

ABSTRACTS AND KEYWORDS

ACADEMIC ESSAYS

MIHÁLY HOPPÁL

TO BE OR NOT TO BE... PERSPECTIVES IN ETHNOLOGY

The article surveys the recent/current developments in the intellectual approach of contemporary society. Some disciplines or methods, such as the one coming under the both particular and all-including concept of ethnosemiotics, are also re-analysed. Challenges to the academic handling and reshaping of concepts are underlined. Current facts (such as neonationalism, terrorism, diaspora, globalism) require critical revisions or new perspectives to be launched in and for the ethnology. Hungarian contributions over the last decades are mentioned. **Keywords:** Ethnology, Anthropology, Ethnosemiotics, Identity, Globalism.

HEATHER J. MURPHY

VIRTUALLY HUMAN: SPACE AND CULTURE IN THE VIRTUAL WORLD

This article deals with how space, gender, and notions of belonging in the sense of nationalist and personal identity frameworks are constructed and experienced in a virtual world. I will explore how issues of embodied understanding are altered when ones sensory aptitude switches from the "real world" to an invented, online world, and the consequences this has on how the overall game is experienced. **Keywords:** Virtual, Human, Embodiment, Experience, Transnational, Proxemics, Gender.

MOJCA RAMŠAK

HOME AS THE PLACE IN THE HEART: EMOTIONAL INVESTMENTS OF HOUSING IN SLOVENIA

Dwelling is a house or other building, a place of living, but this place is also much more than a point in space. Emotional effects of buying the first real estate, changing the dwelling and accommodating to new environment are to a certain extent measurable responses to new life circumstances. Emotional strategies of changing the residence are important, because they are usually connected with spending the biggest amount of money and the biggest debt in one's life and are interlaced with culturally dependant notion of home. Buying the apartment or house and moving from one dwelling to another are frustrations that have influence on the lives of next of kin or friends one live with, and at the same time they can represent the feeling of ultimate fulfilling. The research is

based partly on auto ethnographic method; stories of people I was listening to when I was buying the apartment in 2003, my own story, and stories which were collected later in 2008 before the financial shocks of autumn of the same year, when prices in the housing market fell also in Slovenia. Richly nuanced narratives of buying the dwelling are from Slovene mid-range people who were around thirty years old when they were buying their first dwelling, they all had university education, they were employed permanently or for part time, they had average or little above average incomes by Slovene standards, and to all of them buying the apartment or house in the city was a huge financial burden and a great personal engagement. Long-felt desires and needs for having their own home together with raising the quality of live are the main stress on one side, and on the other, several forms of mutual help and emotional strategies that were accompanying purchase, removing, furnishing, accustoming to environment and neighbors. **Keywords:** Housing, Habitat, Slovenia, Household, Ownership, Couple.

CHRISTINE DETTMANN

THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY: MAKING SENSE OF THE EMPIRICAL DATA OF PERFORMANCE

Given that musical performance is created in intersubjective construction, different styles of ethnographies can come into play. Taking two examples of my fieldwork experience, I focus on the analytical challenge posed by the transformation of empirical data into an ethnography of performance. Here, a closer look can for instance reveal slight discrepancies between the verbal accounts of the stakeholders and my own observation or experience of the performance. I resolve these ambiguities under different epistemological conditions. Yet, the similar outcomes suggest a flexible handling of ethnographic writing styles. The emphasis lies therefore on foregrounding this analytical path of transformation into an ethnography, calling it "performing ethnography".

Keywords: Performance, Ethnography, Brazilian Culture, Capoeira.

ESSICA MARKS

MUSIC AND IDENTITY: VARIED ASPECTS IN THE SINGING OF AN ARAB ISRAELI SINGER

This article explores the singing of a female singer as expressing aspects of gender and vocality that are related to culture and multiculturalism. Singer Lubna Salameh is a Christian Arab woman that currently lives in the Western Galilee. A citizen of Israel and a member of Israel's Arab minority, Lubna Salameh is a professional singer who appears in Israel and abroad, and is today considered to be one of the leading Arab singers in Israel. The article presents Lubna as culturally plural: in terms of religion, she is Christian; in terms of culture, she belongs to Middle Eastern Arab musical culture; in terms of nationality, she is Israeli citizen. Her singing will be examined following several main aspects: the relations between gender and ethnic, religious and national aspects; the singer's vocality will be discussed first as concerned with the audible voice and the construction of the non verbal meanings, another aspect will be the performative dimension of Lubna's vocal expression, and another issue will be vocality as a cultural construct. The repertoire of the singer will be examined as gendered culture. **Keywords:** Gender and Music, Gendered Musical Culture, Multiculturalism, Vocality, Arab Music, Music in Israel.

