

# Alexander Vari, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of History  
Department of Social Sciences  
Marywood University  
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## Education

- 2005 Ph.D. History, Brown University, Providence, RI  
Dissertation: "Commercialized Modernities: A History of City Marketing and Urban Tourism Promotion in Paris and Budapest from the Nineteenth Century to the Interwar Period"
- 1999 M.A. History, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 1988 B.A. History and Philosophy, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania

## Academic Positions

- 2012–to date Associate Professor, Department of Social Sciences, Marywood University, Scranton, PA (tenured position)
- 2007-12 Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences, Marywood University, Scranton, PA (tenure-track position)
- 2006-07 Visiting Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, Furman University, Greenville, SC
- 2005-06 Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for the Arts in Society, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2004-05 Lecturer, Department of History, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, TN
- 2001(spring) Reader, Department of History, University of California at Berkeley, CA
- 2000 (fall) Instructor, Department of History, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI
- 1999-04 Teaching Assistant, Dept. of History, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 1990-97 Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania

## Fellowships

- 2008 (summer) American Councils Southeast European Scholar Program (Title VIII) Fellowship, Bucharest, Romania
- 2005-06 Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2001 (spring) Brown University – UC Berkeley Graduate Exchange Fellowship, Berkeley, CA
- 1999-2000 Pembroke Center Graduate Fellowship, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 1998-99 William J. Fulbright Fellowship, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 1997-98 Graduate Fellowship, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
- 1996-97 USIA Exchange Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, PA
- 1995 (summer) New School for Social Research Summer School, Cracow, Poland
- 1994 (summer) Stefan Bathory Foundation Summer Institute, Kosciierzyna, Poland
- 1993 (fall) TEMPUS Fellowship, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium and Centre des Etudes Internationales, Paris, France
- 1992 (fall) Open Society Foundation Fellowship, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- 2013      *Socialist Escapes: Breaking Away from Ideology and Everyday Routine in Eastern Europe, 1945-1989*, co-edited with Cathleen M. Giustino and Catherine J. Plum (New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, hardback; 2013, reissued in paperback edition June 2015)

During much of the Cold War, physical escape from countries in the Eastern Bloc was a nearly impossible act. There remained, however, possibilities for other socialist escapes, particularly time spent free from party ideology and the mundane routines of everyday life. The essays in this volume examine sites of socialist escapes, such as beaches, campgrounds, nightclubs, concerts, castles, cars, and soccer matches. The chapters explore the effectiveness of state efforts to engineer society through leisure, entertainment, and related forms of cultural programming and consumption. They lead to a deeper understanding of state-society relations in the Soviet sphere, where the state did not simply “dictate from above” and inhabitants had some opportunities to shape solidarities, identities, and meaning.

• [reviewed in *Slavic Review*; *German Studies Review*; *The Anthropology of East Europe Review*; *Canadian Journal of History/Annales Canadiennes D’Histoire*; *Bohemia*; *Slavonic and East European Review*; *Austrian History Yearbook*; *Social History*; *Labour History Review*; *Canadian-American Slavic Studies*; *H-Soz-u-Kult*; *Hungarian Cultural Studies*; *Zeitschrift für Ostmitteleuropa-Forschung*; *Archiv für Sozialgeschichte*; *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas*, *Slavic and East European Journal*, *Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte*, and *The European Politics and Policy blog* of the London School of Economics]

### Articles and Book Chapters

- 2014      “Die Nation im Schaukasten. Binnentourismus und Nationswerdung auf der Budapester Millenniums-Ausstellung 1896,” in *Zwischen Exotik und Vertrautem - Zum Tourismus in der Habsburger monarchie und ihren Nachfolgestaaten*, edited by Martina Thomsen and Peter Stachel (Bielefeld: Transcript Verlag, 2014), 123-134.
- 2013      “Branding Montmartre: Tourism, Popular Culture, and the Artistic Bohemia,” in *Tourism, Travel and Art*, edited by Tijana Rakic and Jo-Anne Lester (Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2013), 219-34.
- “The Nation in the City: Ceremonial (Re) Burials and Patriotic Mythmaking in turn-of-the-century Budapest,” *Urban History*, 40, 2 (May 2013): 202-25.
- “Escaping the Monotony of Everyday Life under Socialism,” in *Socialist Escapes: Breaking Away from Ideology and Everyday Routine in Eastern Europe, 1945-1989*, edited by Cathleen M. Giustino, Catherine J. Plum and Alexander Vari (New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2013), 1-23.

