

**HSA Mark Pittaway Article Prize  
Committee's Announcement**

to be published on November 11, 2022

Book Prize Committee:

Katalin Cseh-Varga (Chair)

John K. Cox

Borbala Zsuzsanna Török

The Mark Pittaway Article Prize 2022 was awarded to:

László Csősz and Veronika Szeghy-Gayer, "Petitioners of Jewish Property in Košice: A Case Study on the Holocaust and Local Society in a Slovak-Hungarian Border Region," *The City and History*, Vol. 10, 2021, Issue 1, pp. 75-101.

Committee's statement:

László Csősz and Veronika Szeghy-Gayer's study is a thoughtful deep-dive into the micro-scenes of Holocaust history on the topic of the Aryanization of Jewish property in Southern Slovakia at the end of World War II (1944-1945). The authors focus on the practice of expropriation of houses owned by people declared Jews in the city of Košice, while investigating both the incentives of the city administration and those of the private solicitors in the larger context of the war economy. One of the major strengths of the study is the close attention to the larger picture, characterized by the dramatic demographic shifts in the city due to the stationing of German and Hungarian military, the deportation of Jews and the arrival of war refugees, each of these consistencies posing specific challenges to the municipal administration. Yet the study does not end up with a relativizing stance, but points out the ever growing antisemitism, even within a few years, which, coupled with the growing humanitarian crisis, contributed to a growing appetite on the part of the local inhabitants and city council members for the houses and apartments previously emptied of their properties. Social hierarchy and military status influenced the kind of housing people got, and insiders got the best "picks". The essay rests on carefully reviewed archival sources that allow individuals' interests and voices to be heard and re-connected to the circumstances of political and racial warfare. While we are presented with a balanced account of individuals' stories, readers will also get an insight into those individuals' potential participation in mass murder, which may have an ethical message for our current political setting of east-central Europe. Csősz and Szeghy-Gayer brilliantly include rich primary sources into their article on an important subject that is still insufficiently covered in terms of the territory of historic Hungary.

We also have two honorable mentions:

Johanna Mellis, "From Defectors to Cooperators: The Impact of 1956 on Athletes, Sport Leaders and Sport Policy in Socialist Hungary," *Contemporary European History*, 2020, 29, pp. 60-76.

Committee's statement:

In this well-written and important contribution to sports history, Johanna Mellis investigates the complicated intersections between politics and sports careers in the young Kádár regime. The 1956 Revolution and the mass defection of Hungarian Olympic athletes following the Melbourne Games stand out here as turning points in the relation between Hungarian sport leaders and athletes. Close observation of sports careers reveal rare cases of tragic outcome, but most of all the very paradoxes of Hungarian double-speak that allowed for arrangements that were mutually beneficial for (sports) diplomacy and dissenting athletes. With this the author contributes to a nuanced history of the paradoxes of culture and politics in Kádár's Hungary.

Adam Mestyán, "A Muslim Dualism? Inter-Imperial History and Austria-Hungary in Ottoman Thought, 1867-1921," *Contemporary European History*, 2021, 30, pp. 478-496.

Committee's statement:

Adam Mestyán's wide-ranging article not only demonstrates his extraordinary command of imperial history, but it also lays down the foundation for future inter-imperial research on how national narratives and patterns on nation-building were adapted in the Ottoman empire. The author takes the case of Austro-Hungarian Dualism as the framework for an alternative history to national narratives in the Eastern parts of the Mediterranean. In his ability to look beyond existing scholarship, Mestyán applies innovative methodology (relational history, circulatory history) and case studies to overcome narrow-minded interpretations of the political reform models for empire (namely those centered on French and British imperial governance).