ATHENA KATSANEVAKI

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMUNITY: ITS DYNAMICS AND ITS IMPACT ON CONTEMPORARY RESEARCH (GREECE AS A CASE-STUDY)

The importance of the community in Greece is a matter that has been discussed by a wide variety of writers. Nevertheless one way to comprehend it is to follow its impact on contemporary research. This impact is located in two ways: firstly in the lives of the researchers themselves as they reveal the quest for the community inside our modern world. Secondly it is apparent that research itself comes through a similar process. Compression of time and space results to the break down of the communal spirit. Such a break down is apparent in science and in theory and results in their inadequacy and criticism of them. This is how then community with its characteristic dynamics presents itself as one of the most important aspects of our lives. **Keywords:** Traditional Culture, Greece, Community, *Mantinada*.

TÜNDE TURAI

CULTURAL CONCEPTIONS OF OLD AGE IN A RURAL COMMUNITY

The life-course is considered by the author as a cultural scenario, which contains the most important borderlines signalling the passages. The notions demographic elderly and social elderly seems to be insufficient to present and explain the complexity of the *old age*, reason why the notions *cultural ageing* and *culturally elderly* are applied in this paper. The threshold of old age cannot be defined by only one, especially by one artificially fixed principle – like demographers and sociologists do. The principles that divide the life stages seem to be culturally coded. The passage from adulthood to old age is not easy to set because of the lack of a clear, performed event. This passage is rather gradual, invisible, latent, long and sophisticated process. The principles by the help of which the investigated community forms the complex matrix of this threshold are: health state, esthetical signs, changes in the carried out work, change of the family status (grandparent, widow), life-stage characteristics of the economic situation, generational age context, location change, and the representation of an earlier world. **Keywords:** Elderly, Ageing, Life-Course, Cultural Construction.

KATALIN JUHÁSZ

CLEANLINESS AND PERSONAL HYGIENE IN HUNGARIAN VILLAGES FROM THE TURN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT DAY

Ethnographers tend to neglect the study of simple, stereotypical acts of everyday life, such as the act of washing oneself. In the broad sense we understand by the term of *washing (oneself)* not only the gestures necessary to clean the body or parts of it from any material dirt or filth but also the acts which satisfy the social demands linked to proper cleaning. Hence *washing* can assume magical connotations as well. In pre-modern societies the ritual of washing took place in the community, in accordance with its norms. Quite a few procedures aimed at healing and/or protecting the body or the soul from bewitching or witchcraft are based on the real, imaginary, or mythical virtues of water. There are also such rites linked to transition (birth, initiation, wedding, death etc.) as well as cathartic rites that can renew or ensure health and beauty at some well defined day or

period of the year (mainly in springtime). Wide-ranging research has shown that cleanliness is both a social and a historical construction, that is, a relative rather than an absolute concept. The rather complex psychological and social causes of *washing* change with time and space. The social change characterized by modernization and urbanization in the first half of the 20th century had a profound effect on the mentality, way of life and social behaviour of Hungarian peasantry. This change in turn completely modified the meaning of washing and the related customs. With the advent of modernity, washing and bodily hygiene became individualised. Thus the individual freely decides where to belong to and creates his or her appearance according to the demands of the community. Washing is not a simple elimination of dirt, but a *rite de passage*. With its additional activities it aims to achieve an ideal, clean and perfect outlook, intended to conform to the liking of the community. Purity indicates to the outside world that the given person is a full member of the community. The aim of the present essay is to analyse the customs related to washing and bathing and their modification triggered by social change. It contains a brief clarification of the terms “cleanliness” and “hygiene”, a short historical review of Hungarian and international research and a short history of *washing* as a universal custom, and an overall picture of the major stages in the change in village habits of cleanliness. **Keywords:** Hygiene, Cleanliness, Washing, Folk Society, Traditional Culture, Hungarian Village

