

**The 26th International Congress  
of Onomastic Sciences  
“Locality and Globality in the World of Names”,  
Debrecen 2017**

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## **1. The venue and organizers**

The 26th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences “Locality and Globality in the World of Names” was held in Debrecen, Hungary, from 27 August to 1 September 2017.<sup>1</sup> This Congress was hosted at the University of Debrecen for the first time.<sup>2</sup>

Chaired by Valéria Tóth, the organizing team included Isván Hoffmann, Erzsébet Gyórfy, Anita Rácz, Rita Póczos, Katalin Reszegi, Barbara Bába, Éva Kovács, Melinda Szóke, Katalin E. Nagy, Csilla Katona, István Bátor, Éva Hankusz and thirteen student volunteers.

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<sup>1</sup> The Congress’s website: <<http://icos2017.unideb.hu/en/welcome/>>, accessed 10.09.2017.

<sup>2</sup> ICOS congresses date back to 1938. They are organized every three years. The first was held in Paris and the 13<sup>th</sup> in Kraków in 1978. The complete list of Congresses can be viewed at their website: <<https://icosweb.net/drupal/conferences>> accessed 10.09.2017. The proceedings of each Congress are published by the organizers.

## 2. The participants and their presentations

The 26th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences was attended by 241 participants, who presented 161 papers. Debrecen attracted scholars from six continents. Some countries were represented by only one scholar (Malaysia, South Korea, Kazakhstan, Ghana, Zambia or Portugal), while other countries provided a large number of onomasticians (Hungary, United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Romania, Germany and Austria).



University of Debrecen.  
Photo: Martyna Gibka

Apart from papers and symposia, the participants could listen to three plenary lectures:

- (1) “The symbolic meanings of names” by Professor Grant W. Smith (Eastern Washington University, Cheney, Wash.);
- (2) “Place-name policy in Scandinavia and elsewhere” by Professor Staffan Nyström (Uppsala University, Uppsala);
- (3) “Theoretical issues of toponym typology” by Professor István Hoffmann (University of Debrecen, Hungary) and Professor Valéria Tóth (University of Debrecen, Hungary).

Although the main area of interest for this Congress was locality and globality in the world of names, the papers (presented mainly in English, but also in French and German) addressed a number of other onomastic topics:

- (1) General Onomastics (papers by Evgeny Shokhenmayer, Pavol Odaloš and Elena Vallová, Andrea Bölcskei, Malgorzata Mandola, Artur Gałkowski, Luzius Thöny, Natalia Vasileva);
- (2) Toponomastics: theoretical issues, name-giving in the past, name changes, language contacts and name systems (papers by Aleh Kopach, Peder Gammeltoft, Katalin Reszegi, Csilla Katona, John Baker, Melinda Szőke, Éva Kovács, Tina Laansalu, Urszula Bijak, Saule Imanberdiyeva, Sabina-Nicoleta Rotenştein, Annamária Ulla Szabó T., Harald Bichlmeier, Rita Póczos, David Uher, Eila Williamson, Wolfgang P. Ahrens and Sheila M. Embleton, Ivan Roksandic, Adelina Emilia Mihali, Zane Cekula, Botolv Helleland, Soňa Wojnarová, Joan Tort-Donada, Mats Wahlberg, Sofia Evemalm, Vladislav Alpatov, Inge Særheim, Patxi Salaberri, Brittnee Leysen, Josefin Devine, Åke Engsheden, Carole Hough, Barbara Bába, Sanda Rapa, Thomas Stolz and Nataliya Levkovych, Sauvant Michel, Michel A. Rateau, Anita Rácz, Magdolna Csomortáni, Eszter Ditrói, Christian Wartena and Hans-Peter Ederberg, Joan Tort-Donada, Jaroslav David, Rebecca Gregory, Jayne Carroll, Gunter Schaarschmidt, Meri Josifovska, Roberto Fontanot, Maria Tsinkoburova, Adriana Lima and Patricia Carvalhinhos, Riemer Reinsma, Keith Briggs);
- (3) Anthroponomastics: theoretical issues, name giving in the past, first (given) names, surnames (papers by Oswald

