

**TÁRSADALMI NEM KUTATÓCSOPORT**  
**Angol-Amerikai Intézet**  
**Public Lecture Series 2008/09**

**Szeretettel meghívja a Kar Oktatóit és Hallgatóit**  
**Vendégelőadók előadás sorozatának következő**  
**rendezvényére.**



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**2008. November 26.**  
**BTK Kari Konferencia Terem**  
**Ady tér**

**Lecture 14:00pm**

*with introduction by Erzsébet Barát, Director of Gender Studies Programme*

Az előadás angol, az azt követő vita magyar nyelven folyik.

**Life Writing by Central European Women Holocaust Survivors**

While the majority of the 400 authors in “[Central European] Women's Holocaust Life Writing” are overwhelmingly Jewish and originally from Central and East Europe proper – in particular some two dozen Hungarian women discussed in some detail -- there are works by others whose experiences also offer important testimony not only on the camps but to other aspects of the Holocaust. This study suggests that women have written as much, and especially during the last decades, far more than have men about the Holocaust. I will discuss what might be some of the reasons for this tremendous output, the answer to which is important for the broader study of the history of women's voices [and silences]. I postulate that life writing, a term utilized mostly in gender studies but useful for many other types of texts, is a useful designation for the texts at hand because it elides generic boundaries between history, fiction, documentary, and literature. It also raises questions about issues much debated both in Holocaust scholarship and gender studies more broadly, including authorship versus narrator, witness, history, memory, interpretation, culture, identity, canon versus social perspectives of literature, etc. Finally, life writing also elides the often value-laden and fickle judgment on the literary merit of individual works, of particular importance in these memoirs, many of which were written by so-called ordinary people