

## THE TOPOS OF AN “IMMURED WOMAN” IN THE CULTURES OF SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE AND HUNGARY

Within the multilingual folklore of countries such as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia, the migrating topos of an “immured woman” is known; it commemorates the archaic and extinct tradition of foundation sacrifice that was made of a human. This offering was made to win favour with hostile powers so that the building being erected could last. In the period of shaping modern nations, this topos spread from oral tradition to writing and art of the researched area and is still being revived today in various spheres of artistic, scientific, political and even economic life, carrying a complex group of symbols with an abundance of meanings.

The project aims at multifaceted (anthropological, cultural, literary, mythographic) elaboration of the subject matter of the existence of this topos in the modern and post-modern cultures mentioned above. The field of our interest will be various texts of oral, written, and visual culture as well as texts posted on the Internet. We are going to examine how this topos, which is common in the described territory, had to be transformed in order to become a harmonious element of the individual national cultures. We will also observe its transformations in texts which are alternative to the national canons. We expect that the analysed semantic shifts will show us hints on how to deeper understand the researched cultures and the overt and covert axiological and aesthetic choices related to them. Taking into account the methodological achievements of the research on cultural transfer will allow a research approach that is free from scientific prejudices and from the pressure of each local research perspective. A thematic monograph will present the research results that will be expanded with the collected visual material. Thus, a modern compendium of the topos of an “immured woman”, which is recognisable in the examined cultures as an important element of transnational cultural intimacy, will be introduced into the scientific circulation.