

Craving for Meaning: Addictions in an Existentialist Framework
26th May 2025 Pécs, 6 Ifjúság Street, Building “B”
Organizer: Department of Community and Social Studies

Welcome to our international conference, **Craving for Meaning: Addictions in an Existentialist Framework (26th May 2025)** at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Pécs. The interdisciplinary event invites researchers and practitioners to explore the interconnections between humans' search for meaning, free choice, and the problem of addictions.

Plenary speakers

Christopher Wurm is a Senior Consultant in Primary Care, Specialist in Addiction Medicine, Central Adelaide Local Health Network Integrated Care, and a Visiting Fellow, Discipline of Psychiatry, University of Adelaide. Australia

Zsuzsa Kaló is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Psychology, Faculty of Education and Psychology, Eötvös Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary. Her area of research interest is addictions, with special regard to women's problems with substance use.

Domonkos Sík is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Eötvös Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary. He has recently defended his DSc thesis entitled Empty Suffering.

Gabor Kelemen is Professor Emeritus at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Department of Community and Social Studies, University of Pécs, and a consultant and supervisor at CGL Bromley, Drug and Alcohol Service, London, United Kingdom.

Parallel sessions

Presenting in the poster session and in the parallel sessions is free of charge, but registration is required. Please submit an unstructured abstract of 200 words for your presentation. One presentation is allowed per registration. Submissions should be related to the main theme of the conference. All submissions are subject to independent double-blind peer review.

Attendance

Attendance is free of charge, but registration is required.

Preliminary programme

10.00-10.45: Addictions from an Existentialist Perspective. A professional discussion with Christopher Wurm (consecutive translation is provided)

10.45-11.00: Coffee break

11.00 – 13.00: Plenary session

11.00-11.30: Christopher Wurm: “Are Drinkers and Drug Users Driven by a Disease or Can They Still Make Decisions?”

11.30- 12.00 Zsuzsa Kaló: Do we need to understand trauma for the effective treatment of addictions?

12.00-12.30: Domonkos Sík: Empty Suffering

12.30-13.00: Gabor Kelemen: Suffering and pain literacy in the face of shame

13.00-14.00: Break

14.00-15.00: Poster session (digital). Book presentations

15.00-17.00: Parallel sessions (the number of sessions depend on the number of accepted contributions)

1. Addictions from an existentialist perspective

2. Addictions from an existentialist perspective (online)

Registration

For registration (presenters and attendees) please visit:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWexDMneYq_Ai22oEBkcnI9IsFUuUa6FZYbZrLY0oboWQKQ/viewform

Deadline for registration: 9th May (participants) and 16th May (attendees)

Publication

All the abstracts that are accepted will be published in a booklet (online, with a doi number) by 1st July 2025. Presenters' detailed elaborations on the theme will be published as journal articles in gold open access peer reviewed journals, dedicated to open science initiations (Publication is free of charge):

Manuscripts by authors who are not affiliated with the University of Pécs can be submitted to Szociális Szemle/Social Review (in English or in Hungarian) at

<https://journals.lib.pte.hu/index.php/szocialisszemle/about/submissions>.

Authors affiliated with the University of Pécs can submit to Experience – Journal of Qualitative Research in Mental Health (in English) <https://akjournals.com/fileasset/author-guidelines/exper-ifa.pdf>

Organizers

Marta B. Erdos (Conference programme development, contact for the plenary speakers, submissions to Szociális Szemle/Social Review)

Georgina Mucsi (Collaborating organizations, faculty-level organization)

József Madácsy (Collaborating organizations, book of abstracts)

Gábor Vidák (Registration, marketing)