I. Main duties of the research unit in 2016

- Organising the conference *Collection and fieldwork in ethnography* and publishing presentations in the 2016 volume of *Ethno-Lore*, the Yearbook of the Institute of Ethnology.
- Editing the ethnography manual *Encyclopaedia of Hungarian Folk Poetry*, the journals *Acta Ethnographica Hungarica* and *Ethnographia*, and the series of the institute.
- Examining socio-ethnographical changes in local communities of different types and in different geographical regions. Launching the OTKA project (2016–2020) *Parallel and incompatible ruralities. Rural realities in four Transylvanian (Romania) micro-regions*.
- Historical research on popular erudition, research on the history of ethnology.
- Tradition and modernisation, cultural stereotypes and ideologies, religious phenomena, perceptions of landscape and environment — ethnological research in Siberia and Central and Southeast Asia
- Theoretical and methodological issues in contemporary folklore research. The collection of historical and contemporary folkloric texts and manifestations of popular piety, source exploration, and the expansion and analysis of text corpora.

II. Outstanding research and other results in 2016

a) Outstanding research results

- The publication of presentations given at the two-day conference *Collection and fieldwork in ethnography* in the 2016 volume of *Ethno-Lore*, the yearbook of the Institute of Ethnology (supported by the MTA KFB [Book and Periodical Publishing Committee]).

Fieldwork — that is, the collection of empirical data — is a core concept and principle of ethnography and ethnology/cultural anthropology. It is one of the most important methodological and epistemological aspects of these disciplines, the basis of their identity, and, at the same time, a feature that distinguishes them from related disciplines. Although many studies have been written on the nature of ethnographical/anthropological fieldwork, none of them provide a synopsis of all aspects of ethnographic research, integrating, at a high level, the diverse methods of fieldwork in the fields of folkloristics, historical ethnography, ethnology etc. Acknowledging this gap, the Institute of Ethnology held a
workshop/conference on the topic on September 22 and 23, 2016. By gathering together the
diverse fieldwork experiences and methods of researchers from the institute, the aim was to
to show how Hungary’s central body of ethnographical research sees the significance, potential
and future of fieldwork. During the two-day conference, 18 researchers from the institute gave
presentations. All the institute’s researchers participated actively in the event and contributed
to the lively discussions. Expanded into written papers, the presentations appeared in the 2016
volume of Ethno-Lore, the yearbook of the institute, in four main thematic chapters:
Fieldwork and epistemology; The dilemmas of contemporary fieldwork; The history of
research and fieldwork; and Fieldwork and the researcher’s ego. The collected material covers
a broad and diverse spectrum, both temporally and spatially. In time, it ranges from the 18th
century to the present day, while its wide geographical scope embraces many countries and
ecological zones on three continents (Europe, Asia, Africa) where fieldwork was carried out
by researchers from the institute. In 2017, the research unit will continue the scientific
discussion on fieldwork by organising another conference, with presentations by further staff
members from the institute as well as representatives of other key players in the field. Another
project related to the fieldwork conference will be the digitalisation of fieldwork-related
materials from the institute’s archives, and their publication on the institute’s website. The
main goal of this project is to institutionalise ethnographic fieldwork research under the aegis
of the institution: ideally, any search related to fieldwork, at least in digital form, would first
yield finds connected to the name of the institute.

- Editing the ethnography manual Encyclopedia of Hungarian Folk Poetry, the journals Acta Ethnographica Hungarica and Ethnographia, and the series of the institute.

Folklorists from the institute started work on the compilation of the Encyclopaedia of Hungarian Folk Poetry in 2010. Their objective is, on the one hand, to provide a modern
interpretation of the basic concepts of folkloristics (e.g. folklore, folk literature, tradition, oral
tradition, oral culture, folklore collection, archives, authenticity) that is applicable in the 21st
century. On the other hand, they are aiming to compile articles on the most important genres
of folk poetry (folk song, tale, legend, ballad, anecdote, joke, adage, riddle), the most
important types, motifs and performers, and the most eminent researchers in the discipline,
summarising the very latest national and international findings. The highly labour intensive
enterprise involves 14 folklorists from the institute — nine current employees and five retired
or former researchers — who had completed about two-thirds of the planned entries by the
end of 2016, representing huge progress towards the completion of the work. Continuing the
practice of previous years, they held weekly editorial meetings at which the panel discussed
and edited the completed articles. Such a large-scale undertaking as the compilation of the
Encyclopaedia of Hungarian Folk Poetry was made possible by the fact that a significant
number of Hungarian textual folklorists work at the institute, and members of the research
group undertake both historical folklore studies and research on current issues.

