

## **ABSTRACT**

### **The Social Spaces of Female Intellectual Careers in the Mid-Nineteenth Century Pest-Buda**

I examine three Hungarian female intellectual careers of the 19th century in the context of the urban and also the rural lifestyle. I focus on the role of Pest-Buda in the professions of female writers, editors and actresses. Therefore, the subjects of the three case studies are the representatives of these professions: Júlia Szendrey (1828 – 1868) as poet, writer and translator, Emília Kánya (1828 – 1905) as the first female editor of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and Kornélia Prielle (1826 – 1906) as successful actress who experienced significant alterations in the assessment of her profession. My main research questions are the following: What was the role of the countryside and Pest-Buda in the female intellectual careers in the 19th century? How did the intellectual women use the urban space in Pest-Buda? What was the role of the first female intellectual professions (writer, editor, and actress) in the urban society? The main sources of the research are the so-called ego-documents (autobiographies, memoirs, diaries, correspondences) as well as press products which were mediums of the contemporary debates about the female roles and professions. My primary goal is to reconsider the questions about the female use of space in the context of their professions. The case studies highlighted that not the female and male spaces were necessarily separated, but the meanings of the same spaces were different for women and men. Whereas Pest-Buda was the outstanding node for the female writers and editors, several strategies of the actresses were connected to the smaller towns of the countryside. The assessment of the female intellectual professions was mainly dependent on their relation to the traditional female roles, on their social utility as well as on the personal social networks.

#### **Keywords:**

Intellectual career, woman, female writer, female editor, actress, urban space, city, countryside, perception (of the space), Budapest