- “Nocturnal Entertainments, Five Star Hotels, and Youth Counterculture: Reinventing Budapest’s Nightlife under Socialism,” in *Socialist Escapes: Breaking Away from Ideology and Everyday Routine in Eastern Europe, 1945-1989*, edited by Cathleen M. Giustino, Catherine J. Plum and Alexander Vari (New York: Berghahn Books, 2013), 187-209.
- 2012 “Re-territorializing the ‘Guilty City’: Nationalist and Right-Wing Attempts to Nationalize Budapest during the Interwar Period,” *Journal of Contemporary History*, 47, 4 (October 2012): 709-33.
- 2011 “From ‘Paris of the East’ to ‘Queen of Danube’: Transnational Models in the Promotion of Budapest Tourism, 1885-1940” in *Touring Beyond the Nation. A Transnational Approach to European Tourism History*, edited by Eric G. E. Zuelow (Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2011), 103-125.
- 2010 “Bullfights in Budapest: City Marketing, Moral Panics, and Nationalism in Turn-of-the-Century Hungary,” *Austrian History Yearbook* 41 (2010): 143-69.
- 2008 “A Disappearing Montmartre: Anchoring the Memory of a Neighborhood in Interwar Paris,” in *(Im)permanence: Cultures in/out of time*, edited by Judith Schachter and Stephen Brockmann, (Pittsburgh: Center for the Arts in Society, Carnegie Mellon University, distributed by Penn State University Press, 2008), 73-87.
- 2006 “From Friends of Nature to Tourist-Soldiers: Nation Building and Tourism in Hungary, 1873-1914,” in *Turizm: The Russian and Eastern European Tourist under Capitalism and Socialism*, edited by Anne Gorsuch and Diane Koenker (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006), 64-81.
- “Exile, Urban Tourism and Identity: Hungarian Travelers in Paris, 1918-1940,” *Journeys: The International Journal of Travel and Travel Writing* 7 (1) (2006): 81-109.
- 1999 “A Case of Female Hysteria in Hungary in the 1880s,” *Budapest Review of Books* (Winter 1999): 179-87.
- “A női hisztéria Budapesten az 1880-as években,” *Budapesti Könyvszemle*, 1999 nyár, 174-83 (in Hungarian).
- Review Articles**
- 2016 “Musical Theatres and Cafés: Cultural Interactions and Transfers between European Cities,” *History: Reviews of New Books*, 4 (2016): 94-97.
- 2014 “Satisfying Material Desires: The Politics and Experience of Consumerism in the Eastern Bloc,” *Europe-Asia Studies*, 66 (January 2014) 1:135-43.
- 2007 “Economic Development, State Patriotism and Ethnic Conflict: Recent Works on Habsburg History,” *History: Reviews of New Books*, 36 (2007) 1:13-18.
- 2000 “Bécsről - amerikai szemmel (About Vienna from an American perspective),” a review of Carl E. Schorske, *Fin-de-siècle Vienna. Politics and Culture* (transl. in Hungarian by Miklós Györffi), *Budapesti Könyvszemle* (Winter 2000): 324-34, available online at <http://epa.oszk.hu/00000/00015/00020/vari.html>

### Book reviews

- 2018 Review of Richard Ivan Jobs, *Backpack Ambassadors: How Youth Travel Integrated Europe*, Chicago; University of Chicago Press, 2017, *Journal of Tourism History*, 10 (2018) 1: 89-91.
- 2016 Review of *The Fin-de-Siècle World*, edited by Michael Saler (London and New York: Routledge, 2015) in *World History Connected*, October 2016, available online at [http://worldhistoryconnected.press.illinois.edu/13.3/br\\_vari.html](http://worldhistoryconnected.press.illinois.edu/13.3/br_vari.html)
- 2015 Review of *Races to Modernity: Metropolitan Aspirations in Eastern Europe, 1890-1940*, edited by Jan C. Behrends and Martin Kohlrausch (Budapest and New York: Central European University Press, 2014), *European History Quarterly*, 45, 4 (October 2015), 747-48.
- Review of Paula Sutter Fichtner, *The Habsburgs: Dynasty, Culture and Politics* (London: Reaktion Books, 2014), *The History Teacher*, 48 (August 2015) 4: 778-80.
- Review of Julian Brigstocke, *The Life of the City: Space, Humour, and the Experience of Truth in Fin-de-Siècle Montmartre* (Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2014), *Urban History*, 42 (August 2015) 3: 531-33.
- Review of Gwen Jones, *Chicago of the Balkans: Budapest in Hungarian Literature, 1900-1939* (Oxford: Legenda, 2013), *Slavonic and East European Review*, 93 (April 2015) 2: 352-55.
- 2014 Review of Friedrich Lenger, *European Cities in the Modern Era, 1850-1914* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2012), *Urban History*, 41 (May 2014) 2: 359-61.
- Review of *Ethnicity, Nationalism and the European Cold War*, edited by Robert Knight (London and New York: Continuum, 2012), *European History Quarterly*, 44 (January 2014) 1: 156-58.
- 2013 Review of Mark Pittaway, *The Worker's State: Industrial Labor and the Making of Socialist Hungary, 1944-1958*. Pitt Series in Russian and East European Studies (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2012), *Slavic Review*, 72 (Winter 2013) 4: 874-75.
- Review of *Post Festum. Szabadtéri játékok a két világháború között Salzburgban, Szegeden és Pécssett* [Outdoor Festivals in Salzburg, Szeged, and Pécs during the Interwar Period] edited by Amália Kerekes, Melinda Kindl and Judit Szabó (Budapest: Gondolat, 2009) in *American Hungarian Educators' Association (AHEA) E-journal*, 2013. Available online at <http://ahea.net/e-journal/volume-6-2013>
- Review of William Kelleher Storey, *The First World War: A Concise Global History* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2010), in *World History Connected*, 10, nr. 3, October 2013. Available online at [http://worldhistoryconnected.press.illinois.edu/10.3/br\\_vari.html](http://worldhistoryconnected.press.illinois.edu/10.3/br_vari.html)