In 2016, Acta Ethnographica Hungarica, the foreign-language journal of Hungarian
ethnography, was returned to the institute. A senior member of the institute and research team
leader was appointed editor-in-chief, while four other researchers became members of the
editorial staff, and a further five, members of the editorial board. The subtitle of the journal
once again indicates that it is a publication of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The
editor-in-chief has made a number of substantive and formal changes to further raise the
professional standard of the periodical. The guest editors of the first issue (Hungarian Sociocultural Anthropologists in Non-European Fields since 2000) were the institute’s senior
researcher and one of the institute’s scientific councillor, and about half the authors were
members of the institute staff (see point V). In the second issue, likewise in the role of guest
editor, a senior research fellow carrying out historical and socio-ethnographical research on hygiene habits and bathing culture published the presentations of the panel Body – Identity – Society: Concepts of the Socially Accepted Body that he chaired at the 12th International Congress for Finno-Ugric Studies. As editorial board members and copyeditors, staff of the institute play an active role in Ethnographia, the discipline's leading journal in the Hungarian language.

In 2016, the guest editor of the fourth issue of Ethnographia was the Folklore Research Team leader, and the issue featured studies by the institute's folklorists, representing the latest domestic trends in historical and contemporary textual folklore research. On the one hand, the studies analyse the scientific importance of major 19th- and 20th-century folklore collections, publications and researchers oeuvres and re-evaluate their impact, and, on the other hand, they investigate contemporary folklore.

In 2016, two new volumes were added to the institute’s Életmód és Tradíció (Lifestyle and tradition) series (Erika Karácsony-Molnár: Dúsgazdagolás. Egy székelyföldi farsangi dramatikus játék [Dúsgazdagolás. A dramatic carnival performance in Szeklerland; and László Mód: Ártéri szőlőskertek az Alsó Tisza mentén [Floodplain vineyards along the Lower Tisza]).

- Examining socio-ethnographical changes in local communities of different types and in different geographical regions

Led by the director of the institute, the OTKA project Parallel and incompatible ruralities. Rural realities in four Transylvanian (Romania) micro-regions was launched in October 2016. Focusing on four Transylvanian regions — (1) Szamoshát border region and villages around Nagykároly [Carei]; (2) Targu Mures [Marosvásárhely] metropolitan area and the Szeklerland area (3) along the river Nyárad [Nirad]; and (4) the Transylvanian Hegyalja villages — they examine the types and forms of rurality, interpreting EU accession (2007) as the beginning of a new era. The project will analyse the dynamics of how regions following different developmental paths have interpreted and experienced the recent changes, along with the resulting conditions and processes — both their similarities and differences — in terms of the use of culture, social context and economic strategies. The first workshop discussion took place in autumn 2016 in Ottomány [Otonani] in Bihar [Bihor] county, where the schedule of research tasks for the first year of the project was established.

For many years, the director of the institute has been researching the changes in the identity and lifestyles of American Hungarian emigrant communities in the US Mid-West and East Coast states. In 2016, he published the study “1956-os menekültek társadalmi integrációja az Egyesült Államokban” [The social integration of refugees from the 1956 revolution in the United States] in a thematic issue of the periodical Világtörténet on refugee issues in 1956.

The English version of the two-volume monograph The Regional Structure of Hungarian Folk Culture by a scientific councillor of the institute has been completed, and was prepared for publication by the end of the year.

