

Call for Papers

The Anthropology of Encounters: Frictions in the Past, Present and Future

4th - 5th November, 2016

Organised by the *Hungarian Cultural Anthropological Association (HCAA)*
and the *Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Szeged*

The next conference of the Hungarian Cultural Anthropological Association is about different forms of human encounters. As culture manifests itself through diverse forms of human interactions, anthropologists, explicitly or implicitly, have always tried to understand either the immediate moment of the encounter, or its cultural consequences. Anthropology is in fact the main discipline that studies peoples' encounters: encounters of civilizations, kin groups, trading or raiding parties, migrants, refugees and tourists. The history of our discipline is full of intersecting journeys. The most important anthropological concepts developed during the past few decades (border zone, contact zone, friction, clash, cosmopolitanism, hybridity, network etc.) take human encounter as their starting premise in order to understand our constantly changing world better.

Anthropology is the science of man, but as a discipline specialised in contacts between people, it is also interested in other types of relations: human-animal, human-nature, human-non human encounters can be equally investigated by anthropological methods. People, during the past millennium, have created enormous knowledge by encountering and experiencing alterity in different ways. The diverse forms, spaces, zones, names and images that we use to deal with otherness have resulted from a historically accumulated knowledge. Anthropologists study peoples' myths, ceremonies, rituals, art and other fields of reflections

in order to better understand how people act upon alterity. These forms of human actions can be helpful to frame our understanding the way people think about encounters and alterity.

In this conference we aim to explore and contextualize these topics with the tools of anthropology. We expect papers that take *encounter* as an analytical concept and contribute to a better understanding of its possible meanings either through a theoretical discussion or by introducing a detailed ethnographic case study.

The organisers are open to all approaches, theoretical or regional/local focuses. Some further suggested questions and topics:

1. How the concept of encounter has changed in anthropology during the past decade
2. How researchers write and talk about their own field encounters
3. How ethnographic methods can help to understand the diverse forms of encounters
4. How encountering the Other helps to reflect on self-identity
5. Where encountering starts, how encounters define borders (boundaries of culture, nation, society, family, biological self, etc.)
6. The spaces and times of encounters: state borders, non-places, outer space, books, future, utopia, heritage, history, *lieux de mémoire*, etc.
7. The fear from encountering the Other: xenophobia, racism etc.
8. Voices and forms of language used when encountering the Other: coded language, ritual language, forms of representation, secrets, silence etc.
9. Disciplinary encounters: anthropology and its related disciplines

Besides the above, the organisers welcome papers dealing with other related subjects, too.

Keynote speakers:

Professor Chris Hann, Director, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany

Dr. Bea Vidacs, University of Pécs, Department of Ethnography-Cultural Anthropology, Hungary

The conference is bilingual (English and Hungarian). The Organiser Committee also welcomes panels (min. three papers on one topic), therefore future convenors should submit the panel description at the same time as the abstracts of the proposed presenters.

Please send your conference application form to the following e-mail by **31st of July, 2016**: encounters2016@gmail.com.

The form can be downloaded from here: <http://tinyurl.com/makat2016>

The Committee will review the submissions and select the final papers by 15th August, 2016. The HCAA plans to publish a peer-reviewed output from full length conference papers by early 2017. The deadline for final submission of papers for publication is 31st of January, 2017.

The conference fee is 3.000 HUF (€10) and the participants are expected to cover their travel and accommodation costs.

The conference will take place at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Szeged (SZTE). The University is one of the most popular universities in Hungary, occupying high places in all the international rankings. The number of its academic research and teaching staff reaches 2300 with 25 000 students. For years it has been considered as one of the world's best 500 universities and it is also known as a green institution. The Szeged Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology is the first university department of its field in Hungary established in 1929. The special focuses of the department are dance culture and religious culture. The Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) – SZTE Research Group for the Study of Religious Culture was established in 2010 as a joint venture of the University of Szeged and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Both the department and the research group publish a series of publications, organise international conferences and conduct extensive international cooperation.

Organising Committee: Veronika Lajos, István Povedák, Tamás Régi, Diána Szántó, Antónia Szász.