszter Szenczi earned her PhD with a thesis on *Thematic Shifts in Twentieth- and Twenty-First-Century Metis Life-Writings*, and in 2019 Mária Palla received a doctoral degree with her thesis *Representations of Transcultural Communities in Postcolonial Literature: Problematising Identity in South Asian Diasporic Writing in Britain and Canada in the 1980s and the 1990s*.

Those engaged in Canadian Studies since the 1980s also had new achievements. Katalin Kürtösi produced a large number of articles and three books on Canadian literature and art: *'Valóság vagy illúzió?' – Metadramatikus stratégiák észak-amerikai színdarabokban* (2007) [*'Reality or Illusion?' – Metadramatic strategies in North-American plays*], *'Világok találkoznak' – a 'másik' irodalmi ábrázolása Kanadában* (2010) [*'Worlds are meeting' – Literary representations of the 'other' in Canada*] and *Modernism on the 'Margin' – The 'Margin' on Modernism: Manifestations in Canadian Culture* (2013). The latter became the basis of her DSc degree from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, earned in 2017. Judit Molnár received her habilitation degree with her dissertation entitled *Narrating the Homeland: The Importance of Place and Space in English-Language Multicultural Canadian Fiction Writing*, which was published in book form in 2011 and interpreted the work of five Canadian authors: Austin Clarke, Rohinton Mistry, Michael Ondaatje, Neil Bissoondath, and Nino Ricci.

Awareness of Canadian Studies was also spread by prestigious literary and cultural journals in Hungary, which dedicated special issues to Canada and its culture.

⁴ Edina Szalay. *A nő többször: Neogótika és női identitás a mai észak-amerikai regényben* [The woman several times: Neogothic and female identity in the contemporary North-American novel]. Kossuth Egyetemi Kiadó, 2002.

⁵ *Going Indian: Cultural Appropriation in Recent North American Literature*. Universitat de València, 2012.

In 1988, *Helikon*, an academic journal of world literature, published a special double issue on Canada, with articles by Canadian scholars (in translation) and by Hungarian Canadianists. In 1999, *Magyar Napló* introduced Quebec literature to its readers, and in 2003, *Nagyvilág*, a monthly journal of world literature in Hungarian translation, devoted a double issue to Canadian authors. In 2009, *Magyar Napló* published many works by Canadian writers and in 2018 *Tiszatáj*, a literary, art, and social journal, put out a special issue with articles by Hungarian critics on Canadian literature and translations of Canadian authors (Kürtösi 76-78).

In addition to individual studies and Canadian literature published for the general public in translation, the advancement of Canadian Studies in Hungary was greatly assisted by the establishment of an academic forum that allowed Canadianists to exchange their ideas and meet on a regular basis. Interestingly, this process started to unfold simultaneously both in Hungary and in the Central European region and was made possible by the lifting of travel restrictions and the internationalization brought about by the change of the political system. The first international meeting of Central European academics interested in Canada took place in Budmerice, Slovakia, in April 1995. One of the participants was Don Sparling, a Canadian-born academic living in Czechoslovakia since March 1969, and it was primarily thanks to his efforts that the 1st International Conference of Central European Canadianists was held in Brno in the autumn of 1998. The organizing committee of this conference continued to work and became the "Steering Committee" of Canadianists in Central-Europe in subsequent years. This body coordinated the activities of Canadianists in the region until the summer of 2003 when the Central European Association for Canadian Studies (CEACS) was formally established. The first general meeting of the CEACS was held on May 2, 2004 in Krakow and, in the same year, the association was admitted to the International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS), with full membership since 2007. The *Central European Journal for Canadian Studies* (CEJCS) was launched in 2001, offering a forum for scholarly publications relating to Canadian culture in the region.

Starting from the 1990s, the Association for Canadian Studies in the German-speaking Countries (GKS) also played an important role in the advancement of Canadian Studies in Hungary and in the region. The Grainau annual international conference was an event to which several Hungarian and other Central European Canadianists were invited, providing an excellent opportunity for them to meet other Canadianists from all over the world. Several GKS members visited Hungary in various academic capacities, including Klaus-Dieter Ertler, Maria Löschnigg, and Martin Löschnigg from the University of Graz, Martin Kuester from the University of Marburg, and Waldemar Zacharasiewicz from the University of Vienna.

