

ses and Abuses of the Middle Ages in Central and Eastern Europe: From Heritage to Politics

(in cooperation with the Max-Planck-Institut für Geschichte, Göttingen, and the Open Society Archives, Budapest)

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Course director:

[Gábor Klaniczay](#) (CEU/Collegium Budapest, Hungary)

Resource persons:

[Neven Budak](#) (CEU/University of Zagreb, Croatia)

[Patrick Geary](#) (UCLA, USA)

[József Laszlovszky](#) (CEU, Budapest, Hungary)

[Ernő Marosi](#) (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary)
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Zbigniew Dalewski (Polish Academy of Sciences)

Chrysos Evangelos (University of Athens, Greece)

[Gabor Gyani](#) (ELTE, Budapest)

Resource coordinators:

[Péter Erdősi](#) (University of Miskolc/Teleki Institute, Budapest, Hungary)

[Béla Zsolt Szakács](#) (Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Piliscsaba/CEU, Hungary)

Short biographies

Gábor Klaniczay

Professor of Medieval Studies at the CEU and Permanent Fellow of Collegium Budapest. He was educated at the University of Budapest, the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, and the Sorbonne, Paris. Dr. Phil. in History in 1983 and Cand. Sc. in Medieval Studies in 1995. Teaching at the Dept. of Medieval and Early Modern European History of the University of Budapest since 1984, he headed the department in 1995-97. Founder and first Head of the Dept. of Medieval Studies of the CEU (1992-97). Research Fellow at the Columbia University (1986), the EHESS (1989), the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (1990-91), the Getty Center (1992) and the Bellagio Study and Conference Center (1996). He was Rector of Collegium Budapest in 1997-2002. He is the author of seven books, including *The Uses of Supernatural Power* (Princeton 1990), *Heilige, Hexen, Vampire* (Berlin 1991), and *Holy Rulers and Blessed Princesses* (Cambridge 2002). Editor and co-editor of several Hungarian and international book-series and scientific journals.

Neven Budak

Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zagreb and associate professor of Medieval Studies of the CEU. He is Chair of the Croatian National Committee for Historical Sciences and member of editorial boards of Croatian and international journals such as *Otium*, *Österreichische Osthefte*, and *Hrvatski zemljopis*. His recent publications cover the medieval history of Croatia and historiography of the Middle Ages. His research interest includes early medieval history, Christianisation, ethnogenesis, and urban history. He is the author and editor of several books on medieval Croatian urban history, social and religious history and ethnogenesis.

Patrick Geary

Professor of History at the University of California, Los Angeles. A.B. summa cum laude in Philosophy, Spring College, Mobile Alabama 1970, M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Medieval Studies, Yale University 1973 resp. 1974. Starting his carrier at the Princeton University as Assistant Professor (1975-80), he worked as Associate Professor (1980-86) and Professor (1986-93) of History at the University of Florida, Director of the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (1993-98), and Professor of History and Robert M. Conway Director of the Medieval Institute at the University of Notre Dame (1998-2000). He was invited as guest professor to the universities of Vienna (1983), Paris (Directeur d'Etudes associé, EHESS, 1984 and 1990), Poitiers (1994), etc. He is the author of several books, including *Furta Sacra* (Princeton 1978), *Living with the Dead in the Middle Ages* (Ithaca 1994), and *The Myth of Nations* (Princeton 2001).

József Laszlovszky

Head of the Department of Medieval Studies at the CEU and Associate Professor of Medieval and Postmedieval Archaeology at the University of Budapest. MA with distinction in 1983 and Dr. Univ. of Medieval History in 1991 at the University of Budapest, Ph.D. in 1992 of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Visiting graduate student at Oxford University (1986-87), he has been teaching medieval archaeology since 1983 at the Budapest University and since 1994 at CEU. Organiser of the first Congress of Hungarian Medieval Archaeology (1995), and several other international conferences and sections in Leeds and Kalamazoo. Co-editor of several books on medieval history and archaeology (e.g. *Tender Meat under the Saddle*, 1998; *The Hercule-Fountain of Visegrád*, 2000; *The Crusades and the Military Orders*, 2001). His research interest includes monastic culture in Medieval Europe, Mendicant Architecture in Central Europe, History of Medieval Material Culture, Medieval Settlement System and Rural Settlements, Computer Aided Reconstruction of Medieval Buildings, Cultural Heritage, and Landscape archaeology. In addition, he is leading excavation at Senlis, Visegrád, and in the Upper Tisza region.