- Review of Andrew Hammond, *British Literature and the Balkans: Themes and Contexts*, *Studia Imagologica: Amsterdam Studies on Cultural Identity*, 16. (Amsterdam and New York: Rodopi, 2010), *Slavonic and East European Review*, 91 (2013) 3: 609-11.
- Review of *Free Access to the Past: Romanticism, Cultural Heritage and the Nation*, edited by Lotte Jensen, Joep Leerssen, and Marita Mathijssen (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2010), *Nations and Nationalism*, 19 (2013) 2: 398-400.
- Review of *Nationalism and the Reshaping of Urban Communities in Europe, 1848-1914*, edited by William Whyte and Oliver Zimmer (Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), *European History Quarterly*, 43 (2013) 1: 197-98.
- 2012
- Review of *Post-Communist Nostalgia*, edited by Maria Todorova and Zsuzsa Gille (New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2010), *Nationalities Papers: The Journal of Nationalism and Ethnicity*, 40 (2012) 6: 969-72.
- Review of Agata Anna Lisiak, *Urban Cultures in (Post)Colonial Central Europe* (West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press, 2010) in *American Hungarian Educators' Association (AHEA) E-journal*, vol. 5 (2012), available online at <http://ahea.net/e-journal/volume-5-2012>
- Review of *Balkan Departures: Travel Writing from Southeastern Europe*, edited by Wendy Bracewell and Alex Drace-Francis (New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2009) in *Slavonic and East European Review*, 90 (July 2012) 3: 493-95.
- Review of Djurdja Bartlett, *Fashion East: The Spectre that Haunted Socialism* (London and Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2010) and *Pleasures in Socialism: Leisure and Luxury in the Eastern Bloc*, edited by David Crowley and Susan E. Reid (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2010) in *Europe-Asia Studies*, 64 (2012) 5: 969-72.
- Review of *Yugoslavia's Sunny Side: A History of Tourism in Socialism (1950s-1980s)*, edited by Hannes Grandits and Karin Taylor (Budapest and New York: Central European University Press, 2010), in *Journal of Tourism History*, 4 (2012) 1: 109-11.
- 2011
- Review of Sebastian Conrad, *Globalisation and the Nation in Imperial Germany* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010) in *Canadian Journal of History/Annales canadiennes d'histoire*, 46 (2011) 3: 755-57.
- Review of *Imagining the West in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union*, edited by György Péteri, (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010), in *The History Teacher*, 44 (2011) 4: 620-22.
- Review of Eric Storm, *The Culture of Regionalism: Art, Architecture and International Exhibitions in France, Germany and Spain, 1890-1939* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2010) in *Nations and Nationalism*, 17 (2011) 3: 679-80.

- Review of Ginette Verstraete, *Tracking Europe: Mobility, Diaspora and the Politics of Location* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010) in *Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change*, 9 (2011) 2: 153-56.
- 2010 Review of *Histories of Tourism: Representation, Identity and Conflict*. Edited by John K. Walton (Clevedon, UK: Channel View Publications, 2005), in *Journal of Tourism History*, 2 (2010) 3: 242-45.
- Review of Karl D. Qualls, *From Ruins to Reconstruction: Urban Identity in Soviet Sevastopol after World War II* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2009), in *Europe-Asia Studies*, 62 (November 2010) 9: 1597-98.
- 2009 Review of Paul Steege, *Black Market, Cold War: Everyday Life in Berlin, 1946-1949* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007) in *Canadian Journal of History/Annales canadiennes d'histoire*, 44 (2009) 2: 324-26.
- 2007 Review of Pál Germuska, *Indusztria bűvöletében: fejlesztéspolitika és a szocialista városok/Under the Spell of Industry: Development Politics and the Socialist Cities* (Budapest: 1956-os Intézet, 2004) and Sándor Horváth, *A Kapu és a Határ: mindennapi Sztálinváros/The Gate and the Border: Everyday Life in Stalin City* (Budapest: MTA, 2004), in *Slavic Review*, 66 (2007) 3: 526-28.
- 2006 Review of Robert Nemes, *The Once and Future Budapest* (DeKalb, IL: Northern Illinois University Press, 2005) in *Canadian Journal of History/Annales canadiennes d'histoire*, 41 (2006) 2: 374-76.
- 1997 Review of Gyáni Gábor, *Hétköznapi Budapest. Nagyvárosi élet a századfordulón Everyday Budapest: Metropolitan Life at the Turn-of-the-Century* (Budapest: Városháza, 1995) in *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai. Series Historia*, (1997) 1-2: 218-219 (in Romanian).
- Review of Jann Matlock, *Scenes of Seduction: Prostitution, Hysteria and Reading Difference in Nineteenth-Century France* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1994) in *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai. Series Historia*, (1997) 1-2: 217-18 (in Romanian).

