

**MELINDA KOVÁCS**  
Assistant Professor of Political Science  
Sam Houston State University  
PO Box 2149  
Huntsville, TX 77341-2149  
Office: (936) 294-4761  
Email: [mxk004@shsu.edu](mailto:mxk004@shsu.edu)

## EMPLOYMENT

<b>Sam Houston State University</b> Assistant Professor of Political Science (tenure-track position)	Fall 2006 to the present
<b>Concordia College</b> Assistant Professor of Political Science (tenure-track position)	Fall 2003 – Spring 2006

## EDUCATION

<b>Ph.D., Political Science</b> , Rutgers University Dissertation: <i>The Continuum of Politics: Theory, Discourse, Analysis</i> Advisor: Carey McWilliams	2003
<b>M.A., Political Science</b> , Rutgers University	1999
<b>M.A., Political Science</b> , Central European University, Hungary Thesis: Paperweight – Press Discourses in Hungary and the US	1997
<b>M.A., American Studies</b> , ELTE, Budapest, Hungary Thesis: <i>The Notion of Power in Tocqueville's Democracy in America</i>	1994
<b>M.A., French Language and Literature</b> , ELTE, Budapest, Hungary Thesis: <i>Montfaucon de Villars, un libertin du XVIIIe siècle sur Pascal</i>	1994

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

<b>Travel Grant</b> , Professional and Academic Center for Excellence, SHSU	Spring 2010
<b>Open Society Institute Doctoral Fellowship</b>	1997-2001
<b>Travel Grant</b> , Political Science Department and the Graduate School of Rutgers University	Spring 2000

<b>Soros Foundation Award</b> , Central European University	1996-97
<b>Fulbright Fellowship</b> , Political Science Department at Rutgers University	1995-96

### **TEACHING COMPETENCIES**

- Canonical political theory
- Introduction to Government
- Introduction to Political Science
- Feminist re-readings of political theory
- American political thought
- Introduction to women's studies
- Comparative politics
- Eastern Europe
- The European Union
- Global Studies
- Politics, literature and the arts

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### ***Published Peer-Reviewed Work:***

“We Lied by Day, We Lied by Night’ – The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and the Political Discourse of Lying” Politics in Central Europe – The Journal of the Central European Political Science Association Vol. 6. No. 2., December 2010, pp.24-39.

“Language and the Reality of Iraq” – with Mary Ann Davis, SHSU Sociology – Issues in Political Discourse Analysis Vol. 3. No. 1., 2010, pp. 95-112

“Analyzing U.S. State Legislative Resolutions on Immigrants and Immigration: the Role of Immigration Federalism” – with Alexandra Filindra – International Migration Article first published online: 31 JAN 2011; DOI: 10.1111/j.1468-2435.2010.00658.x

“The Violence of Others: ‘Eastern’ and ‘Western’ Press Discourses” – Politics in Central Europe - The Journal of the Central European Political Science Association 5 (December 2009) 2: 95-110.

“The Borders of Orientalism: ‘Europeanization’ in Hungary and Ukraine” – with Olena Leipnik – Debate: Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe, vol. 16, no. 2. August 2008, pp. 151-169.

“The EU-cators: Discourses of Education and Ontologies of the EU in Hungarian Handbooks” – Debate: Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe, vol. 16, no. 1, April 2008, pp. 87-99.

“The Selfless Self: Constructions of the EU in its Yearly Reports, 1998-2002.” in The European’s Burden: Global Imperialism in EU Expansion ed. Salvatore Engel-Di Mauro, Peter Lang Publishers, 2006, pp. 209-24.

“Gazing ‘There and Back Again’: Bilateral Relations as Constructions of Hungarian Identity in the Press”. *Dialectical Anthropology*, 27: 297-312, 2003.

“A rendkívüli megismerése: A politikus diszkurzív konstrukciója a magyar sajtóban”. (“How the Extraordinary Became Knowable: The Discursive Construction of the Politician in the Hungarian Press”). *Médiakutató*, Spring 2001, 30-42.

***Edited Work:***

Böröcz, József, and Melinda Kovács, eds. *Empire’s New Clothes: Unveiling EU Enlargement*. 2001. ISBN: 1-84287-009-2. E-book originally published at [www.ce-review.org](http://www.ce-review.org), and currently available at <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~eu/Empire.pdf>

*Hungarian Version of Edited Work:*

Böröcz, József, and Melinda Kovács, eds. *EU-birodalom. Replika* 45-46, November 2001.

***Invited Articles and Book Chapters:***

Political Theory Track Summary, APSA Teaching and Learning Conference 2010 – with Rob Glover and Mike Rogers. *PS*, July 2010: 578-579.