The institute’s ethno-botanist socio-ethnographer is examining the formation of local ecological knowledge in connection with the reintroduction of the European beaver (Castor fiber) in the Carpathian Basin, as well as ecological knowledge and the methods of knowledge acquisition on three taxonomically and/or folkloristically interesting animal species (Vipera berus, Chiroptera, Cuculus canorus) in Gyimes [Ghiuș].

In 2016, ethnological research began on the practical implementation of food safety and food security, using the example of the village of Hernádszentandrás. Food production, organic farming and sustainable rural development are all key elements of the revival of the examined village. The long-term goal of the research is to provide feedback, enhancing the social
utilisation of the findings towards more efficient organisation and operation in collaboration with the local council and stakeholders.

A 260-page manuscript was compiled during the year interpreting the results of the multifaceted fieldwork carried out in several countries since 2008 on migrant care, transnational labour organisation, labour, and forms of labour.

One senior member of the institute’s Social Ethnology Research Team is investigating everyday rituals, lay healing, hygiene and wellness practices associated with the body in the spas of Hungary, as compared to spas in Poland; and the possibilities of spa tourism and ecotourism in improving the competitiveness of particularly deprived regions through the example of Gyomaendrőd.

A member of the institute, funded by a Bolyai Research Scholarship, is examining the elements and structures of contemporary Hungarian Reformed Church denominational identity, while another institute researcher is presenting ethnological interpretations of the phenomenon of kinship, supported by the same scholarship fund.

As members of the Rural History Research Team, formed in the context of cooperation between the HAS Research Centre for the Humanities and the National Remembrance Committee, five ethnographers from the institute are carrying out fieldwork and source identification library and archive research on socio-ethnographical issues in the socialist era. The ethnographers gave presentations at the research team’s conference "Laying the foundations of socialism" in Hungary (I). The team has produced publications such as The ecclesiastical and pastoral aspects of the 1944–1945 history of villages near Buda; The role and interpretation of local Soviet barracks in the memory of the population of the southern Vértes hills; The career of the first female lord lieutenant; Cultured lifestyles in the Hungarian-language press of the 1950s and 1960s; Changes in the composition and function of rural presbyteries in the Reformed Church in the 1950s; Protestants at the Gulag; The trauma of "socialist modernisation" in the society of the Salgótarján steel factory colony.

A junior research fellow, who was accepted into the institute in 2016 and who is writing a PhD on the social history of Soviet political dictatorship, has been carrying out archival source identification and (qualitative and quantitative) empirical field research for several years. His thesis discusses the micro-level impacts of the post-1945 Soviet political dictatorship by means of a systematic description of the responses of rural societies, and the adaptive-strategic behavioural patterns by which members of local communities adapted to the new — Soviet-style — social, economic and political conditions.

During 2016, researchers from the institute, as part of an intensive cooperation with members of the Ethnographic Institute of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences, developed a joint research programme to investigate life in the societies in the national parks located in the Slovenian-Hungarian border region, economic opportunities for local farmers, as well as the challenges and opportunities posed by the border. The project proposal successfully advanced to the second round of the two-round competitive tender, and the participants submitted the final and complete application for this final round in December 2016.

- Results of historical research into popular erudition

The institute’s academic researcher-professor and professor emeritus published a collection of his writings on the history of the science, Magyar népismert a 19. századbán. Előfutárok és klasszikusok [Hungarian ethnography in the 19th century. Forerunners and classics]. Some of the papers evaluate the ethnographical endeavours of the Reform Era, descriptions of landscapes and people, as well as ethnographical observations in descriptive statistical and geographical works, and in the oeuvre of János Csaplovics and Elek Fényes. Besides the "discoverers" of Hungarian and ethnic minority groups, the author deals with Hungarians
carrying out research on distant peoples. The second half of the volume contains studies on the lives and scientific achievements of János Erdélyi, Pál Hunfalvy, Ottó Herman, Antal Herrmann and János Jankó, from among the classics of Hungarian ethnographic research in the 19th century. The monograph A népi jogélet kutatása Magyarországon [Research into popular legal life in Hungary] was published by a researcher from the institute. A lengthy English-language manuscript was written for the Russian version of the journal Fashion Theory, presenting, through the 19th-century practice of some European (Scottish, Russian, French, Swedish, Spanish, Austrian, Polish, Croatian, Greek and Romanian) royal courts and national elites, the instruments of national representation via the symbolism of costume. Co-edited by one of the junior research fellows of the institute, the volume of essays A mívesség dice réte (In praise of ornamentation) was published, containing studies by five of the institute's researchers in honour of Mária Flórián, a former researcher at the institute.

