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Language competencies: Ukrainian, English

Scientific degree: PhD (2022)

Fields of interest, research topics, keywords: informal economy, social history of Soviet political dictatorship, coexistence techniques, adaptation mechanisms in multiethnic (especially Ukrainian, Hungarian, Roma) communities

Place and date of birth: Tiszapéterfalva (Ukraine), 07.08.1982



Education, Degree

Education

1999 – 2004 Uzhhorod National University, Faculty of Arts, Hungarian Linguistics Department. Hungarian language and literature (MA).

2004 – 2007 University of Debrecen, History and Ethnology Program of the Interdisciplinary Doctorate School. PhD Student

Degrees

2004 – MA in Hungarian language and literature

Doctorate

2022 – Informal economic strategies and everyday political practices in the border region of Transcarpathia in the years of state socialism and post-socialism, PhD.

Awards, Honours

2021 – Research scholarship at the Institute of Central European Studies (Eötvös József Research Centre, University of Public Service)

2018 – "Eötvös" Hungarian State Scholarship Program

2016 – 2019 Research Scholarship for Young Researchers - Institute of Ethnology, Research Centre for The Humanities, HAS, Budapest

2013 – 2014 "Jedlik Ányos" Predoctoral Scholarship

2013 – Campus Hungary Scholarship

2011. Marian Madison Gypsy Lore Society Young Scholar's Prize in Romani Studies (Honorable Mentioned Paper)

2008-2009. MTA-Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund, research grant

2007-2008. MTA HTMT Scholarship, research grant

2004-2007. Hungarian State Scholarship

2002-2003. Educational Scholarship of the Apáczai Foundation

Employment

2021 – 2022 Institute of Ethnology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Eötvös Loránd

Research Network (research fellow)
2019 – 2021 Institute of Ethnology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Eötvös Loránd Research Network (research assistant)
2016 – 2019 Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of Ethnology (young researcher)
2013 – 2016 Lomonosov Moscow State University, Faculty of Philology, Department of Finno-Ugric Studies
2008 – 2014 University of Miskolc, Faculty of Arts, Department of Cultural and Visual Anthropology (research assistant)

Participation in research programmes

2023-2026 Heritage Constructions in Contemporary Community Spaces - Identity, Memory, Representation (OTKA 143295, Institute of Ethnology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

2021–2023: ELKH SA-35. Heritage building, cultural memory, identity. ELKH SA-35

2021–2023 ELKH: ELKH: Social and cultural resilience in the Carpathian Basin

2020 – 2025 Locality Embedded in the Web of Global Transitions. Ecological anthropology mediating between local communities and global changes in the Carpathian Basin MTA Lendület Project. Period: 2020-2023 (36 months). Foundation: Hungarian Academy of Sciences

2016–2020 Parallel and incompatible ruralities. Rural realities in four Transylvanian (Romania) micro-regions. Institute of Ethnology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

2011–2015 An examination of triple borders in the south-western, south-eastern and north-eastern regions of Hungary. Institute of Ethnology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

2011–2014. Transfer Processes of Social Norms and Life Strategies in the Multi-ethnic Settlements of Transcarpathia. University of Miskolc, Department of Cultural and Visual Anthropology.

2009– 2010 The informal and formal learning techniques in the public education. (TÁMOP-3.2.3/08/2)

2007–2009 Discourses of the nation and its alien in the relation of Hungarian citizens and ethnic Hungarians abroad. Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences Institute For Minority Studies.

2006–2008 „Generations on Research way”. Cooperation between the Faculty of Agriculture of College of Szolnok and Civil Organisations for the Prosperity of North Lowlands. Project no. ROP 3.31. -05/1-2206-02-0007/37.

Fieldwork

2018 – Sathmar Schwaben Villages (Csanálos, Mezőfény, Mezőpetri, Kaplony), Satu Mare country, Romania – economic strategies after the change of the political system

2011 – 2014 – Szamoshát (Méhtelek, Rozsály, Zajta), Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county, Hungary – border-discourses, translocal economic practices at the Hungarian-Romanian border

2011 – 2014 – rural and quasi-urban settlements in Transcarpathia (Császlóć, Izsnyéte, Aknaszlatina, Királyháza), Ukraine – cultural transfers in mixed-ethnic (Hungarian, Roma, Ukrainian, Romanian) communities

2010 – Bódva Valley villages (Szalonna, Szendrő, Szendrőlád), Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county, Hungary – social inequalities, balancing strategies in disadvantage villages

2007 – 2015 Túrhát (Kispalád, Botpalád, Nagypalád, Uszka), Sathmar country, Hungary – everyday nationalism, xenophobia in Hungarian-Roma coexistence communities
2006 – Tiszahát (Tiszabökény, Farkasfalva, Tiszapéterfalva, Tivadarfalva, Forgolány), Ukraine – social history of Soviet political dictatorship