- Chanda Penda, Atoma T. Batoma, Ifeoma Emmanuela Udoe, Grasilda Blažienė, Renāte Silīņa-Piņķe, Karl Hohen-sinner and Hubert Bergmann, Johnny Grandjean Gøgsig Jakobsen, Birgit Eggert, Lars-Jakob Harding Kællerød, Ilona Mickienė and Rita Baranauskienė, Alexander Pustyakov, Dóra Sitkei, Alice Crook, Gergana Petkova, Willy Van Langendonck, Tamás Farkas, János N. Fodor, Zsuzsanna Fábián, Maria Sarhema, This Michel Fetzter, Malka Muchnik, Annika Hussar and Tiina Rütmaa, Laimute Balode, Brgles Branimir, Jaakko Raunamaa, Ilga Jansone, Masahiko Mutsukawa, Tereza Slaměniková, Nadia Nicoleta Morărașu, Borbála Vitányi, István Boda and Judit Porkoláb and Ęva Máté, Maria Giovanna Arcamone, Gabriele Rodriguez and Thomas Liebecke, Daiva Sinkevičiūtė);
- (4) Name policy, name planning (papers by Přemysl Mácha, Jiří Martínek, Patricia Carvalhinhos and Maria Célia Lima-Hernandes, Csaba Bártfai, Pavel Štěpán, Katharina Leibring, Zoltán Megyeri-Pálffi, Mariann Slíz, Iryna Sofinska, Blasco Torres and Ana Isabel, Stephane Gendron);
- (5) Names in literature (papers by Richard Coates, Jeremy Parrott, Veronika Robustova, Martyna Katarzyna Gibka, Giacomo Giuntoli, Pavol Odaloš and Elena Vallová, Joan Tort-Donada, Ayokunmi Oladele Ojebode, Marie Antoinette Rieger);
- (6) Socio-onomastics (papers by Giacomo Luigi Morando, Veslava Sidaravičienė, Jaromír Krško and Alena Záborská, Emilia Aldrin and Linnea Gustafsson, Katalin E. Nagy, Anni Magga-Eira, Tracy Fey, Anna Tsepkova, Gugulethu Brightness Mazibuko, Dietlind Kremer, Zsuzsanna Ágnes Berényi, Nobuhle Purity Hlongwa, Zac Smith, Iker Salaberri, Fiorenza Fischer and Holger Wochele, Anna Maria Kochanowska);
- (7) Systemic relations between toponyms and anthroponyms (papers by Halszka Górny, Peeter Päll, Jaakko Raunamaa, Unni-Päivä Leino, Sofia Evemalm, Valéria Tóth, Pavel Štěpán, Eleanor Rye, Thomas Stolz and Ingo H. Warnke and Nataliya Levkovich);
- (8) Status and tasks of socio-onomastics (papers by Erzsébet Gyórfy, Magdolna Nemes, Väinö Syrjälä, Réka Imreh, Selene Jiménez Segura, Franco López and Guillermina Yolanda, Angelika Bergien, Lidia Becker, Johanna Virkkula, Linnea Gustafsson);
- (9) Contacts of name systems in Central Europe (papers by Paul Woodman, Andrea Bölcskei, Peter Jordan, Christian

- Zscheschang, Evar Saar, Milan Harvalik, Justyna B. Walkowiak, Oliviú Felecan);
- (10) International onomastic cooperation and projects (papers by Tamás Farkas, Inge Saerheim and Emilia Aldrin and Váinö Syrjälä, Milan Harvalik and Iveta Valentová, Sara Liana Uckelman, Agostinho Salgueiro and José Pedro Ferreira and Margarita Correia, Artur Gałkowski, Evgeny Shokhenmayer, Pierre Darlu and Pascal Chareille and Gerrit Bloothoof and Anna Degioanni and Jean Germain et al., Peder Gammeltoft);
  - (11) Applied onomastics and applied onomastics in practice (papers by Mariann Sliz, Katalin Reszegi, Magda T. Somogyi, Terhi Ainiala and Johanna Lehtonen, Judit Kecskés, Justyna B. Walkowiak, Lisa Spira, Iliá Baranov, Sergey Goryaev, Tatyana Petrovna Sokolova, Paula Sjöblom and Ulla Hakala, Alexandra Petrúlevich and Agnieszka Backman, Irina Martynenko, Svetlana Nasakina, Ana-Maria Gînsac and Mădălina Ungureanu, Dinu Moscal, Regina Kvašytė, Anikó Szilágyi-Kósa);
  - (12) Other names (papers by Simona Goicu-Cealmof, Marina Golomidova, Peter K W Tan, Mariko FASTER, Arthur Roland Valentin Tegelaar, Edgar Hoffmann, Oxana Issers, Terhi Ainiala, Luisa Caiazzo, Judit Kozma, Sami Bruno Suviranta, Hirofumi Nakaba and Toyomi Nakaba, Giovanni Pietro Vitali);
  - (13) Digital name culture (papers by Olena Fomenko, Lasse Hämäläinen, Daiana Felecan and Alina Bugheșiu, Bertie Neethling).

Apart from addressing the issues of proper names in different areas of human life, the participants discussed proper names in and from different languages, including, *inter alia*, Polish, Zambian, Czech, Lithuanian, Old Elamite, Russian, Kazakh, Swedish, Hungarian, Medieval Hungarian, Old Hungarian, Estonian and Finnish.