From the very beginning, Hungarians have contributed to the activities of the Central European Association for Canadian Studies, filling both administrative and academic roles. Katalin Kürtösi was editor-in-chief of the CEJCS from 2002-2010, and Judit Molnár and Judit Kádár were Hungary's representatives in the association from 2004-2015 and 2015-2018, respectively, whereas I acted as treasurer (2004-2006), president (2006-2012) and, subsequently, vice-president (2012-2015) of the association. Currently, the CEACS is headed by Katalin Kürtösi, and Attila Takács serves as Hungary's representative in the organization.

In the past two decades, Hungarian Canadianists have had a meeting each year, an event traditionally taking place in late January or early February and hosted by the Canadian Embassy in Budapest. Canadian Studies conferences are also held on a regular basis at Hungarian universities. The Canada in the European Mind I, Canada in the European Mind II, and Imaginative Spaces: Canada in the European Mind – Europe in the Canadian Mind III conferences took place in Debrecen in 2002, 2004, and 2006, respectively, the last one organized jointly with the Central European Association for Canadian Studies and held as the 4th International Conference of Central European Canadianists. These and other similar events were generously supported by the Canadian Embassy in Budapest, which assisted the enhancement of Canadian Studies by substantial book donations, as well. In addition, in 1996 the Canadian government began to make direct grants available to individual Canadianists, Hungarians included, in the Central European region, while the admission of the Central European Association to the ICCS in 2004 enabled its members to benefit from additional support programs. The Understanding Canada Program was introduced in 2008, replacing the previous Canadian Studies Program. The new program continued to support Canadianists in many ways, and while academic freedom was maintained, it encouraged them to research the Canadian government's priority areas.

In the past many years, an essential goal of the CEACS has been to promote Canadian Studies by initiating a series of research projects. The Central Europe in Canada: CEACS Diaspora Project, led by Vesna Lopičić from the University of Niš, Serbia, was a large multidisciplinary project to examine aspects of the Canadian experience, the change Canada made in immigrants from Central Europe. The study aimed to explore the literary output of immigrants from the Central European countries and to collect oral histories of the process of becoming Canadian. The Diaspora project started in 2007 and was completed in 2010 with the publication of *Migrating Memories: Central Europe in Canada*, comprising two volumes: a literary anthology with commentary on the output of writers originating from different Central European countries in Canada, and a collection of edited oral histories. Mária Palla and Péter Szaffkó were contributors to these two publications from Hungary.

While the CEACS Diaspora Project revolved around aspects of the immigration experience in Canada, the next initiative, the CEACS Translation Research Project, examined the image of Canada created in Central Europe through translations of Canadian books. The project, led by Katalin Kürtösi, began in 2010 and resulted in a comprehensive online database with around 2,500 entries. A conference was held in Budapest in October 2011 where members of the project team and invited guests presented papers based on their research. The revised papers, along with other contributions, formed a volume entitled *Canada in Eight Tongues*, published in the autumn of 2012. The database is updated on an annual basis; a unique tool, it is open to anyone who wishes to use it for research purposes. The Hungarian contributors to this volume included Gertrud Szamosi, discussing translations of Anglophone Canadian literature; Anikó Ádám, dealing with translations of Quebec literature written in French; Zoltán Kelemen, focusing on Leonard Cohen's works published in Hungary; Katalin Kürtösi, analyzing Canadian plays in Hungarian; and József Szili, commenting on some intellectual challenges he faced while translating Northrop Frye's *Anatomy of Criticism* into Hungarian.

With an abrupt abolishment of the Understanding Canada Program by the Government of Canada on April 30, 2012, all Canadian studies associations, the CEACS included, found themselves in an extremely difficult situation. The decision meant the cancellation of financial support for Canadian Studies activities around the world, and thus it had a profoundly damaging effect on Canadian Studies internationally. Canadian Studies associations had to consider options to mitigate the damages and to find a way to survive. The CEACS, too, had to take stock of its assets, consisting of its network, human resources, communications channels, knowledge, and expertise, as well as its good relationship with other Canadian Studies associations in Europe and around the world. Although losses were sustained, the human factor prevailed and the CEACS managed to retain over two-thirds of its membership, academics, and young scholars who continued their commitment to the study of Canada. The above applied to CEACS's Hungarian members as well. While the ICCS made it its primary goal to convince the Government of Canada to start a new program whereby funds would be provided again in support of Canadian Studies internationally, the Hungarian chapter of the CEACS made attempts to find alternative funding.