Five selected recent publications (last five years)

1. Sándor, Borbény: Rural elites and their resource politics: glocal livelihood strategies in Transcarpathia, Western Ukraine. *Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe*, 33 pp. 1-30. 30 p. (2025)
2. Sándor, Borbény: Soviet time regime in rural society: Musealization and local temporal experiences in a Transcarpathian village, Western Ukraine. *Journal of Material Culture*, pp. 1–20. 20 p. (2025) <https://doi.org/10.1177/13591835251397881>
3. Sándor, Borbény: Theory and Practice. Ethnographic Approaches to Cultural Heritage and an Empirical Example from Western Ukraine, *Acta Ethographica Hungarica*, 69, 1, pp. 1-43., 2024.
4. Borbény Sándor: *Informális gyakorlatok. Hétköznapi gazdasági és politikai cselekvések Kárpátalja határviléki régiójában*. [Informal Practices: Everyday Economic and Political Actions in the Border Region of Transcarpathia.] L'Harmattan Kiadó, 2023.
5. Borbény Sándor: Economic Adaptation and Individual Livelihood Strategies in a Swabian Village in Satu Mare County. *Acta Ethographica Hungarica*, 2021, 66, 1, pp. 201-239., 39 p.

Five selected publications (scientific career)

1. Borbény Sándor: *Informális gyakorlatok. Hétköznapi gazdasági és politikai cselekvések Kárpátalja határviléki régiójában*. [Informal Practices: Everyday Economic and Political Actions in the Border Region of Transcarpathia.] L'Harmattan Kiadó, 2023
2. Borbény Sándor: A diszfunkcionális ukrán nemzetállam informális alapjai – glokális életvezetési stratégiák Kárpátalján a rendszerváltás után. [The informal foundations of the dysfunctional Ukrainian nation-state – glocal life management strategies in Transcarpathia after the regime change.] In: Borbény Sándor – Ispán Ágota (szerk.): *Ethno-Lore*, 36 pp. 191-226., 35 p.
3. Borbény Sándor: Időtapasztalat a terepen. A történeti (historikus) megértés módszertani paradigmája a magyarországi néprajzi kutatásban. [Time Perception in the Field. The Methodological Paradigm of Historical Understanding in Hungarian Ethnographic Research]. Csaba Mészáros –Gábor Vargas (eds.): *The questions of ethnographic fieldwork. Ethno-Lore*. XXXIV. 34, pp. 31-81., 51 p.
4. Borbény Sándor: Kompenzációs mechanizmusok és egyensúlyteremtő stratégiák egy vegyes (magyar–roma) etnikai összetételű határviléki településen. [Compensatory Mechanisms and Balancing Strategies of an Ethnically Mixed (Hungarian-Roma) Community in a Borderland Settlement.] *Erdélyi Társadalom*. 14, 1, pp. 191-216., 26 p.
5. Borbény Sándor: „Az ukrán, utolsó cigány” – a külföldi bevándorlás mikropolitikája egy határviléki településen, Kispaládon. [“The Ukrainian is a nefarious Gipsy” – micro-policy of the foreign immigration in the borderland settlement of Kispalád.] *Tér és Társadalom*. 29, 3, pp. 3-32., 30 p.

Publications

[See the works of Sándor Borbély in the Hungarian Archives of Scientific Works](#)

Teaching activities

2008 – 2014 University of Miskolc, Faculty of Arts, Department of Cultural and Visual Anthropology:

- Anthropological application of the hermeneutic perspective (lecture)
- The anthropological dimension of identity (lecture)
- Nation-building models and trans-ethnic economic strategies (lecture)
- Cognitive anthropology (lecture)
- History of Anthropology III (seminar)
- Research methodology III-IV. (seminar)
- Peripheral social groups (seminar)
- Lifestyle of disadvantaged people (seminar)
- Multiculturalism (seminar)
- Intercultural communication (seminar)
- Anthropology of social gender (seminar)
- Lifestyle, life strategies of the Hungarian Roma (seminar)

2013 – 2016 Lomonosov Moscow State University, Faculty of Philology, Department of Finno-Ugric Studies

- teaching subjects related to the Hungarian language and culture

Professional talks, presentations

Pécs, September 4–6, 2025

Ethnic spatial imaginaries and practices of knowledge in Hungarian minority academic communities beyond the state borders. Conference title: IV. Országos Jelenkor-történeti Konferencia [IV. National Conference on Contemporary History] (OJTK2025)

Nyíregyháza, April 22, 2024

Economic interactions and informal exchange relations (smuggling, barter trading, black market activities) in the ukrainian–hungarian border region. Conference title: Boundless on the Borderlands, Organizer: Sóstó Museum Village

Budapest, February 16, 2023

State-building efforts and informal economic strategies in the border region of Transcarpathia. Conference: "Introducing of PhD researchers 2023". Organizer: HAS, Committee on Ethnography.

