


# Scientific researches related to cross-border issues in Europe (2)



10 March 2022

# People approach



- borders are given subjective features
- borders are regarded as the necessary accompanying factors of social and private life
- one of the key elements of the studies: the analysis of the development and impacts of the nations and national identities in contrast with the authoritative role of the states
- "... borders should be seen as human creations, as social constructs, conditioned by our perception and attitudes towards space." (Leimgruber)
- identity factor: *social spatialisation versus spatial socialisation* (Anssi Paasi)
  - narrative geography (stories of the inhabitants, maps, symbols and photographs) to support his theory
- rejects the „natural“ borders theory of political geography and (especially the French) believe that borders do not exist among natural circumstances but only those borders exist in nature which are regarded as borders by the individuals

# Political geography and cultural geography



- relationship between knowledge and power
- three aspects in their approach to borders:
  - (1) demarcating role border lines
  - (2) functions of borders
  - (3) regions close to the borders (border regions) and their mutual relationship
- most important related disciplines: history, political sciences and ethnography

# Political geography and cultural geography



- prior to the Second World War (WW2)
  - foundation of researches
  - clarification of terminology related to borders
  - determination of the political geographical border interpretations
- following WW2
  - the exclusive and expansionist terminology developed and used by political geographers and geopoliticians lost rather a lot from its significance
  - the differentiation between the 'natural' and 'artificial' borders were usually rejected by the authors;
  - nevertheless, the study of borders still kept its significance in political geography despite the attacks (especially the German geopoliticians)
- Cold War period
  - special attention is paid to mainland borders separating sovereign nation states
  - categorisation of the borders and the periods in which they evolved, and made attempts to map border regions and cross-border activities
- 1990s -
  - started to concentrate on the cultural connotations associated with border regions
  - growing interest in the social-cultural processes resulting from the inclusion and exclusion
  - „WE“ and „OTHERS“

# Anderson's four dimensions of the frontier



- (1) the means of national politics - since the political powers try to change the location and function of the frontiers
- (2) the policies of the governments are limited by the degree of that **de facto control** which they have over the national borders
- (3) the frontiers mark the **borders of identity**
- (4) debated term whose meaning changes in the function of time and **space**



One of the most important questions which the political geographers want to answer when studying borders is:


"What was first? The hen or the egg? The border or the identity consciousness?"

# Traditional political geography and the role of borders, nations and nation states



- borders = naturalised lines or barriers of sovereignty (boundaries)
  - this undermines the dynamic relationship system between the social and spatial trends
  - Anssi Paasi: three main trends
    - (1) "the borders and the nation states will lose their former role, or will even disappear from the globalising world and from the current economic geographical order which are defined by mobility, speed and flow"
    - (2) states and borders are still dominant in the international life but in a new and less rigid way
    - (3) both the nations and the states will preserve their significance forever, and the problems are more likely to arise in relation to the existence of the nation states