Unfortunately, and quite disappointingly, a new program in Canadian Studies has not been introduced by Ottawa in the past eight years and despite persistent endeavors by some committed Canadianists, attempts on the local level to gain support from companies and other organizations in Hungary have also proven to be limited, failing to make a lasting impact. Nevertheless, the idea to open up Canadian Studies to new areas attracted some additional followers, at least for some time. The financial sources now available for Canadian Studies derive from the ICCS, supporting research activities through individual grants provided mainly for students, and from the CEACS's membership fees, from which conference grants are provided. Also, the Canadian Embassy in Budapest assists Canadian Studies events, and individual universities subsidize academic activities, such as conferences. However, the former grants which allowed academics to spend a month in Canada and do research there are dearly missed to this day.

Despite the abolishment of the Canadian Government's Understanding Canada Program in 2012, the CEACS Translation Research Project entered its second stage in the same year, led by Katalin Kürtösi and Don Sparling. The new project was called *Canadian Literature – Consumed in Central Europe*. This project was intended to explore the reception of Canadian authors in the countries of the Central European region, and it was to determine the extent to which Canadian works were integrated into the literary scenes of the individual countries. The project resulted in the publication of a volume *Canada Consumed: The Impact of Canadian Writing in Central Europe (1990-2017)* in 2019. From Hungary, Katalin Kürtösi and Fruzsina Kovács provided chapters to this book.

The above-mentioned three CEACS research projects brought together around forty experts from the CEACS countries, including several Hungarians.

In Hungary, an unprecedented international project aimed at reaching out to secondary school students and disseminating information about Canadian culture in the context of language teaching. This project led to the publication of the *Canadian-German-Hungarian Cultural Reader* in 2011 and *A Cultural Reader on Aboriginal Perspectives in Canada* in 2012, both edited by Mátyás Bánhegyi, Dóra Bernhardt, and

Judit Nagy from Hungary and Albert Rau from Germany. The above publications were followed by papers at international conferences on the methodological questions of teaching Canada in the classroom.

Mention should also be made of the many Canadian visiting professors, scholars and cultural figures who have given lectures or presentations in Hungary since the 1980s, including David Arnason, Douglas Barbour, Joe Blades, Dennis Cooley, Antonio D'Alfonso, Tamas Dobozy, Michael Devine, Endre Farkas, Stephen Henighan, David Homel, Judith Kalman, Myrna Kostash, Eva Kushner, Ken Mitchell, Desmond Morton, Karen Mulhallen, Anna Porter, David Solway, Carolyn Marie Souaid, David Staines, Gladys Symons, John Taylor, Pablo Urbanyi, György Vitéz, Aritha van Herk, Rudy Wiebe, Judy Young, and Francis Zichy. Canadian professors living in the region, such as Jason Blake, Michelle Gadpaille, and Don Sparling, have been regular participants in various conferences and academic events in Hungary. Events outside the university and personal visits to Hungary also made it possible for Hungarian Canadianists to meet renowned Canadian cultural figures and academics in Hungary, such as Tomson Highway, Thomas King, and Charles Taylor.

From the beginning, recruitment of young scholars has also been an essential goal of Canadianists and in 2004 the University of Szeged organized the *13th European Student Seminar on Graduate Work in Canadian Studies*. This event also hosted a meeting of the European Network for Canadian Studies (ENCS), attended by the presidents of Canadian Studies associations from across Europe. A similar meeting of the ENCS was held in Budapest in 2009.

In the past years, Eötvös Loránd University and Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary jointly organized a series of international conferences in Canadian Studies, attracting a significant number of academics and students. Topics included Margaret Atwood 80: Central European Interpretations (2019), Canadian Generations in Culture and the Arts: Synchronic and Diachronic Approaches (2018), Canadian Values at 150: Reflections on a Diverse Nation (2017), Multiculturalism in Canada: Changing Perspectives (2016), Northrop Frye 100: A Danubian Perspective (2012), and Indigenous Perspectives of North America (2012). This initiative has by now become a tradition which the organizers wish to continue on an annual basis.

The activities of Canada experts on the local level are associated with the Canadian Studies Centers of several universities scattered around the country: Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest; Eszterházy Károly University, Eger; Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, Budapest; Kodolányi János University of Applied Sciences, Székesfehérvár; Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Pilissaba and Budapest; University of Debrecen; University of Pannonia, Veszprém; University of Pécs; and University of Szeged. In the past few years, professors of the above institutions have been primarily interested in the following fields of research and teaching:

- The Northern myth in Canadian art and poetry, Canadian identities in literature, John Coulter and the myth of Louis Riel – Krisztina Kodó;⁶

⁶ Krisztina Kodó's recent publications in Canadian Studies include "Visual and Audible Expressions of the North based on the Works of Selected Canadian Artists and Henry Beissel's Cantos North." *Beyond the 49th Parallel: Many Faces of the Canadian North / Au-delà du 49ème*

