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Title of the presentation: The reconstruction of the missing annual reports of the Budapest police captain-chief of the Horthy period

ABSTRACT

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The reconstruction of the missing annual reports of the Budapest police captain-chief of the Horthy period

Criminal history research on Budapest between the two world wars can be based on a variety of sources. Stories with faces, names, and fates can be extracted from court and prosecutorial documents and the contemporary press, but various contemporary source publications related to crime and criminal statistics also provide a solid basis for the analysis. However, in contrast to the turn-of-the-century sources, the annual reports of the Budapest police chief between the two world wars are missing, as they were destroyed during the Second World War. In my presentation, I will present the reconstruct these missing but important sources based on the reports of the public security situation of the capital city of Budapest and the operation of the Budapest police, which are held monthly in the Metropolitan Assembly. They contain information on crimes, criminals and police procedures in addition to statistical data. I plan to present a more nuanced picture of the actions of criminals and law enforcement officers living in Budapest during the Horthy period through their analysis.

Keywords: criminals, Horthy era, Budapest, criminal history, police, Budapest police chief reports

The Bed Lodger's Treat? Sexual Socialization in (Habsburg) Central Europe, 1880–1930

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Budapest and Vienna around 1900 offered multifarious opportunities for encounters between citizens. Not only public spaces provided regular meetings with people outside of the family; in supposedly private spaces such as apartments, people encountered their peers. The massive demographic growth transformed both residential cities into metropolises of approximately one respectively two million inhabitants, leading to citizens having to share housing with their fellow residents. Among the most crucial factors affecting daily life was privacy in the home, which was less limited to family life than we might imagine today: Until the interwar period, one fifth (up to one quarter) of the populations could not afford to rent an apartment or even a room of their own. This twenty (five) per cent of the Budapestians and Viennese paid for a bed to sleep in for a few hours before the next bed lodger settled in. Almost half of available apartments hosted such tenants.

The crowded living conditions fundamentally affected sexualities. For example, newspapers and the movement for sexual education claimed that the youth was damaged by witnessing the dishonest manners of the bed lodgers in their homes, that an increasing number of women served as concubines, and that the bed lodging would function as a cover for criminality and clandestine prostitution. What is more, literature illustrates that the society witnessed the heyday of *Kindfrau* (child woman) staging. I seek to investigate how the crowded living conditions of the vast majority of people influenced sexualities as portrayed in the discourse about sexual education and sexual behavior in the last decades of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Through a close examination of memoirs and literature, as well as court records and newspapers, I argue that gendered issues of shared housing instigated a profound yet highly constructivist analysis of what privacy and sexual socialization tended to be (thought of) in the following decades.

Dr Susanne Korbelt is principal investigator of the Austrian Science Funds ESPRIT project “Entanglements of Jews and non-Jews in private spaces in Budapest and Vienna, 1900–1930” (FWF ESP120). She is based at the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Graz. In 2024/25, she is visiting research fellow at the Central European University Vienna. She specializes in cultural studies, gender studies, migration history and modern Jewish history. The project she is currently working on investigates encounters between Jews and non-Jews in housing sites in order to develop new, non-exclusive narratives based on everyday life aiming to overcome narratives of particularity. Her first book is entitled *Auf die Tour! Jüdinnen und Juden in Singspielhalle, Kabarett und Varieté zwischen Habsburgermonarchie und Amerika um 1900* (Böhlau 2021, open access). She has held fellowships in Jerusalem, New York, Southampton, and Tübingen, and taught as visiting faculty with the Universities of Virginia and Haifa. She studied Cultural Studies, History and Cultural Anthropology in Graz, Jerusalem, Budapest, and New York and earned her doctoral degree from the University of Graz. In 2020 she received the Leo Baeck Essay Prize. Publications include: “Jewish Spaces in Present Vienna: A Relational, Hybrid Approach,” *Contemporary Jewry* 45 (2024) no.1, 1-18; “Spaces of Gendered Jewish and Non-Jewish Encounters: Bed Lodgers, Domestic Workers, and Sex Workers in Vienna,

1900–1930,” *Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook* 65 (2020), 88–104; “Under- studied Patterns of Jewish Migration between the Habsburg Central Europe and the United States,” *Quest. Issues in Contemporary Jewish History* 20 (2020), 86–108; “Jews, Mobility, and Sex: Popular Entertainment between Budapest, Vienna, and New York around 1900,” *Austrian History Yearbook* 51 (2020), 220–242; *Jewish Migrations and their Effect on Modern Urban Cultures*, special issue of *Mobile Culture Studies* 8 (2024) no.1 (together with Maja Hultman); *Der ‘schwierige’ Umgang mit dem Nationalsozialismus an österreichischen Universitäten. Die Karl-Franzens-Universität im Vergleich* (together with Gerald Lamprecht/Heimo Halbrainer) (Graz 2022), or *Cultural Translation and Knowledge Transfer on Alternative Routes of Escape from Nazi Terror Mediations Through Migrations* (together with Phillip Strobl) (London/New York 2022).

Lviv 1848–1914: the history of space

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In my paper I will explore and discuss the possibilities and advantages of spatial history of the Habsburg towns and cities, the topic that for years I make research into and which will be the pillar of my book. The multi-cultural character of these centres was and still is a phenomenon that should be examined and explained. My main case study of Lviv/Lwów/L'viv/Lemberg in Galicia is a great example: a vibrant capital, a town-turned-city with a fast expanding urban fabric, giving shelter to various ethnic communities fighting for visibility and recognition: Polish, Ruthenian/Ukrainian, Jewish and German/Austrian, and at the same time a real 'laboratory of modernity', with dozens of books and newspapers discussing the past and future of the city.

The period in question, 1848–1914 was perhaps the most important and glaring in the long history of the city. In my presentation I will show first how the category of space could be used to better understand the 'force' of everyday and the need for managing shared space by different social actors of the period. While Lviv was demonstrated in an exclusivist space by proponents of different ethno-political visions, but municipal activists and officials actually dealt with an inclusive space of the city and looked at it very often in through such a 'practical' lens. Secondly, I will ask how space was conceptualised in the narratives explaining the city's past, showing that the category of space was crucial in convincing the readers to a particular vision of the past. To achieve that, space was presented as having an inherent identity, similarly to humans. The final question appears to be, to what extent the management of conflicts, including most crucially the national rivalries that began to tear apart Lviv before 1914, bore at its heart the very issue of space. Was the 'spatial problem' an exaggerated issue or not?