### **RECENT PRESENTATIONS**

- 2018 “*From Rejection to Embrace: The Tortuous History of Budapest’s gambling Casino Business in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*,” at the 14<sup>th</sup> European Urban History Association Conference, Rome, Italy, August/September 2018
- 2017 “*Easterners in the West: Cosmopolitanism and Passive Nationalism in a 1908 Hungarian Travelogue to Paris*” at the Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Conference, Chicago, IL, November 2017
- 2016 “*Nation-Building and Globalization in the Budapest Orpheum and Cabaret World (1890-1914)*,” at the Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Conference in Washington, DC, November 2016

- “*Postwar European Arts Festivals and the Beginnings of Cultural Globalization: Origins, Causes and Effects*,” at the 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial European Social Science History Conference, Valencia, Spain, April 2016
- 2014 “*Festival Cities: Art, Tourism, and Cultural Decentralization in Late-Nineteenth to Early Twentieth-Century Europe*,” at the 7th Biennial Conference of the Urban History Association, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, October 2014
- “*Budapest: A Paris of the East or a Hungarian Paris?*” at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the European Association for Urban History conference on “*Cities in Europe, Cities in the World*,” Lisbon, Portugal, September 2014
- 2013 “*The Seduction of Suggestion: Hypnotism as Entertainment and Matter of Public Concern in Hungary, 1870s-1930s*,” at the Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Conference, Boston, MA, November 2013
- 2012 “*A Metropolis in the Making: World-City Dreams and Representational Polarizations in Turn-of-the-century Budapest*,” at the 6th Biennial Conference of the Urban History Association, Columbia University, New York City, NY, October 2012
- 2011 “*From Tool of National Mobilization to Instrument of Moral Degeneration: Debates on the Role of Horse Races in Turn-of-the-Century Hungary*,” at the Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Conference in Washington, DC, November 2011

## **TEACHING**

2007-to date **MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY, SCRANTON, PA**

- HIST 100: *Roots of the Modern World, 1750-1914* (12 semesters)
- HIST 101: *The Global History of the Twentieth-Century* (15 semesters)
- HIST 241: *Introduction to Latin American History* (3 semesters)
- HIST 399B: *Modern Italian History* (1 semester)
- HIST 399F: *The French Revolution in Global Context* (1 semester)
- HIST 420 A: *Europe in the Twentieth-Century* (2 semesters)
- HIST 420 D: *History of Eastern Europe* (2 semesters)
- HIST 420 E: *Totalitarian Regimes in Europe, 1917-1945* (1 semester)
- HIST 420 F: *Dictatorship and Democracy: Europe, 1945-1989* (1 semester)
- HIST 421: *Nazi Germany and the Holocaust* (3 semesters)
- HIST 440: *History of Modern Latin America* (2 semesters)
- HIST 450: *The Global History of Popular Culture, 1850-present* (2 semesters)
- HIST 460: *European Cities: Urban Development and Metropolitan Change in London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna and Budapest, 1800-1940* (1 semester)
- HIST 460A: *Historical Methods and Research* (1 semester)
- HIST 460B: *Histories of Globalization* (1 semester)

## **SERVICE**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

- 2012 – 2018 • Chair, Department of Social Sciences
- 2011(summer) • Interim Chair, Department of Social Sciences

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Historical Association (AHA)  
Urban History Association (UHA)  
Association of Slavic, Eastern European and Eurasian History (ASEEES)  
Society of Dix-Neuvièmistes  
European Association of Urban History (EAUH)  
European Social Science History Association (ESSHA)  
H-Urban, Habsburg Studies, H-Nationalism, H-German, H-Celebration, H-France, & H-Travel and Tourism

### **LANGUAGES**

Hungarian (native)  
Romanian (native)  
French (excellent reading, good speaking, and proficient writing skills)  
German (good reading)  
Italian (good reading)