- Shifting emphasis and indigenization in the self-portraits and autobiographical pieces by contemporary blended heritage visual artists and writers of the South-west/NM and Métis Canada since the 1960s – Judit Kádár;⁷
- Marshall McLuhan, Walter Ong – Dóra Bernhardt;⁸
- Canada in the classroom, Cultural Reader series – Mátyás Bánhegyi;⁹
- Literary translation flow from Canada to Hungary – Fruzsina Kovács;¹⁰
- Modern Canadian literature, theatre and translation studies – Katalin Kürtösi¹¹;

parallele: multiples visages du Nord canadien, edited by Éva Le Calvé-Ivičević and Vanja Polić, Masaryk University, 2018, pp. 177-190.; "Canada: The Inconspicuous Silent Dreamer on the Other-side of the Americas." *Central European Journal of Canadian Studies / Revue d'Etudes Canadiennes en Europe Centrale*, vol. 12-13, 2018, pp. 63-78.; "A Modernist Perspective of Cultural Translation in Carroll Aikins' play, *The God of Gods*." *Freeside Europe Online: Modern Cultural, Literary and Linguistic Perspectives*, vol. 8, 2018.

⁷ Judit Kádár's recent publications in Canadian Studies include "The Media Coverage of Recent Roma Hungarian Immigrants to Canada." Co-authored with Csilla Herzog. *TOPOS: Journal of Space and Humanities*, vol. 3, no. 1, pp. 2014, 169-181.; "Who Is Indian Enough? The Problem of Authenticity in Contemporary Canadian and American Gone Indian Stories." *Review of International American Studies* vol. 6, no. 1-2, 2013, pp. 187-214.; *Going Indian: Cultural Appropriation in North American Literature*, Universitat de Valencia, 2012.

⁸ Dóra Bernhardt's publications in Canadian Studies include "Intermediality and (Post-modern) Spirituality in the Work of Douglas Coupland." *Cultural Encounters: New Perspectives in English and American Studies*, edited by Péter Gaál-Szabó, et al., Debreceni Református Hittudományi Egyetem, 2019, pp. 47-54.; "Chapter: 23." *A Cultural Reader on Aboriginal Perspectives in Canada*, edited by Judit Nagy, Mátyás Bánhegyi, Albert Rau, and Dóra Bernhardt, Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem, 2012, p. 58.; "Chapters 7" and "Chapter 19." *Canadian-German-Hungarian Cultural Reader*, edited by Judit Nagy, Mátyás Bánhegyi, Albert Rau, and Dóra Bernhardt, Comenius 2010 Bt., 2011.

⁹ Mátyás Bánhegyi's recent publications in Canadian Studies include "School Contests as a Form of Cooperative Learning through the Topic of the Canadian North." Co-authored with Judit Nagy. *English Language and Literatures in English 2016*, edited by Julianna Borbély, et al., Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem and L'Harmattan Kiadó, 2018, pp. 321-333.; "The Canadian North in the English Classroom." Co-authored with Judit Nagy. *Beyond the 49th Parallel: Many Faces of the Canadian North / Au-dela du 49eme parallele: multiples visages du Nord canadien*, edited by Éva Le Calvé-Ivičević and Vanja Polić, Masaryk University, 2018, pp. 223-238.; "Multiculturalism in the English Classroom: Materials on East Asian Canadians." Co-authored with Judit Nagy. *Teaching Canada – Enseigner le Canada*, edited by Sylvia Langwald, et al., Wißner Verlag, 2017, pp. 101-111.

¹⁰ Fruzsina Kovács's recent publications in Canadian Studies include "How Many Hungarian Voices Does Alice Munro Have?" *Canada Consumed: The Impact of Canadian Writing in Central Europe (1990–2017) / Le Canada à la carte : influence des écrits canadiens en Europe centrale (1990–2017)*, edited by Don Sparling and Katalin Kürtösi, Central European Association for Canadian Studies, 2019, pp. 175-190.; "Alice Munro magyarországi recepciója fordításszociológiai szemszögből" ["Alice Munro's Hungarian Reception from a Sociology of Translation Perspective"]. *Tiszatáj: Irodalmi Művészeti és Társadalmi Folyóirat*, vol. 72, no. 1, 2018, pp. 32-41.