Budapest, November 15, 2022

Adaptation, resilience and agency - analytical concepts and their practical value in anthropological knowledge production. Conference: Social and cultural resilience, heritage education and cultural memory in the Carpathian Basin. Organizer: Conference of the ELKH Centre for Humanities Research.

Komarno (Slovakia). September 23-24, 2022

Minority perspectives and disciplinary research. Methodological and epistemological paradigms in social research in Transcarpathia after the regime change. Conference: Autonomie und Mediation (?) – Ein Jahrhundert ethnographischer Wissenschaften von 1920 bis heute unter ungarischen und anderen mitteleuropäischen Minderheiten.

Organizer: Forum Institute Ethnological Centre in Komárno (Slovakia).

Budapest, April 29, 2022.

Land use strategies and local adaptation systems in peripheral border regions. NKE EJKK Research Institute for Central Europe. Final lecture by NKE Rector's Fellows.

Budapest, November 25–26, 2021

Traditional ecological knowledge and local landscape-use practices in Transcarpathia. Conference: III Interdisciplinary conference on the social and economic position of the Hungarian population in the Carpathian Basin. Organizer: National Strategic Research Institute

Budapest (online), April 26, 2021

Informal economy and ecological changes - local environmental effects of economic adaptation. Workshop: Countryside and ecology in Central Europe. Organiser: Institute of Central European Studies (Eötvös József Research Centre, University of Public Service).

Slovakia (Somorja) October 3, 2019

Informal economy and dysfunctional state. Recent social processes in post-Euromaidan Ukraine. Conference: Hungarian Minority policy from 1989 to the present. Organiser: Forum Institute (Slovákia) – HAS Centre for Social Sciences Institute for Minority Studies.

Budapest, February 9-10, 2017

Time experience on the field. "Parallel polychronicity" in Ethnography, Anthropology, and History. Conference: The questions of ethnographic fieldwork. Organiser: HAS Institute of Ethnography

Szeged, November, 4–5, 2016

The soviet citizen's encounter with the dictatorial state – Rewarding Techniques and punishment mechanisms in Transcarpathian Hungarian Villages under the soviet dictatorship. Conference: Anthropology of encounters: past, present and future. Organiser: Hungarian Cultural Anthropological Association

Pécs, August 26, 2016

The transformational practices of the Soviet political dictatorship in the Hungarian settlements in Transcarpathia – disciplinary Techniques and Adaptation Mechanism in the years 1955-1975. Conference: 8th International Congress of Hungarology. Organiser: International Association for Hungarian Studies

Budapest, 17. December 2015

The Historical Past Constituted by the Soviet Political Dictatorship – The Institutional Transformation of Local Time Experience in Karpatho-Ukraine in the 1960-1980's.

Conference: Time, Culture, Society - historical sociologies of the present. Organiser: HAS Institute of Sociology

Budapest, September 18, 2014

Alternative form of economic activities (trading, smuggling, illegal work) at the Ukrainian-Hungarian border region. Conference: Borders and Border Regions in the Carpathian Basin. Organiser: HAS Department of Ethnography

Satu-Mare (Romania), December 13-14, 2013

Strategies for the translocal economy in the Hungarian-Ukrainian-Romanian borders region (Workshop presentation). Organiser: HAS Institute of Ethnography – Satu Mare County Museum

Szeltersz (Romania), August 23–26, 2012

The experience of strangeness and the categorization change in local society in village of Szatmar. Organiser: Elemér Jakabffy Foundation and Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities in Cluj-Napoca

Satu-Mare (Romania), October, 7-9, 2011

‘The Hungarians Live in the Ancient Times, You Know, Always in the Ancient Times’: The Historical Genealogy of Foreigner Experience in a Frontier Village. Conference: Minoriti in the Carpathian Basin

Budapest, November 29-30, 2010

The Historical Genealogy of strangeness experience in Gypsy, Hungarian and Ukrainian ethnic groups. Conference: Everyday Nationalism and popularization of radical ideologies. Organiser: The Minority Studies Institute of the Hungarian Academy Sciences

Miskolc, 30 May -1 June, 2007

The Foreign/Past and Ethnical/Present in Transcarpathia’s Sociological Research. Conference: The Representations of Cultural Variaties. Organiser: Hungarian Cultural Anthropological Association

Debrecen, October 27-29, 2006

The Rhetorical Reading and Meaning Interpretations of the Diary '56 Year by Dr. Mihály Fazekas. Conference: '56 Memories in Folk Traditions. Organiser: HAS DAB, University of Debrecen, Faculty of Ethnology

Social activities (Membership, ranks)

- Member of the Public Body of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (since 2024)
- Hungarian Ethnographical Society
- Hungarian Cultural Anthropological Association