– Tradition and modernisation, cultural stereotypes and ideologies, religious phenomena, perceptions of landscape and environment — fieldwork and ethnological studies in Siberia and Central and Southeast Asia

Led by the institute’s senior Mongolist, research is being carried out between 2013 and 2017 on Mongolian Buddhism from its emergence as a state religion to the present day as part of the OTKA project (K 109043) The social and political role of Mongolian high lamas and their church from the beginnings to our times. In addition to historical source-exploration research, participants will examine the contemporary phenomena of Buddhism, the behaviour of the church in today’s modernisation conflicts, and its current and past role in the development of modern Mongolian state and society. Ethnologists from the institute are analysing the transformation of social organisation, and the role of notion systems in this transformation, on the basis of fieldwork carried out in Siberia and Central and Southeast Asia. The ethnologists involved are examining the new social, cultural and economic systems in the region in the post-Soviet era, and the conflicts generated by modernisation. Their publications provide an insight into the value systems, culture and thought patterns of the Yakut, Buryat, Evenki, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Mongol peoples, and of Chinese and Vietnamese minorities living in the region.

A senior member of the institute undertook source exploration in the Early Printed Books archive of the National Széchényi Library in the field of the (visual and textual) reception of European ethnography/anthropology in Hungary (16th to 19th centuries), primarily researching the earliest — 16th- and 17th-century — layers of America reception in Hungary, and published the related findings.

– Theoretical and methodological issues in contemporary folklore research

Research is being carried out by a folklorist from the institute focusing on the impacts of social, economic and ethnic changes on Hungarian folklorism in the Zobor region. The research places special emphasis on the process of establishing Zobor as a Hungarian ethnographic area of referential status. In 2016, the collections and publications of a senior mythographer of the institute focused on historical legends, along with Transylvanian mythical legends and the narrative tradition of the [Hungarian-speaking] Moldavian Csángó. Following the exploration of historical sources and ethnographic fieldwork, several studies have been written on the subject of the religiosity of Moldavian Hungarians by a researcher from the institute. In 2016, two folklorists from the institute were awarded a János Bolyai Research Scholarship, one of them to research the 21st-century phenomena of child and student folklore, and the other to compile a historical database of Hungarian riddles. A senior
research fellow folklorist of the institute is examining connections between the folk poetry concepts of Imre Henszlmann and János Erdélyi. In the course of the year, archive research was carried out in Imre Henszlmann’s Kosice estate. Another senior research fellow folklorist from the institute carried out research on the scientific activity of eminent folklorist Gyula Sebestyén, who played a key role in the establishment of a Hungarian institutional system of ethnography. The leader of the Folklore Research Team produced a publication and gave a presentation on Habsburg folklore at a conference held to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of Franz Joseph and the coronation of Charles IV.

b) Science and society
In November 2016, as part of the HAS Hungarian Science Festival, the institute presented the documentary Burdosháza Amerikából – Balogh Balázs néprajztutató nyomában (A Boarding House from America – In the Footsteps of Ethnographer Balázs Balogh) at a screening for professionals, followed by a roundtable discussion on 20th-century Hungarian emigration to America. The event attracted an unusually high level of interest, with many secondary-school and university students participating. As part of the Ethnology Workshop series, the institute held five presentations for the broad professional and non-professional public. The head of the institute’s Historical Ethnology Unit curated the large-scale exhibition Traditions Revisited — Masterpieces of contemporary Hungarian arts and crafts, which was held in the Várkert Bazár. At the request of the Balassi Institute, the exhibition was presented in China in two locations — in the Museum of the Beijing Song Qinling Palace, which was hosting a foreign programme for the first time, and in Ningbo in southern China — as part of the Hungarian Cultural Bazaar 2016. Besides the curator, another senior research fellow of the institute was part of the delegation in the framework of Chinese–Hungarian bilateral relations. A scientific councillor of the institute was co-curator of the exhibition at the Ferenc Hopp Museum of Asiatic Arts Nagas, Birds and Elephants. Traditional Dress from Mainland Southeast Asia, and the producer of the related film Bark-cloth manufacture among the Bru of Central Vietnam, based on video footage shot in 1989. The film was presented to interested visitors at the institute.

