

Conference on the History of Geography 2026
Geographical Knowledge in Local Context and Global Entanglement
3–4 September 2026 · Budapest



International conference at the Eötvös József Collegium, ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, organised in cooperation with

- the Working Group on the History of Geography (Germany),
- the Department of Geography at Humboldt University of Berlin,
- the Department of Social and Economic Geography at ELTE Eötvös Loránd University,
- the Social and Economic Geography Division of the Hungarian Geographical Society,
- with the support of the HRP Foundation of the Berlin Geographical Society.

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Organisers: Ferenc Gyuris (Budapest), Norman Henniges (Berlin) & Róbert Győri (Budapest)

Programme

Thursday, 3 September 2026

Eötvös József Collegium of ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, Ground floor, Big Event Hall (*Nagyterem*)
Budapest, Ménesi út 11–13, 1118 Budapest, Hungary.

Opening | 10.00 – 10.10

László Horváth (Director of Eötvös József Collegium),
Ferenc Gyuris (Budapest, Hungary) & Norman Henniges (Berlin, Germany)

Short Presentation & Guided Tour | 10.10 – 11.00

Ferenc Gyuris (Budapest, Hungary) & Róbert Győri (Budapest, Hungary)
Eötvös Collegium as a Place of Geographical Knowledge Production

Keynote | 11:00 – 11:30

Johannes Mattes (Halle, Germany) & Norman Henniges (Berlin, Germany)
Epistemic Frontiers: Mapping Knowledge, Ignorance, and Power in 19th-Century Research on the Arctic and Africa

Break | 11:30 – 11:45

Session 1. Geographical Imaginations and Material Cultures | 11:45 – 13:15

Alessandro Ricci (Bergamo, Italy)
Monumental Depicted Maps: Material Culture in the History of Cartography

Maurizio Zignale (Bergamo, Italy)
Grand Tour Diaries as Products of the Material Culture of Geographical Knowledge

Yunran Zhang (Heidelberg, Germany)
Railway Posters without Railways: Landscapes and Maps in Advertisements of the k.k. Austrian State Railways in the Early Twentieth Century

Lunch Break | 13:15 – 14:30

Session 2. Geographical Networks and Circulating Knowledge | 14:30 – 16:00

Maximilian Reimann (Munich, Germany)

Periphery and Center: Circulating Knowledge at the American Geographical Society, 1851–1914

Róbert Győri (Budapest, Hungary), Steven Jobbitt (Thunder Bay, Canada) & Charles W. J. Withers (Edinburgh, UK)

Expert Geographers during and after the Great War: The Parallel Lives of B. C. Wallis (1878–1960) and Ferenc Fodor (1887–1962)

Dominic Keyßner (Erfurt, Germany)

Mapping Across Borders? A Closer Look at the Cooperation between Cartographia Budapest and the VEB Hermann Haack Gotha

Break | 16:00 – 16:15

Session 3. Geographical Knowledge and Territorial Identities | 16:15 – 17:45

Nicola Gabellieri (Genoa, Italy) & Daniele Tinterri (Venice, Italy)

From the Border to the Plan-Reliefs: Alpine Conflicts and Territorial Geographic Representations between the Republic of Venice and the Habsburg Empire in the Eighteenth Century

Alex Stogiannos (Corfu, Greece)

Political Geography and Geopolitics: On Rudolf Kjellén's Reception of Friedrich Ratzel

Lishi You (Jinhua, China)

From Petite Patrie to Grande Patrie: Histoire-Géographie and Territorial Identity in Republican France after 1871

Conference dinner

Friday, 4 September 2026

Session 4. Geographical Institutions and Transformations | 09:30 – 11:00

Bálint Hilbert (Budapest, Hungary)

Institutionalising Geography in an Unequal Empire: Challenges of Building Czech, Polish and Croatian Geographies in the Habsburg Monarchy, 1849–1918

Hilbrand Wouters (Konstanz, Germany)

The Region as Ambition. West German Archaeological Museums as Mediators of Historical Geographic Coherence (1933–1970)

Leonie Paauwe & Michiel van Meeteren (Utrecht, Netherlands)

“We Wish to Raise a Number of Societally Relevant Problems!”: Staff-student Interaction in Reshaping Dutch Development Geography in the 1970s

Break | 11:00 – 11:20

Session 5. Political Geographies and Nation-Building | 11:20 – 12:50

Róbert Balogh (Budapest, Hungary)

Constructing the "Carpathian Basin": Geopolitics, Crisis Awareness, and Anthropogenic Landscape Modification (1910–1945)

Guilherme Ribeiro (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

Nationalism and Multilingualism in the Estado Novo: Orlando Valverde, a Geotranslator in the Boletim Geográfico (1943–1945)

Raphaël Pelletier (Québec, Canada)

The Québécois Geographers and the 'National Question': The Independence Movement as a Defining Factor in Disciplinary History (1959–1972)

Break | 12:50 – 14:00

Session 6. (Post-) Colonial Cartographies and Geographies | 14:00 – 15:30

Martino Haver Longo (Florence, Italy) & Lorenzo Dolfi (Vercelli, Italy)

Commercial Exploration and Colonial Projections: Italian Geographical Knowledge on Yemen and the Red Sea, 1877–1930s

Judith Verweijen & Michiel van Meeteren (Utrecht, Netherlands)

The Ironies of Militarized and Colonial Cartography: Exploring the Mythologies of the Minembwe Map

Sophie Bijleveld & Michiel van Meeteren (Utrecht, Netherlands)