KATALIN BENEDEK

NORTH-EAST HUNGARY IN THE 1960S AND THE LIVING STORY-TELLING IN A GYPSY COMMUNITY

The paper tries to draw a parallel between the socio-economic transformations of the past sixty years and the changes of the honoured story-telling community of the North-East Hungary. In this respect, four points of reference can be found: (1) the story-telling life of the colony during the Gypsy-Hungarian coexistence; (2) the story-telling of the commuters of the “black train” and the labourers of the large-scale industrial developments, taking place in the workers’ hostels in the circle of Gypsy family members and non-Gypsy colleagues; (3) the individual cultivation of the tradition that has stayed alive up to the present, relegated into the family, complemented by the tales read from books or any other source; (4) the revival of story-telling competitions organized for children by the library or cultural institutions, in order to reuse ethnicized traditions. Árpád Fábíán was a highly respected story-teller of his community that possessed rich folklore traditions (song, music, dance and other narratives). Not only the weight of his numerous long tales gave him a remarkable folklore knowledge, but his outstanding qualities as an actor were heightened further by his singing skills, which is proved by his two brilliantly performed tales with song-interludes. The author concludes that these were truly good tales for the audience, addressing children and adults alike: listening to tales among relatives and neighbours was the best entertainment for the 25-35 people gathered at the Gypsy ghetto of Szabadság square in the years 1955-1961. **Keywords:** Romungro, Folktales, Story-Telling, Community, Hungary.

IAN LAW and SARAH SWANN

MISSING OUT: GYPSY/ROMA/TRAVELLER CHILDREN AND EDUCATION. SOME EVIDENCE FROM FIELDWORK IN A NORTHERN CITY IN THE UK

The nature and complexity of relations between the movement of people (migration), the formation of boundaries between groups of people who have shared cultural meanings, memories and descent (ethnicity) and the formation and negative treatment of racial groups (racism) is a key focus for this paper. Migration, racism and ethnicity remain strong social forces and there is evidence of sharpening tensions and conflict in inter-ethnic relations. This paper presents new information on the experiences of Gypsy/Roma/Traveller (GRT) children and education in Britain, providing both an assessment of current patterns of social and educational exclusion, and evidence from fieldwork with schools, parents and community groups in a Northern City. Welfare outcomes are particularly poor for this group, for example they have higher levels of infant mortality and lower life expectancy due to difficulties in accessing health services than most other groups, life expectancy for men and women is 10 years lower than the national average and Gypsy and Irish Traveller mothers are 20 times more likely than mothers in the rest of the population to have experienced the death of a child. In education, as well as some of the lowest levels of educational attainment, some schools are refusing to admit children from this group, imposing discriminatory conditions on admission or delaying registration. Also, of those that do get access to education, at least half of gypsy and traveller children in England and Wales drop out of school between the ages of 8 and 16. Furthermore, there is increasing evidence of almost total failure of access to higher education for this group. **Keywords:** Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Racism, Integration, Social, Education.

BALÁZS BALOGH

ANTECEDENTS, POSSIBILITIES AND PROSPECTS OF RESEARCH OF THE PRESENT (EXCERPTS FROM THE WORK AND PLANS OF THE INSTITUTE OF ETHNOLOGY OF THE H.A.S.)

The necessity of constantly renewing the various academic disciplines is a basic truth, which is even more valid for ethnography. The social transformations ensuing from changes in European societies, the ever more rapid dissolution of peasantry, acculturation and globalization by necessity spur the discipline to changes in theoretical approach and methodological renewal so that it may be able to interpret all such new social processes and phenomena. The essay gives a glimpse into the main recent avenues of inquiry and research topics occurring within the Institute of Ethnology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. **Keywords:** Present Research, Regional Research, Social Analysis, Local Societies, Roma Population, Urban Ethnography.

IRINA BALOTESCU

DYNAMIQUE DU FOLKLORE, DYNAMIQUE DU LANGAGE

On aborde ici la manière dont le langage se modifie selon les jeux et les enjeux du miroitement des innovations folkloriques. Mon regard porte sur les mécanismes par lesquels le folklore se *trans*-forme et qui déterminent la dynamique des différents registres du langage verbal. On prend en considération la relation entre la culture populaire et la langue, comme facteurs identitaires stables, au sens le plus large du terme,

tout en se préoccupant, à l'intérieur de cette relation, du rapport entre la dynamique du folklore et la dynamique du langage. Il s'agira d'établir une «diagnose» d'un certain moment culturel et historique, et, dans la mesure du possible, de prévoir les manières et le rythme des futures transformations au niveau du folklore et de la langue. **Mots-clefs:** Langage, Folklore, Culture traditionnelle, Culture populaire, Transformation.

BOOK REVIEWS

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