The institute’s text folklorist is an expert member of the Folktale Advisory Board, set up by the Ministry of Human Resources. Several researchers were among the presenters and organisers of the Symbiosis Cultural Anthropology Days and the Crafts Festival. In 2016, researchers from the institute continued to play an active role in the popularisation of science, participated as members of the jury at folk dance and folk music competitions, gave educational presentations, and delivered further training for teachers and folk art collectors in the framework of the Tradition collection movement of the Hungarian Ethnographic Society.

III. A presentation of national and international R&D relations in 2016
The director of the institute was invited by the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) to convene and chair the panel Academic Knowledge ‘per se’ – versus knowledge for the "public" (Scholarship and its social context in East-Central Europe) at its 2016 international congress. In addition to the director, two senior research fellows and two scientific councillors from the institute gave presentations in the context of this panel at the Dubrovnik congress. Funded by a three-month Humboldt scholarship, a scientific councillor to the institute carried out research at the Ethnology Department of the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich, while two junior research fellows carried out research funded by a Baden-Württemberg German federal state scholarship at the Freiburg Institut für Volkskunde der Deutschen des östliche Europa (IVDE), aimed at furthering
professional relations between the two research units. Beyond the regular exchange of books, a plan of cooperation was formulated, in particular for research related to the culture of Germans in Hungary and the Carpathian Basin. Together with the University of Vienna and Masaryk University Brno, three researchers from the institute began a joint research programme in 2016 aimed at exploring more deeply and understanding more accurately the Siberian research carried out under the Austro-Hungarian Empire. A workshop was organised with the support of the Aktion Österreich-Ungarn (AÖU). Three researchers from the institute undertook three weeks of fieldwork in Mongolia as part of the bilateral cooperation between the Hungarian and Mongolian academies of science. At the invitation of the UNESCO Turkish Committee, three researchers from the institute travelled to Turkey, outlined and launched joint research programmes, and held joint symposia.

In the framework of bilateral agreements, the institute is working together with academic institutes and research associations from eight countries (China, Bulgaria, Poland, Mongolia, Russia Yakutia, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine). Relying on mobility and peregrination funding, a total of 21 researchers spent 187 days abroad (in England, Croatia, China, Poland, Latvia, Mongolia, Germany, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia) engaged in field work, attending conferences, or carrying out archive and library research. The institute hosted 13 researchers (from Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Yakutia, Slovenia, Ukraine, China and Mongolia), who spent a total of 136 days at the Hungarian research unit. Sponsored by the HAS guest researcher programme, Professor L. Altanzaya of the Mongolian State Teachers' Training University spent eight weeks at the institute.

The HAS Institute of Ethnology (NTI), as the leading institution in the field of ethnographic research in Hungary, has the goal of coordinating Hungarian ethnographic studies. The institute and the János Kriza Ethnographic Society based in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) jointly organised the two-day meeting The changing contexts of the use of archives in Ottomány (Otomani), Szatmár (Satu Mare) county. The institute was represented at the event by five researchers, including the director of the NTI. Several of the researchers delivered presentations at the VIII International Hungarology Conference, and/or participated as panel organisers and chair persons.

In cooperation with the PPKE Modern East Asia Research Group, the ELTE Far East Institute and the Confucius Institute, a senior research fellow from the institute organised the conferences Religion and Politics in Asia and Cultural traditions in modern East Asian States. Presentations delivered at the latter event were published in the institute’s Summa Ethnographica series. The year 2016 was outstanding in terms of conference participation. Members of the institute delivered twice as many presentations at national events compared to recent years. Eighteen presenters from the institute participated at the institute’s fieldwork conference, and 10 members of the institute gave presentations at the IV Congress of the Hungarian Cultural Anthropological Society, where two researchers also acted as panel organisers.