¹¹ Katalin Kürtösi's recent publications include "Hungarian Responses to Canadian Literary Works and to Leonard Cohen's Death." *Canada Consumed: The Impact of Canadian Writing in Central Europe (1990–2017) / Le Canada à la carte : influence des écrits canadiens en Europe centrale (1990–2017)*, edited by Don Sparling and Katalin Kürtösi, Central European Association for Canadian Studies, 2019, pp. 69-84.; "Phases in the Staging of Canadian Plays in Hungarian Translation." *Canada Consumed: The Impact of Canadian Writing in Central Europe (1990–2017) /*

- Open government initiatives (open data, open standards, open source) – Gábor László;
- Montreal revisited by Anglophone and Allophone writers (city and space), the history of English Canadian literature – Judit Molnár;¹²
- Canadian history before 1867 – István Molnár;¹³
- Weather images in Canadian literature, East Asian Canadians – Judit Nagy;¹⁴
- Transcultural communities, the literature of the Hungarian and the South-Asian diasporas in Canada – Mária Palla;¹⁵
- Canadian female Gothic literature, Neo-Gothic literature, Alice Munro's fiction – Andrea Szabó F.;¹⁶

Le Canada à la carte : influence des écrits canadiens en Europe centrale (1990–2017), edited by Don Sparling and Katalin Kürtösi, Central European Association for Canadian Studies, 2019, pp. 243–254.; “Abstraction and Mysticism in Bertram Brooker's Paintings and Novels.” *In-Between – Liminal Spaces in Canadian Literature and Culture*, edited by Stefan L. Brandt, Peter Lang Verlag, 2017, pp. 163–172.

¹² Judit Molnár's recent publications in Canadian Studies include “The Psycho-Spatial Continuum in *Cockroach*.” *Beirut to Carnival City: Reading Rawi Hage*, Brill | Rodopi, 2019, pp. 74–83.; “Space and Memory Construction in Robert Majzels's *City of Forgetting*.” *Eger Journal of American Studies*, vol. 15, 2018, pp. 19–28.; “A kortárs québeci angol nyelvű irodalom sajátosságai” [“Features of contemporary English-language Quebec Literature”]. *Tiszatáj: Irodalmi Művészeti és Társadalmi Folyóirat*, vol. 72, no. 1, 2018, pp. 43–52.

¹³ István Molnár's recent publications in Canadian Studies include “1848 Kanadában: A felelős kormányzat megteremtése” [“1848 in Canada: The establishment of the responsible government”]. *Világtörténet*, vol. 8 (40), no. 1, 2018, pp. 5–22.; “Kiegyezés’ a Szent Lőrinc-folyó partján” [“‘Compromise’ on the bank of the St. Lawrence River”]. *BBC History: A világtörténelmi magazin*, vol. 7, no. 7, 2017, pp. 62–67.; *Kanada története a kezdetektől a konföderációig: 1000–1867* [A History of Canada from the beginning to the confederation: 1000–1867]. Patrocinium Kiadó, 2017.

¹⁴ Judit Nagy's recent publications in Canadian Studies include “Québec City as Portrayed in *Guardian: The Lonely Great God*.” Co-authored with Sangjun Jeong. *Central European Journal of Canadian Studies / Revue d'études canadiennes en europe centrale*, vol. 12–13, 2018, pp. 145–154.; “School Contests as a Form of Cooperative Learning through the Topic of the Canadian North.” Co-authored with Mátyás Bánhegyi. *English Language and Literatures in English 2016*, edited by Julianna Borbély, et al., Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem and L'Harmattan Kiadó, 2018, pp. 321–333.; “Conformism Versus Non Conformism as a Quest for the Genuine in Art in George Bowering's ‘The Hayfield.’” *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai Philologia*, vol. 1, 2017, pp. 257–264.

¹⁵ Mária Palla's recent publications in Canadian Studies include “Írók határok nélkül: bepillantás a kanadai magyar irodalomba” [“Writers without borders: Insight into Hungarian-Canadian literature”]. *Tiszatáj: Irodalmi Művészeti és Társadalmi Folyóirat*, vol. 72, no. 1, 2018, pp. 83–93.; “Canada, Canada, and where is that place? In the North Pole, that's where’: Perceptions of Canada in South-Asian Immigrant Writing.” *Freeside Europe Online: Modern Cultural, Literary and Linguistic Perspectives*, vol. 7, 2017.; “With the Eyes of John Miska: Glimpses into Hungarian-Canadian Culture and Literature.” *Hungarian Canadians: A Selection of Writings with Fond Memories*, edited by John, Miska, Püski Kiadó, 2017, pp. 153–158.

