Microhistory – Agency and Cultural Techniques in 19th-Century Hungarian Literature
Instructor: Gábor Vaderna PhD
Organizer: Institute of Cultural Studies and Hungarian Literature
Course Code: BMA-MAGD-IR-223; BMA-MAGD-IR-562
Credits: 4
Typically offered: Semester 4 (Literature and Culture Studies MA, and Hungarian Language and Literature MA)
Requirements of Entry: Students of Classical Hungarian Literature Specialization will be eligible to enrol in this course.

Assessment: Research (60%), essay (30%), seminar contribution (10%)

Course Aims:
- To provide you with a broad introduction to the main features of microhistory.
- To offer you a fresh and stimulating approach to the major forces instrumental in the shaping of politics, society and culture; to make you aware of current approaches in microhistory and areas of particular controversy and debate.
- To encourage you to think broadly, comparatively and conceptually across a long period of time.
- To provide a secure foundation of knowledge and skills which will enable you to do an own research.

Course Descripton:
The course will provide an overview of major issues and approaches in microhistory and historical anthropology, to different issues and problem areas related to history writing together with the analysis of their inquiries, questions and concepts. The course will encompass two modules: theoretical and case-organized ones.
The theoretical module will focus on the "agency". Agency is the capacity of an agent (a person or other entity, human or any living being in general, or soul-consciousness in religion) to act in any given environment. The capacity to act does not at first imply a specific moral dimension to the ability to make the choice to act, and moral agency is therefore a distinct concept. The case-organized module will present some special cases of the history of Hungarian literature. Our question is whether the perspectives "from below" could re-write the main narratives of the field.
The cases will be the following ones:
1. Dániel Berzsenyi's journey to Pest in 1810 – Journey
2. The divorce of Kálmán Tóth – Legal process
3. Mihály Csokonai Vitéz' house – Activity
4. Ferenc Kazinczy met his followers – Partnership
5. The 15th March 1848 Revolution and its representation in literature – The logic of the date
6. Sándor Petőfi and the Press – Institutions
7. The diaries of Emilia Kánya – Gender

Literature:
Peter BURKE: *What is Cultural History?,* Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2004.
Sigurður Gylfi MAGNÚSSON – István M. SZIJÁRTÓ: *What is Microhistory? Theory and Practice,* London – New York: Routledge, 2013.

Schedule:

1. Microhistory Classics 1.
Carlo GINZBURG: *Il formaggio e i vermi. Il cosmo di un mugnaio del'500,* Torino: Einaudi, 1976. (also available in Hungarian and English)

2. Microhistory Classics 2.
Natalie ZEMON DAVIS: *The Return of Martin Guerre,* Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1983. (also available in Hungarian)

3. The Darnton–Chartier-debate
Robert DARNTON: The Great Cat Massacre, in: Ibid.: *The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History,* London: Vintage, 1985. (also available in Hungarian)
Roger CHARTIER: Text, Symbols, and Frenchness, *Journal of Modern History,* 57 (1985): 682–695. (see jstor.com)

4. The Sahlins–Obeyesekere-debate
Marshall SAHLINS: *Islands of History,* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985.
Gananath OBEYESEKERE: *The Apotheosis Of Captain Cook. European Mythmaking In The Pacific,* Princeton: Princeton UP, 1992.
Marshall SAHLINS: *How "Natives" Think: About Captain Cook, for Example,* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.

5. The Problems of "Folclorism"
David HOPKIN: *Voices of the People in Nineteenth-Century France,* Cambridge – New York: Cambridge UP (Cambridge Social and Cultural Histories 18.), 2012.

6. Social History of Gender
Nancy ARMSTRONG: *Desire and Domestic Fiction. A Political History of the Novel,* Oxford – New York: Oxford UP, 1987.

7. Social History of Texts
Jerome J. MCGANN: *The Textual Condition,* Princeton: Princeton UP, 1991. (some chapters are also available in Hungarian)

8. Dániel Berzsenyi's journey to Pest in 1810 – Journey
Source: The correspondence of Ferenc Kazinczy
Kazinczy Ferencz levelezése. Hatodik kötet. 1808. Július 1. – 1809. Szeptember 30. (s. a. r. VÁCZY János), Budapest: Magyar Tudományos Akadémia (Kazinczy Ferencz Összes Művei), 1895.
Kazinczy Ferencz levelezése. Hetedik kötet. 1809. Október 1. – 1810. Junius 30. (s. a. r. VÁCZY János), Budapest: Magyar Tudományos Akadémia (Kazinczy Ferencz Összes Művei), 1896.
Archives: Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Collection of Arts

9. The divorce of Kálmán Tóth – Legal process
Source:
MAJTHÉNYI Flóra: *Elegiák kis fiamhoz,* Pest: Fanda és társai, 1868.
Archives: National Archives of Hungary, O section.

10. Mihály Csokonai Vitéz' house – Activity
SZILÁGYI Márton: *A költő mint társadalmi jelenség. Csokonai Vitéz Mihály pályafutásának mikrotörténeti dimenziói,* Budapest: Ráció (Ligatura), 2014.

11. Ferenc Kazinczy met his followers – Partnership
Archives: [KAZINCZY Ferenc,] *Napló 1828 [Diary 1828],* Budapest, Library and Information Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, The Department of Manuscripts & Rare Books, K763, fols 8^{r}–34^{v}; and the memoire: [Id.,] Pestre 1828 *[To Pest 1828],* K612, fols 68^{r}–90^{v}.
Literature: SZILÁGYI Márton: Összeköt vagy elválaszt? A generáció mint irodalomtörténeti magyarázóelv, *Híd,* 71.11 (2007. november): 53–64.

12. The 15th March 1848 Revolution and its representation in literature – The logic of the date
Sources: The Poems of Sándor Petőfi
Petőfi Sándor Vegyes művei. Útirajzok, naplójegyzetek, hírlapi cikkek és egyéb prózai írások, (ed. V. NYILASSY Vilma – KISS József), Budapest: Akadémiai, (Petőfi Sándor Összes Művei V.), 1956.
ENDRŐDI Sándor: *Petőfi napjai a magyar irodalomban 1842–1849. Egykorú nyomtatványok másaival,* Budapest: Kunossy, Szilágyi és Társa Könyvkiadóvállalat, 1911.
Petőfi-adattár I. Petőfi az egykorú sajtóban és egyéb nyomtatott forrásokban (Kiegészítés Endrődi Sándor „Petőfi napjai a magyar irodalomban" c., 1911-ben kiadott gyűjtéséhez) (ed. KISS József), Budapest: Akadémiai, 1987.
Literature:
KERÉNYI Ferenc, *Petőfi Sándor élete és költészete,* Osiris, Budapest, 2008, 357 passim.

13. Sándor Petőfi and the Press – Institutions
MARGÓCSY István: *Petőfi Sándor. Kísérlet,* Budapest: Korona (Klasszikusaink), 1998.

14. The diaries of Emilia Kánya – Gender
KÁNYA Emília: *Réges-régi időkről. Egy 19. századi írónő emlékiratai* (ed. FÁBRI Anna – KISS Bori), Budapest: Kortárs, 1998.