Researchers from the institute regularly participate in research projects and interdisciplinary conferences organised by other institutes, in particular the Research Centre for the Humanities. A senior research fellow of the institute is a member of the HAS Research Centre for the Humanities’ Research Group on Media Science and Media History, which organised the conference Music and Media, Media and History in 2016.

Several senior members participate in interdisciplinary OTKA research projects, such as Scientific knowledge flow patterns in Hungary, 1770–1830, and The impact of grazing on vegetation on non-conventional grazing areas, organised by the HAS Centre for Ecological Research. A senior research fellow folklorist of the institute, who participated in the Research Centre for the Humanities OTKA project The arts and sciences in the service of building the nation, compiled the section on ethnography in the volume Textbook of cultural nationalism.
In 2016, seven researchers undertook regular educational activities in national institutes of higher education, including Eötvös Loránd University’s Institute of Ethnography, ELTE’s Department of Mongol and Central Asian Studies, the Department of European Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the University of Pécs, Corvinus University’s International Study Programme, the Choreomundus International Masters in Dance Knowledge at the University of Szeged in the framework of the Ethnochoreology Programme, the Karoli Gaspar Reformed University Faculty of Arts, the University of Szeged Faculty of Communication and Media Studies Department, and the Reformed Theological Academy in Sárospatak.

In 2016, the institute's library holdings increased by 265 books and CDs, as well as 124 foreign and Hungarian periodicals. The library’s holdings comprised 45,813 inventory units (books, journals, special editions, CDs, maps etc.) at the end of the reporting year, and the library had 160 exchange partners. In exchange, the institute presented 744 volumes of its own publications in the form of complimentary copies or gifts (at conferences and in the context of book collection campaigns).

IV. Brief summary of national and international research proposals, winning in 2016

- **Parallel and incompatible ruralities. Rural realities in four Transylvanian (Romania) micro-regions.** OTKA-project (K 16 120712).
  Duration: October 10, 2016, to September 30, 2020. Total value of contract: HUF 23.23 million. The research focuses on the socio-ethnographical present day in four Transylvanian regions (the Szamoshát border region; the Targu Mures [Marosvásárhely] metropolitan area; the Szeklerland along the river Nyárád [Nirad]; and the Transylvanian Hegyalja villages). Participants examine the types and forms of rurality since EU accession in 2007.

- **Digitalization and preservation of rare historical sources of Mongolia written in the 19th and early 20th centuries.** Announcer: British Library, Endangered Archives Programme.
  Duration: 2016–2019. Total value of contract: GBP 31,000 (c. HUF 11.5 million). The goal of the programme is to digitalise and make available for international research more than 3,000 rare and endangered Mongolian unpublished historical documents and manuscripts.

- **The significance of fieldwork in ethnographic research.** NKA 106104/030075 Duration: 2016–2019. Total value of contract: HUF 600,000
  The organisation by the institute of two two-day conferences on the core concept of fieldwork, ethnography and ethnology/cultural anthropology, one of the most important methodological and epistemological aspects of the discipline, with the participation of the institute and representatives of Hungarian ethnographic/anthropological institutes.

- **Ethno-Lore, the yearbook of the HAS Institute of Ethnology, XXXIII (2016) edition.** HAS tender for the publishing of books and journals (KFB-012/2016)
  Deadline: January 31, 2017. Total value of contract: HUF 700,000
  The yearbook contains the expanded versions of presentations given by the institute’s researchers at the fieldwork conference.

- Publication of the 15th volume of the institute’s Életmód és Tradíció [Lifestyle and tradition] series. László Mód: Ártéri szőlőskertek az Alsó Tisza-mentén [Floodplain vineyards along the Lower Tisza]). HAS tender
for the publishing of books and journals (KFB-077/2016). Deadline: December 31, 2016. Total value of contract: HUF 450,000


Visiting researcher: Professor L. Altanzaya, Mongolian State Teacher Training University

V. List of important publications in 2016