¹⁶ Andrea Szabó F.'s publications in Canadian Studies include “Nation and Adaptations: CanLit on Film.” *Cultural Encounters: New Perspectives in English and American Studies*, edited by Péter Gaál-Szabó, et al., Debreceni Református Hittudományi Egyetem, 2019, pp. 37–46.; “Alice Munro's Uncanny Homes.” *TOPOS: Journal of Space and Humanities*, vol. 5, 2016,

- Hungarian immigrants in Canada, sociolinguistic analysis of Hungarian hip hop – Eszter Szabó-Gilinger;¹⁷
- Hungarians in the Canadian theatre – Péter Szaffkó;¹⁸
- Hungarian diaspora literature, reception of Canadian literature in Hungary – Gertrud Szamosi;¹⁹
- Zacharias Kunuk's movies, Native representations in Hollywood movies – Attila Takács;²⁰
- Inuit cultural and religious practices, history of geographic discoveries, exploration of the North – Miklós Vassányi;²¹

pp. 104-111.; "Alice Munro's Australian Mirror Stories." *Brno Studies in English*, vol. 41, no. 2, 2015, pp. 109-119.

¹⁷ Eszter Szabó-Gilinger's publications in Canadian Studies include "Educators' Discourses on Student Diversity in Canada: Context, Policy and Practice." *British Journal of Canadian Studies*, vol. 23, no. 2, 2010, 305-306.; "The Virtual Face of Franco-Ontarian Schools." *Imaginative Spaces: Canada in the European Mind, Europe in the Canadian Mind / Espaces de l'imaginaire: le Canada vu par l'Europe, l'Europe vue par le Canada*, edited by Judit Molnár, Masaryk University, 2009, pp. 261-268.; "Két- és kisebbségi tantervű egyetemek Kanadában" ["Bilingual and minority language universities in Canada"]. *Sült galamb? Magyar egyetemi tantervpolitika*, edited by Miklós Kontra, Fórum Kisebbségkutató Intézet, Liliom Aurum Könyvkiadó, 2005, pp. 55-64.

¹⁸ Péter Szaffkó's publications in Canadian Studies include "A Central European Mesiah from Western Canada: The Case of John Hirsch." *The Literature of Expatriates*, edited by Ramona Simut, Emanuel University Press, 2013, pp. 127-143.; "Hungarians and the Canadian Theatre: The Case of Peter Hay." *Mítoszok bűvöletében: ünnepi kötet Virágos Zsolt Kálmán 70. születésnapjára / Enchanted by Myth: A Volume for Virágos Zsolt Kálmán on his 70th Birthday*, edited by Lenke Németh, et al., Debreceni Egyetemi Kiadó, 2012, pp. 342-350.; "Being Hungarian in Canada: An Introduction." *Migrating Memories: Central Europe in Canada*, edited by Rodica Albu, Central European Association for Canadian Studies, 2010, pp. 119-123.

¹⁹ Gertrud Szamosi's publications in Canadian Studies include "Mapping Canadian Identity in Margaret Laurence's *Heart of a Stranger*." *Contested Identities: Literary Negotiations in Time and Place*, edited by Claudia Marquis, et al., Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015, pp. 269-283.; "Kettős kötésben: gondolatok a kanadai magyar diaszpóra irodalomról" ["Being in a double bond: Thoughts on Canadian diaspora literature in Canada"]. *OPUS – Szlovákiai Magyar Írók Folyóirata*, vol. 26, no. 5, 2013, pp. 11-24.; "Translating Canada into Hungarian." *Canada in Eight Tongues: Translating Canada in Central Europe / Le Canada en huit langues: Traduire le Canada en Europe centrale*, edited by Katalin Kürtösi and Don Sparling, Masaryk University, 2012, pp. 71-79.

²⁰ Attila Takács's publications in Canadian Studies include "A destruktív sztereotípiák tovább élnek: Lo, a szegény indián" ["Destructive stereotypes survive: Lo, the poor Indian"]. *Összkep szavakban: Az I. Összkep Doktorandusz Konferencia tanulmánykötete*, edited by György Farkas, Doktoranduszok Országos Szövetsége, 2014, pp. 124-133.; *Audiatur et Altera Pars: A Different View on the Early History of Canadian Residential School – An Outstanding Example*, Lambert Academic Publishing (LAP), 2012.