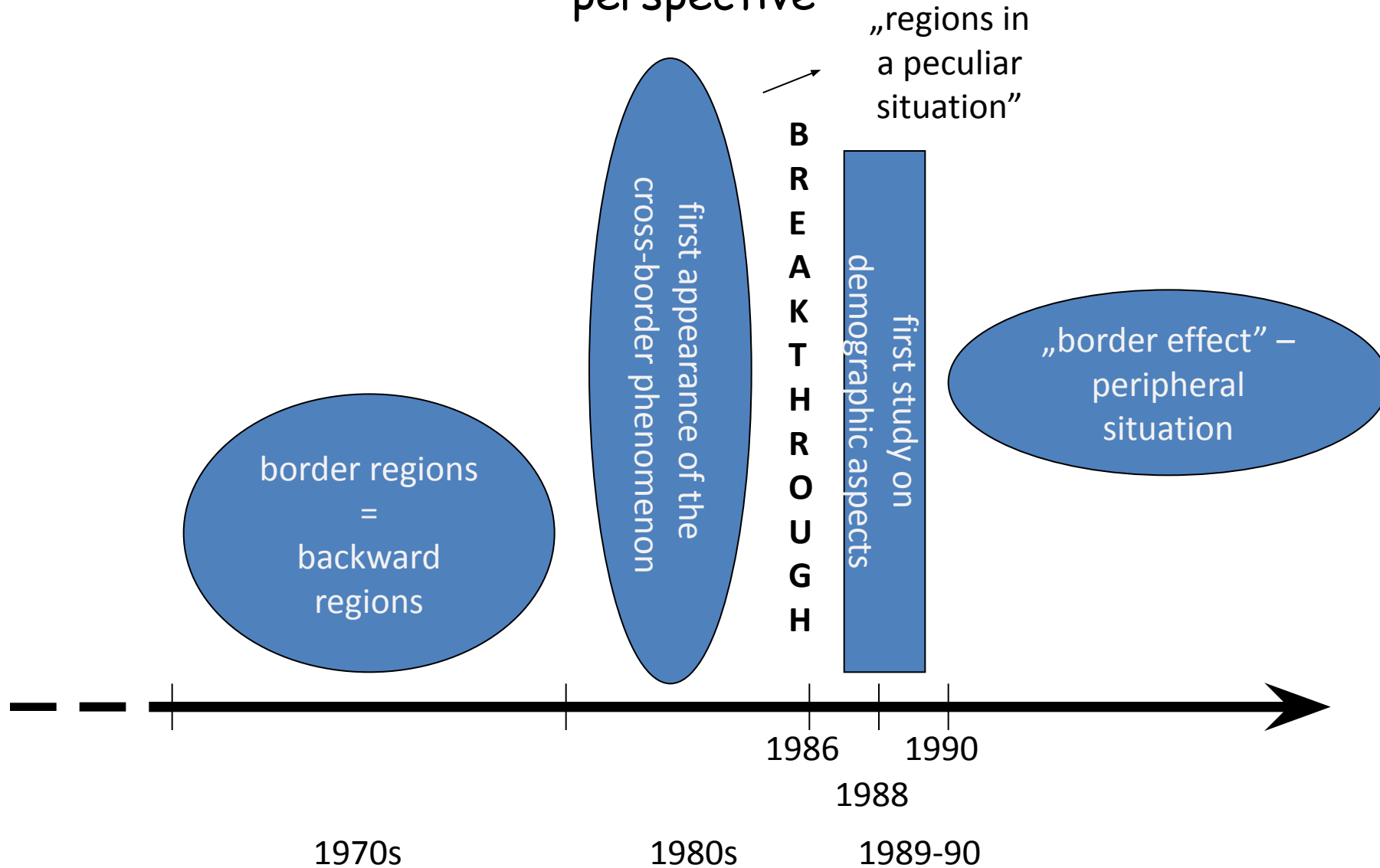
# Researches on borders and border regions in the Hungarian studies from a geographical aspect



- before 1990s: "borders were treated as fetishes and were made impermeable"
  - no research was allowed that included both sides of the border
- 1970s: to "explore the problems of the backward regions and to find solution to their treatment"
  - border regions were treated as any other backward regions within the borders of the country
- 1980s: population geographical researches called attention to cross-border co-operations (Great Plain)
- 1986: "regions in a peculiar situation"
- border effect (Kovács), demographic aspects (Kocsis), cross-border relations (Rechnitzer), backwardness (Süli-Zakar)



# Focus of the studies on borders and border regions in the Hungarian studies from a geographical aspect - a historical perspective



# After the change of regime



- attention more and more intensively turned towards the opening of borders of Europe
- more intensive activity of the Regional Research Institutes of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in studying border regions
- the establishment of research centres and schools concentrating on cross-border co-operations at the Hungarian universities
- conferences, seminars and workshops organised by these institutions

Studies on borders and border regions in the Hungarian studies from a geographical aspect - a border perspective



Hungarian-Slovakian  
"ethnic preferences"

Hungarian-Austrian  
"gate to the European Union"

Hungarian-Ukrainian  
Hungarian-Romanian  
"social-economic peripheries"



Hungarian-Slovenian, Hungarian-Croatian, Hungarian-Serbian  
"role of borders in the socio-economic processes"