“Shedding Light on the Quantitative Other – The EU’s Discourse in the Commission Opinions of 1997” with Peter Kabachnik in *Empire’s New Clothes: Unveiling EU Enlargement*.

“Putting Down and Putting Off: The EU’s Discursive Strategies in the 1998 and 1999 Follow-Up Reports” in *Empire’s New Clothes: Unveiling EU Enlargement*.

“A kvantitatív másság felfedezése – Az EU diskurzusa az 1997-es országvéleményekben” (Hungarian translation of “Shedding Light on the Quantitative Other”) *EU-birodalom*, 61-88.

“Elmarasztalni és elhalasztani: Az EU diszkurzív stratégiái az 1998-as és 1999-es országvéleményekben” (Hungarian translation of “Putting Down and Putting Off”). *EU-birodalom*, 89-110.

“Percepciók, fajok, valóságok: Benito Cereno tanulságai” (“Perceptions, Races, Realities: The Lessons of Benito Cereno”) in: Mónika Román, ed. *Publicationes Universitatis Miskolciensis. Sectio Philosophica. Tomus VII.-Fasciculus 1. Fasciculus specialis "Irodalom és politika"*. Miskolc: Typographia Universitatis, 2001, pp. 59-71.

“Roles, Changes, Genders – Women as an Analytical Category of Social Science in Hungary” – book review. *East Central Europe*, Vol. 28., part 2., pp.141-147.

“Ambiguities of Power: The Metaphorical System in Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America*.” in: C.L.E.A.R. (Cognitive Linguistics: Explorations, Applications, Research), 1995:7.

***Under Review and Current Projects:***

Plato and the Dove Commercial: Practical Applications of Political Philosophy and Feminism in the Classroom – currently being reworked for the Journal of Political Science Education

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Homegrown Discourses: The Discourses of Hungarian Party Websites” Paper presented at the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Southwestern Social Science Association, Las Vegas, Nevada, March 16-19, 2011.

“Researching Pedagogy”. Presentation at the McGraw-Hill American Government Symposium, Clearwater, FL, September 30. – October 3, 2010.

“Adaptive Diagnostics and Student Performance” – with Daniel Smith, John Clark and Kevin Davis. Presentation at the McGraw-Hill American Government Symposium, Clearwater, FL, September 30. – October 3, 2010.

“Plato and the Dove Commercial: Practical Applications of Political Philosophy and Feminism in the Classroom”. Paper presented at the Teaching and Learning Conference of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, February 5-7, 2010.

“‘We Lied by Day, We Lied by Night’ – The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and the Political Discourse of Lying”. Paper presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Alliance of Universities for Democracy, Bursa, Turkey, November 7-11, 2009.

“Moving out of Silence: The transformation of Women’s Voices in the Movement Towards Democracy” – with Tamara Waggener. Paper presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Alliance of Universities for Democracy, Bursa, Turkey, November 7-11, 2009.

“The Violence of Others: ‘Eastern’ and ‘Western’ Press Discourses”. Paper presented at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Alliance of Universities for Democracy, Baku, Azerbaijan, November 9-12, 2008.

“All Politics is Local: State-level Differences in Legislative Immigration Discourses” – with Alexandra Filindra - Paper presented by A. Filindra at the Eighth Annual State Politics and Policy Conference, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, May 31 2008.

“Death Discourses: Language and the Reality of Iraq” – with Mary Ann Davis – Paper presented at the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association, Las Vegas, Nevada, March 12-15, 2008.

“The EU-cators: Discourses of Education and Ontologies of the EU in Hungarian Handbooks” Paper presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Alliance Universities for Democracy, Katowice, Poland, November 5-8, 2006.

“Under Ground, Out of Control – East-West Cultural Exchange Through Film” Paper presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Alliance Universities for Democracy, Katowice, Poland, November 5-8, 2006.

“So That Accession Will Be No Question: Ontologies In Promotional EU Accession Materials In Hungary” Paper presented at the Midwestern Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April 8, 2005.

“Femininity, Masculinity, And Maybe Post-Communism: Genders And Their Constructions In The Hungarian Press” presentation in the Concordia College Faculty Colloquium Series, September 14, 2004.

“Millennial Masculinity: Constructions In The Hungarian Press” paper presented at the Midwestern Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April 16, 2004.

“Exclusions, Evolutions, Emancipations: Changing Constructions Of Women In Hungarian Public Discourse” paper presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Women’s Studies Conference at Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, October 17, 2003.

“The Selfless Self: Constructions Of The EU In Its Yearly Reports, 1998-2002.” paper presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, April 2003.

“The Bridge: Discursive Political Theory For Empirical Research” paper presented at the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the New York State Political Science Association, April 2002.