Ambiguous Post-Colonialities: (Re-)Negotiating Geography between Universitas Gadjah Mada (Indonesia) and Utrecht University (the Netherlands)

Break | 15:30 – 15:50

Working group meeting: Organisational matters & discussion | 15:50 – 17:00

Saturday, 5 September 2026

Field trip. Departure from Budapest at 8 a.m. by private bus. Estimated costs: 65–70 euros per person (excluding dinner). Scheduled stops:

- **Kecskemét and its surroundings** – Truth spots in the countryside: Field observations of Great Plain agricultural towns as products of a unique trajectory of urban development in rural Hungary. What has happened since the region's Ottoman conquest in the 16th century and why does that matter for the history of human geography as an academic discipline in Hungary?
- **Tiszaföldvár** – The institutional infrastructure of geographical knowledge production beyond universities and research institutes: How can countryside museums contribute in the 21st century? Case study: Tiszazug Geographical Museum, Hungary's oldest geographical museum (founded in 1956) and the 2026 winner of the Museum of the Year in Hungary award in the town of Tiszaföldvár
- **Szarvas** – What happens before entering the university gate? Shedding new light on pre-tertiary education's less discussed impact on leading geographers' scientific careers. Case study: Tibor Mendöl, the interwar pioneer of urban geography in Hungary, and his secondary school years in the town of Szarvas

Return to Budapest at approximately 9 p.m.

Travel Information

Eötvös József Collegium of Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE)

Ménesi út 11–13

1118 Budapest

Hungary

Getting There

By Air

The nearest airport is **Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport (BUD)**, approximately 22 km from the venue.

- **Taxi:** The journey takes about **30–40 minutes**, depending on traffic.
- **Public Transport:** Take the **100E Airport Shuttle Bus** to **Kálvin tér**, then continue by **Metro Line M4** to **Móricz Zsigmond körtér**. From there, the venue is about an 8-minute walk. BKK operates Budapest's public transport network and offers convenient connections throughout the city.

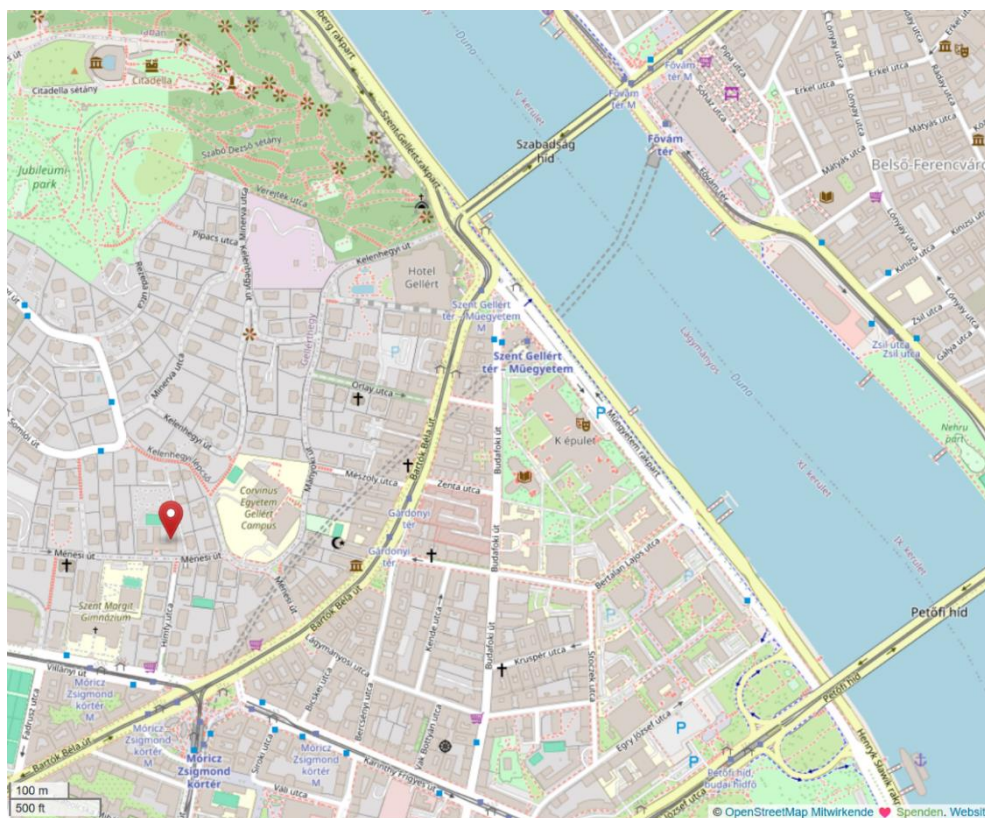
By Train

Budapest's main railway stations are well connected to the public transport network.

- **From Kelenföld Railway Station:** Take **Metro Line M4** to **Móricz Zsigmond körtér**, then walk approximately 8 minutes to the venue. This is the recommended route by ELTE.
- **From Keleti Railway Station:** Take **Metro Line M4** to **Móricz Zsigmond körtér**, then walk approximately 8 minutes to the venue.
- **From Nyugati Railway Station:** Take **Metro M3** to **Kálvin tér**, change to **Metro M4**, and continue to **Móricz Zsigmond körtér**.

By Car

The venue is in the Újbuda district (District XI of Budapest) and is easily reached via the M1, M7 and M0 motorways. Parking in the surrounding streets is limited and may be subject to parking fees. Public transport is recommended whenever possible.



Eötvös József Collegium,
Ménesi út 11–13,
1118 Budapest, Hungary
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