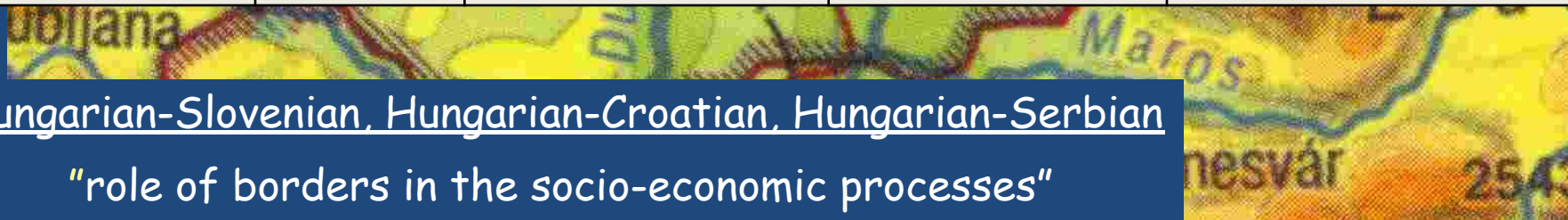


# Studies on borders and border regions in the Hungarian studies from a geographical aspect - a border perspective



Hungarian-Slovakian  
"ethnic preferences"

|                           |      |  |  |  |
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| <u>Hungarian-Austrian</u> | 1993 | gate to the European Union, euroregion | <i>Elválaszt és összeköt - a határ</i> | Seger, M. - Beluszky, P.<br>Csapó, T.<br>Szörényi-Kukorelli, I.<br>Rechnitzer, J.<br>Hardi, T.<br>Nárai, M.<br>Izsák, É. |
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|                            |      |                                  |                                    |   |
|----------------------------|------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <u>Hungarian-Serbian</u>   | 1996 | socio-economic processes         | <i>Határon innen - határon túl</i> | Pál, Á.<br>Nagy, I.                     |
| <u>Hungarian-Slovenian</u> |      |                                  |                                    | Mohos, M.<br>Gyuricza, L.               |
| <u>Hungarian-Croatian</u>  |      | interregional relations, tourism |                                    | Hajdú, Z.<br>Golobics, P.<br>Aubert, A. |

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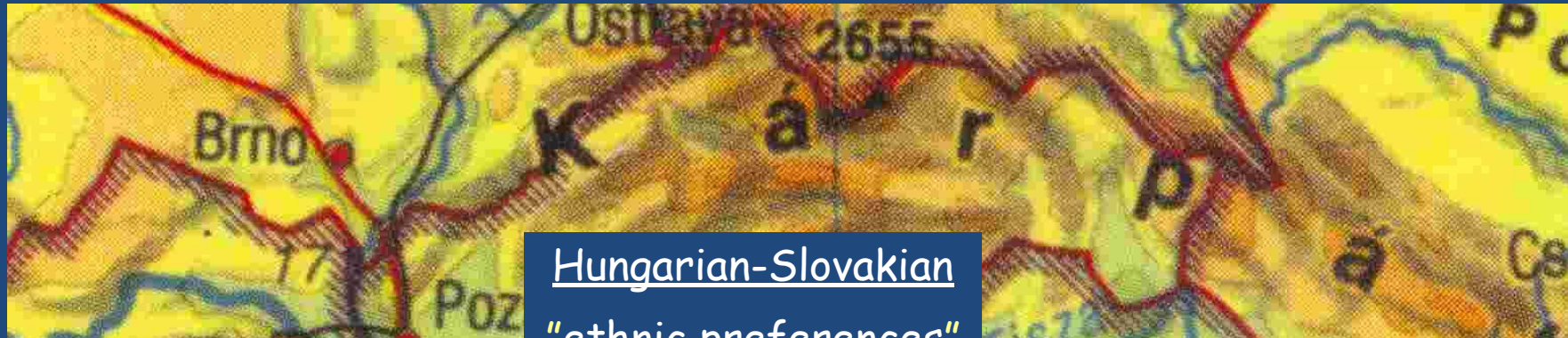
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| <u>Hungarian-Romanian</u>  | 1991 | „periphery of peripheries" | <i>Borders and border regions</i> | Süli-Zakar, I.<br>Czimre, K.<br>Bujdosó, Z.<br>Baranyi, B.<br>Dancs, L.<br>Balcsók, I. |
| <u>Hungarian-Ukrainian</u> |      |                            |                                   |  |



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