²¹ Miklós Vassányi's publications in Canadian Studies include *Szellemhívók és áldozárok: Sámánság, istenképzetek, emberáldozat az inuit (eszkimó), azték és inka vallások írásos forrásaiban* [Conjurers of spirits and sacrificial priests: Shamanism, pantheon and human sacrifice in the written sources of the Inuit, Aztec and Inca religions]. Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem and L'Harmattan Kiadó, 2017; "Az első rendszeres leírás az inuit sámánságról: Hans Egede Gröndland-monográfiája (1741)" ["The first regular description of Inuit shamanism:

- Margaret Atwood – Vera Benczik²² and Katinka Krausz;
- Francophone Canadian literature – Anikó Ádám,²³ Éva Martonyi,²⁴ and Zsuzsanna Simonffy;²⁵
- Representation of Inuit culture and religious aspects in Farley Mowat's novels – Nóra Nádasdi;
- Northrop Frye's literary theory – Sára Tóth;²⁶

The Greenland Monograph of Hans Egede (1741)]. A spirituális közvetítő, edited by Miklós Vassányi, et al., Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem and L'Harmattan Kiadó, 2014, pp. 164-174.; "Arctic America through Medieval European Eyes: North-East America in the Old Icelandic Annals and Greenland Deeds." *Indigenous Perspectives of North America: A Collection of Studies*, edited by Enikő Sepsi, et al., Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014, pp. 374-386.

²² Vera Benczik's publications in Canadian Studies include "Review of Margaret Atwood's *MaddAddam*." *Americana: E-Journal of American Studies in Hungary*, vol. 9, no. 2, 2013.; "The Woman in the Land: Space, Insanity and Textualization in Margaret Atwood's *Surfacing*." *Variations on Community: The Canadian Space / Variations sur la Communauté: l'espace canadien*. Masaryk University, 2013, pp. 49-56.; "Subtextual Woman: Space, Insanity, and Textualization in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" and Margaret Atwood's *Surfacing*." *Tanulmányok Bollobás Enikő 60. születésnapjára*, edited by Tibor Frank, et al., ELTE BTK Angol-Amerikai Intézet, 2012, pp. 33-39.

²³ Anikó Ádám's publications in Canadian Studies include "La géopoétique du no man's land : Dany Laferrière, écrivain québéco-haïtien." *Frontières géoculturelles et géopolitiques*, edited by Gilles Rouet and François Soulages, Éditions L'Harmattan, 2013, pp. 37-48.; "Rare et précieuse, la littérature québécoise en hongrois." *Canada in Eight Tongues: Translating Canada in Central Europe / Le Canada en huit langues: Traduire le Canada en Europe centrale*, edited by Katalin Kürtösi and Don Sparling, Masaryk University, 2012, pp. 61-71.; "Identités réelles et identités revées dans le Pays sans chapeau de Dany Laferrière." *Central European Journal of Canadian Studies / Revue d'Etudes Canadiennes en Europe Centrale*, 2008, pp. 57-69.

²⁴ Éva Martonyi's publications in Canadian Studies include "La diversité de la culture canadienne/québécoise: et ses appréciations dans une perspective compare." *Variations on Community: The Canadian Space / Variations sur la Communauté: l'espace canadien*, edited by Lucia Otrisalová and Éva Martonyi, Masaryk University, 2013, pp. 201-209.; "Géographie imaginaire dans l'oeuvre de Jacques Poulin." *Cartographie du roman québécois contemporain*, edited by Zuzana Malinová, Prešovská Univerzita v Prešove, 2010, pp. 135-148.; "Est-ce que la littérature crée l'identité?" *Inventing Canada / Inventer le Canada*, edited by Klaus-Dieter Ertler and Martin, Löschnigg, Peter Lang Verlag, 2008, pp. 83-92.

²⁵ Zsuzsanna Simonffy's publications in Canadian Studies include "Les usages de la notion de transculturel dans le discours médiatique." *Central European Journal of Canadian Studies / Revue d'Etudes Canadiennes en Europe Centrale*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2014, pp. 45-57.; "Système de connaissances et recherche parémiologique dans les études inuit." *Imaginative Spaces: Canada in the European Mind, Europe in the Canadian Mind / Espaces de l'imaginaire: le Canada vu par l'Europe, l'Europe vue par le Canada*, edited by Judit Molnár, Masaryk University, 2009, pp. 225-235.; "Métamorphose, énigme, pseudomorphose: La question d'identité chez Micheline La France." *Imaginaire du roman québécois contemporain*, edited by Petr Kylousek, et al., Masarykova Univerzita, Figura, 2006, pp. 169-179.