Ernő Marosi

Vice-president of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Professor Marosi started his career at the Department for Art History of the University of Budapest, where he is still teaching as Professor. Founding member, vice-director and later director of the Institute for Art History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Former chair of the Committee for Art History of the Hungarian Academy of

Sciences. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences from 2001. His books include *Die Anfänge der Gotik in Ungarn* (Budapest 1984), *A budavári szoborlelet* (Statue-finding of the Buda castle, Budapest 1989), and *Kép és hasonmás* (Image and likeness. Art and reality in 15-16th-century Hungary, Budapest 1995). Editor of the two volumes of *Magyarországi művészet 1300-1470 körül* (Hungarian art around 1300-1470, Budapest 1987), and the international journal *Acta Historiae Artium*. His research interest covers the history of medieval Hungarian and Central European art, especially in the Gothic period.

Andrei Pippidi

Director of the Romanian Institute for Recent History since 2000 and Professor at the University of Bucharest since 1995. He graduated at the History Faculty in Bucharest in 1970, and received his Ph.D. at the University of Cluj in 1981. D.Phil. at the University of Oxford, 1985. Professor Pippidi was President of the National Commission of Historical Monuments (1997-2001). He is Vice-President of the Romanian-Polish History Commission and founding member of the Group for Social Dialogue. Guest Professor of the CEU in 1999-2000, and member of the board of the Soros Foundation in Romania in 1990-1994. He is the author of books on *People and Ideas of South-eastern Europe in the Early Modern Age* (1980), *Romania of the Kings* (1994), *About Statues and Tombs* (2000), and editor of a dozen of books on *Ancient Romanian Culture* (1985) and other related subjects.

Evangelos Chrysos

Professor of Byzantine History, University of Athens, and Director, Institute of Byzantine Research/National Hellenic Research Foundation. Previous tenured professorships at the Universities of Ioannina and Cyprus and visiting professorships at the Universities of Bamberg, Munich, Vienna, Boston and EHESS/Paris, fellow at Dumbarton Oaks and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Secretary General of the International Association for Byzantine Studies. His main research interests are Byzantium's international relations and diplomacy; history of Church Councils; provincial history of Cyprus and Epirus.

Péter Erdősi

Assistant Professor at the University of Miskolc and Research Fellow at the Teleki Institute, Centre for Central-European Studies, Budapest. Educated at the University of Budapest, he received his MA in History and Italian Philology in 1993 and in Medieval Studies at the CEU in 1994. Participating in the postgraduate studies in history at the Atelier Franco-Hongrois, University of Budapest, 1994-97, he defended his Ph.D. in 1999 on the court society in late medieval Transylvania. He received scholarships at Perugia, Siena and Rome. He is leading a research project on the culture heritage movement and its reception in Hungary.

Béla Zsolt Szakács

Associate Professor of Art History of the Catholic University of Hungary and Research Assistant at the Medieval Studies Department at the CEU. MA in History and Art History at the University of Budapest in 1992, C.Sc. (Ph.D.) in Art History in 1998. Research Fellow of the Institute for Art History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (1992-96), participant in the research projects of the Department for Medieval Studies at the CEU (since 1994), and founding member of the Department of Art History of the Catholic University (since 1996). Co-editor of the collected studies *Medievalia* (1992) and editor of *Guide to Visual Resources of Medieval East-Central Europe* (2001). He received Mellon Fellowship in Florence (Villa I Tatti, The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, 2000) and DAAD scholarship in Munich (Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte). His research fields include medieval architecture, book illumination, and Christian iconography.

Course objectives

The course intends to explore a most topical issue connected with the Middle Ages: its "use" and "misuse" in the political and cultural discourse—as well as activity—of our times, with special reference to Central and Eastern Europe. The notion of a "new Middle Ages" has a slightly different meaning in this region. Here national self-identification is heavily leaning on the medieval past, as for several nations that was the (real or legendary) age of "greatness" followed by decline, incorporation into multinational empires, dismemberment and "foreign rule". Conversely, events of cooperation in the region, fruitful in the remote past, are called upon to justify and underwrite recent attempts at the same. Finally, the diverse attitudes to surviving (or unearthed) remains of the medieval past have acquired crucial symbolic value for internal and external forces alike. Just as totalitarian governments have destroyed or glorified monuments according to their preference (at home and abroad), so contemporary ones make a show of ancient jewels or castles or bomb the bridges of their enemies. In a less violent and manipulated manner, the presentation, (re)construction of past edifices and objects serve definite political and ideological aims.

Without opting for some idealistic "objectivity", the seminars and round-tables of this course will explore the bases of this kind of "instrumentalization". It will discuss the performance of experts in this field, supportive or critical, and the implications of governmental and non-governmental policies in respect to the future of cultural heritage, history-writing and teaching in the region. A comparative perspective, including Western Europe, may be able to place all this in a wider historical and intellectual context.

Course level, target audience

This course is designed essentially for participants with some prior knowledge of East-Central European history, art history, archaeology and cultural heritage issues. It is not intended as either a strictly postgraduate or a professional upgrade course. The interdisciplinary nature of the problems in question will most likely result in a diverse student-body, from medieval studies experts through heritage

specialists to local historians, moreover, representatives of NGOs and cultural policy-making institutions. In other words, participants will have some background knowledge in different topics, and will certainly benefit from acquiring data and methodology from related fields of the interdisciplinary spectrum of the proposed course.