“Play Nice: Towards A Wittgensteinian Politics” paper presented at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Northeastern Political Science Association, November 2001.

“Putting Down And Putting Off: The EU’s Discursive Strategies In The 1998 And 1999 Follow-Up Reports” Invited to present at ‘Challenges of the European Union’s Eastern Enlargement’ – Conference organized by the Canadian Center for German and European Studies on September 14, 2001.

“The Evolution Of The Excluded Actor: The Discursive Construction Of Women In Post-Communist Hungary” paper presented at the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the New York State Political Science Association, May 2001.

“Communicating Past Each Other? The EU And Hungary’s Discursive Construction Of One Another” paper presented at “Nation-Making, Past and Present: Community, Economy, Security” The Sixth Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, April 2001.

“Perceptions, Races, Realities: The Lessons Of Benito Cereno” paper presented at the Literature and Politics conference of the University of Miskolc, October 1999.

“Wicked Words: Discourses Of Corruption In The US And Hungary” paper presented at “The Way Ahead: Choices in Transformation” - CEP International Student Conference, Budapest, 1997.

“Somewhere On The Road From Darkness To Light: Tocqueville’s Notion Of History In Democracy In America”, paper presented at the American Studies Conference at ELTE, Budapest, 1992.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

**Member**, American Political Science Association; Section memberships: Foundations of Political Theory, Women and Politics, Comparative Politics

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE**

**Reviewer**, Journal of Finnish Studies, Spring 2011.

**Reviewer**, European Sociological Review, Spring 2011.

**Workshop Leader**, Diversity Leadership Conference, SHSU, February 2011. Presentation: Justice as an Antidote to Discrimination.

**Participant**, McGraw-Hill American Government Symposium, Fall 2010.

**Faculty Advisor**, Sam Socialists/ Sam Houston Democratic Socialists, 2009-2011.

**Co-Chair**, SHSU Bearkats Read to Succeed Sub-committee on Curriculum Infusion

**Co-Founder**, SHSU Women’s History Month Film Series

**Member**, SHSU CHSS Constitution Day Committee

**Chair**, SHSU CHSS Constitution Day Committee, 2009-2010, 2010-2011.

**Member**, SHSU CHSS Special TDC Scholarship Committee

**Member**, SHSU Political Science John W. Holcombe Memorial Committee

**Member**, SHSU Political Science Textbook Committee for POL 261

**Member**, SHSU Political Science Comprehensive Exam Committee on Theory and Methods

**Panel Chair**, “Civil Rights Stories from the Huntsville Latino Community”, Sam Houston Symposium, Huntsville, TX; Feb 28, 2009.

**Participant**, SHSU Writing in the Disciplines Workshop, Summer 2007.

**Participant**, SHSU Research Workshop, Fall 2006

**Participant**, SHSU Provost’s Breakfast Series for New Faculty, Fall 2006.

**Panel Chair**, “Social Developments in Post-Communist Space and the New EU Environment”, AUDEM, Katowice, Poland, November 5-8, 2006.

**Organizer**, Concordia College Faculty Colloquium Series, 2004-2005, 2005-2006.

**Panelist**, Concordia College International Student Organization Week, November 2005.

**Faculty Lecturer**, Concordia College Psychology Honors Project by Dane Furfaro on Attitudes Towards Sexual Orientation, November 2005.

**Speaker**, NEW Leadership Institute, MSUM, May 2005. Talk: “The USA Patriot Act: Law, Interpretations, Stories.”

**Participant**, Concordia College Women’s History Week Faculty Panel, March 2005.

**Participant**, Concordia College Faculty Panel on the Death Penalty, March 2004.

**Speaker**, Concordia Students for Social Justice meeting, Concordia College, February 2004. Talk: “Globality and Advocacy: Challenges for Activists”

**Participant**, Teaching Colloquium, Rutgers University, Fall 2002.

**Panel organizer** for “Nationhood and the European Union” at the Sixth Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, April 2001.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Member**, Huntsville Pets Helping People

**Education Program Coordinator**, Huntsville Pets Helping People

**Registered** Delta Society Pet Partner, no. 58442

**Licensed Evaluator**, Delta Society, license 58442-TE

**Licensed Evaluator**, Intermountain Therapy Animals

**Registered** Reading Education Assistance Dogs Team, no. 1243

**Speaker**, Walker County Lions Club, July 2010. Talk: “Community Service with Animals.”

**Speaker**, AAUW Huntsville Chapter, February 2008. Talk: “The Work of Therapy Animals”.

**Speaker**, Training of Docent Corps volunteers at the Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University, April 2003. Talk: “Art and Politics: Questions about a Relationship”

## **LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES**

Tri-lingual in English, French and Hungarian