²⁶ Sára Tóth's recent publications in Canadian Studies include "Hogyan lehet beszélni arról, amiről hallgatni kell?: Dogma és misztika, ideológia és irodalom: a romantikától Deridaig és Northrop Frye-ig" ["How to discuss what you should keep silent about?: Dogma and mysticism, ideology and literature from Romanticism to Derrida and Northrop Frye"]. *Pannonhalmi Szemle*, vol. XXVII, no. 1, 2019, pp. 96-109.; "'A World in which Everything is Here.': Northrop Frye's Immanent Vision of the Divine." *The Immediacy of Mystical Experience*

- Linguistic aspects of Canadian culture – Dóra Pődör;²⁷
- Canadian cinema – Miklós Sággy;
- History of immigration – Balázs Venkovits;²⁸
- Multiculturalism in Canadian literature and art, recent Canadian fiction and cinema, Northrop Frye – János Kenyeres²⁹ (Kanadisták).

Several Hungarians working in the field of Canadian Studies have received international awards. In 2012, Ádám Fuglinszky from Eötvös Loránd University received a Pierre Savard Award from the International Council for Canadian Studies for his monograph *A polgári jogi felelősség útjai vegyes jogrendszerben, Québec, Kanada* [The ways of civil liability in a mixed legal system, Quebec, Canada], whereas István Molnár received the same distinction for his book *Kanada története a kezdetektől a konföderációig. 1000-1867* [A history of Canada from the beginning to the confederation. 1000-1867] in 2019. The ICCS Certificate of Merit was awarded to Katalin Kürtösi in 2010, a distinction which I also received four years later. The CEACS Certificate of Merit went to Anna Jakabfi in 2006, Judit Molnár in 2009, Judit Nagy in 2012, Katalin Kürtösi in 2015, and István Molnár in 2018.

All considered, the academic status of Canadian Studies in Hungary has consolidated in the past decades and today it is an acknowledged area of research in the humanities. This development was parallel to the rise of the prestige of Canadian literature and culture in the world. Moreover, the number of students in Canadian courses continues to be high and, in addition to elective courses, “Introduction to Canadian Studies” is now part of the mandatory university curriculum in most English and American departments in Hungary. Thirty or forty years ago, the reasons for choosing Canadian works for a research project would usually have to be explained to scholars that were not involved in the study of Canada. Today, there is

in the European Tradition, edited by Miklós Vassányi, et al., Springer International Publishing, 2017, pp. 239-246.; “A Frygean Perspective on European Irony: *The Green Butchers*.” *Northrop Frye 100: A Danubian Perspective / Northrop Frye 100: Dunai távlatok*, edited by Sára Tóth et al., Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem and L’Harmattan Kiadó, 2014, pp. 205-213.

²⁷ Dóra Pődör’s publications in Canadian Studies include “The Representation of the Speech of Native Canadians in Two Modern Canadian Dramas.” *Central European Journal of Canadian Studies / Revue d’Etudes Canadiennes en Europe Centrale*, vol. 3, no. 1, 2003, pp. 31-42.; “Continentalism and Nationhood: Their Linguistic Aspect.” *Continentalism and Nationhood in Canada*, edited by Anna Jakabfi, ELTE, 2002, pp. 66-84.

²⁸ Balázs Venkovits’s publications in Canadian Studies include “Záródó kapuk, új lehetőségek: magyar kivándorlás Észak-Amerikába a 20. század elején” [Closing gates, new opportunities: Hungarian emigration to North-America at the beginning of the 20th century]. *AETAS: Történettudományi Folyóirat*, vol. 33, no. 1, 2018, pp. 131-143.

²⁹ My recent publications in Canadian Studies include “Migrants in Literature: Hungarians in Canada.” *Az emberi sors és a történelem kereszteződésében: Tanulmánykötet Frank Tibor 70. születésnapjára / At the Crossroads of Human Fate and History: Studies in Honour of Tibor Frank on his 70th Birthday*, edited by Nóra Deák et al., ELTE BTK Angol-Amerikai Intézet, 2019, pp. 259-268.; “‘This is a beauty of dissonance’: Conceptions of the North in Canadian Literature.” *Kösziklára építve: Írások Dávidházi Péter tiszteletére / Built Upon His Rock: Writings in Honour of Péter Dávidházi*, edited by Dániel Panka, et al., ELTE BTK Angol-Amerikai Intézet, Anglisztika Tanszék, 2018, pp. 215-223.; A ‘Másik’ mint magyar: A magyarok ábrázolása a kanadai irodalomban [“The ‘other’ as Hungarian: Representations of Hungarians in Canadian literature”]. *Tiszatáj: Irodalmi Művészeti és Társadalmi Folyóirat*, vol. 72, no. 1, 2018, 52-58.

no need for providing any explanations. It is self-evident that Canada is a significant country in its own right and that its vibrant cultural and intellectual life is worthy of academic attention.

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