Professor Carole Hough presenting her paper entitled  
“Place-name evidence for Old English dialects”.  
Photo: Alice Crook



Professor Tamás Farkas presenting his paper entitled  
“A Hungarian surname typology project: The lessons  
of the distribution of the most frequent surnames”.  
Photo: Alice Crook

The complete programme of the 26<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Onomastic Sciences shows that the sections most popular with the participants were (2) Toponymy and (3) Anthroponymy. Among the toponomastic papers which largely dominated the Congress, one could list for instance: “The Sigmatics of Place Naming” presented by Aleh Kopach (Belarusian State University), “Toponyms as Sources of Historical Phonology” by Csilla Katona (University of Debrecen–Hungarian Academy of Sciences), “Peculiarities of naming the Kazakh toponyms” by Saule Imanberdiyeva (Almaty Management University), “Colour terms ‘gold’ and ‘silver’ in Finnish and Czech toponyms” by Soňa Wojnarová (Charles University in Prague), “Place-name evidence for Old English dialects” by Carole Hough (University of Glasgow) and “Introduced Pākehā place-names in New Zealand’s Otago region” by Brittnee Leysen (University of Glasgow). Similarly diversified were the papers on personal proper names (anthroponyms), which can be illustrated with a few examples: “The gender use of Hebrew personal names” by Malka Muchnik (Bar-Ilan University), “Female anthroponyms in medieval Finland” by Jaakko Raunamaa (University of Helsinki), “The usage of middle names in early modern Scotland” by Alice Crook (University of Glasgow), “Bulgarian masculine personal names, derived from a Roman cognomen” by Gergana Petkova (Medical University of Plovdiv) and “A distinctive local usage of middle names in Denmark” by Lars-Jakob Harding Kællerød (University of Copenhagen).

On the other hand (5) Names in literature and (13) Digital name culture had the fewest scholarly contributions. This numeric distribution reflects the division of onomasticians into branches of the study of names and the problem of names of fictional entities being considered unworthy of attention by many onomasticians.

### **3. The social programme**

For the benefit of the participants, the organizers offered not only academic discussions held from early mornings until early evenings, but also social and cultural attractions afterward the discussions. The second day of the Congress ended with

a “Fröccs” Party at the Water Tower Garden. The scholars could try a famous Hungarian drink called Fröcc which is made from white wine and soda water. They could also eat some Hungarian “street food”, and all this at the beautiful location of the Water Tower with its garden charmingly lit during the night.

The third day of the Congress was the excursion day. The participants could choose between four destinations. They could go sightseeing in Eger (the town has several world-famous museums and monuments, among them the classical basilica and the castle of Eger) or they could go to Hortobágy to see the largest flat grassland of Central Europe. They could also choose a trip to the historic wine-producing area of Tokaj-Hegyalja or a visit to the gates of the Danube Bend and the towns of Szentendre and Visegrád.

Thursday, the fourth day of the Congress, ended with a classical music concert. In the Liszt Hall at the Faculty of Music, Rudolf Fátyol (Romania) and Mihály Duffek (Hungary) played the violin and the piano and took the audience on a trip to the world of classical music for over an hour. The concert program included: Louis-Nicholas Clerambault’s *Adagio et Allegro*, W.A. Mozart’s *C major Sonata for violin and piano*, Niccolò Paganini’s *Romance*, Jules Massenet’s *Thais Meditation*, Béla Bartók and Endre Gertler’s *Sonatina*, Béla Bartók and Zoltán Kodály’s *Kálló Double Dance* and Johannes Brahms’s *Scherzo*. The musicians received a standing ovation.

The 26th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences ended with a banquet held in the main building of the university. With so many onomasticians from all around the world, from the start of the conference until its conclusion, further discussions were taken from the lectures to restaurants afterwards and continued long into the night.





The Liszt Hall at the Faculty of Music  
Photo: Alice Crook

#### 4. Final remarks

The 26th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences “Locality and Globality in the World of Names” proved to be an inspiring conference. The participants had a chance to share the findings of their research carried out in the last three years, and they also presented their theses on new projects. Some new theoretical approaches to unsolved issues were also proposed. A valuable addition to all papers and lectures were the (international) onomastic databases that are the first step to fill the gap of gathered and catalogued onomastic data. Some tangible results of this Congress were also a new Board of Directors as well as Calls for Papers for two international projects on literary onomastics.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> The CfPs are available at <<http://www.gibka.pl/pratchett.html>> and <<http://www.gibka.pl/handbook.html>> accessed on 10.09.2017.

## References

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