Course format

The proposed course will have a structure equally balanced between lectures, seminars, museum visits and a central round-table discussion at the end of the first week. In the seminars the academic coordinators will have a central role besides the faculty. The discussions might be prolonged by museum and site visits. There will be informal workshops for the presentation of the national reports and databases created by the related research project by CEU Alumni. The synthetic round-table discussion will give an opportunity to confront national and regional phenomena. As an integral part of the course, a field trip is planned to take place in Esztergom where the medieval castle and basilica and the modern representations (or reconstructions) of the Middle Ages can be analyzed in situ.

Course content

The summer university will consist of three kinds of activities:

1. The "instruction" aspect will be provided by a series of lectures/seminars given by a faculty of eight distinguished international experts of medieval studies, and coordinated by two young scholars from the field, who would also take the students to a few relevant sites and museums in Budapest. There will be ten resource persons, divided into two groups, each of them assuring the activities working for one entire week.

2. To provide a synthetic overview of the theme, we decided to organize a one-day round-table discussion at the juncture of the first and the second week, on Saturday, when the first week's faculty is still there, and the second week's faculty have already arrived. We intend to involve in this workshop some more members of CEU faculty, and from additional funding we will invite a few further "celebrities", who would allow a wider comparative discussion. We have consulted with the following colleagues as potential workshop participants:

János M. Bak (CEU) – national mythologies;

Marianne Birnbaum (UCLA) – medievalism in recent East European literature;

Elisabeth E. Brown (NYU) – ideological use of millennial celebrations in France;

Bronislaw Geremek (Warsaw) – to speak on Poland and Europe;

Pierre Monnet (Göttingen) – to deal with coexisting histories;

István Perczel (CEU) – on the reemergence of Orthodox Christianity;

Ihor Ševčenko (Harvard) – to speak on Russia and Ukraine, and the use of Byzantium;

Maria Todorova (Florida) – concerning Bulgaria and the Balkan peninsula;

István Rév (CEU) – medieval symbols in modern politics;

3. The third aspect of our work will be the constitution and the discussion of a series of national databases, which will be received from a selected group of our alumni: a documentation of events, ceremonies, monuments, propaganda (posters, journal articles, electronic media), films, exhibitions, and, of course, scholarly work related to the use and abuse of the Middle Ages during the past ten years in the post-socialist East European countries. As the specific characteristics of this region can only be assessed in a comparative framework, we would add to these series a few examples from Western Europe, where the millennial anniversaries have also provided (or would have provided) opportunity for such instrumentalization.

This documentation would be prepared for being destined, ultimately, to enrich the holdings of the Open Society Archives, and would draw upon the materials collected and presented by the exhibition and the conference on the Hungarian Millennium organized there in March 2002. The documentation would be collected according to a set of well-elaborated criteria, which should be discussed and fixed by the participants as soon as the project is funded. The collecting would imply several months of research, and for this work we will apply for funding from the resources of OSA. This group of 24 students, therefore, would not belong to the SUN resource persons or students, yet, it is foreseen that they would join the group for several days, present personally their documentation, and discuss it with some of the students and the professors.

Syllabus

TOPICS	RESOURCE PERSON	NO. OF HOURS	TEACHING MODE	DISCUSSION POINTS
Medieval studies and politics 1.	Neven Budak	6	2 lectures and 4 seminars	Usage of medieval historical events in recent political debates
Medieval studies and politics 2.	František Šmahel	6	2 lectures and 4 seminars	Motifs of recent interest in medieval studies

From heritage to politics 1.	Gábor Klaniczay	6	2 lectures and 4 seminars	New religious cults and modern nationalism
From heritage to politics 2.	Andrei Pippidi	6	2 lectures and 4 seminars	Governmental institutions and policy-making; national heritage
Problems in monument protection and reconstruction 1.	Ernő Marosi	6	2 lectures and 4 seminars	Restoring or reconstructing? History of monuments or monuments of history?
Problems in monument protection and reconstruction 2.	József Laszlovszky	6	2 lectures and 4 seminars	The "heritage business": the global and the Central European perspective
Historiography and memory 1.	Patrick Geary	6	2 lectures and 4 seminars	Migration-myths and modern memories
Historiography and memory 2.	Gerhard Oexle	6	2 lectures and 4 seminars	Medievalism in modern historiography: trends and discourses

Assessment

The assessment of the participants' performance will be threefold. Firstly, every resource person leading a seminar will provide a personal evaluation of each participant. Secondly, participants will be asked to prepare some material prior to the proposed course (that is the national report), which will be handed in to, and evaluated by the resource persons. Thirdly, participants will take an active part in the workshops and round-table discussions, whereby their performance will also be evaluated.