

## Research Report

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April 2023 Open Society Archives

As a recipient of the Visegrad Scholarship, I conducted research at the Open Society Archives for the interactive documentary project Analog Detectives. The project aimed to investigate the emergence of socialist law enforcement ideology in Hungary, with a particular focus on police training and the use of audiovisual training methods.

The research project focused on three main areas: the institutionalization of police officer training, the rapid training of police officers, and the use of media representations of crimes to contribute to law enforcement efforts.

My research is concentrated on the analysis of educational and training films for police officers, produced by professional film crews between 1958 and 1988, as well as educational videos created by the Ministry of Interiors. This research sheds light on how educational videos were produced and utilized in the socialist bloc to standardize investigative skills and use analog investigation tools to pursue criminals and crimes. The collection also features Soviet and Czechoslovak training films as a testament to the Film Studio's strong international collaboration with other communist film studios.

The Film Studio, formerly known as Police Film until 1960, served as the filmmaking division of the Ministry of the Interior. The primary source for accessing educational films on police work in Hungary was the collection of records held in the Film Studio of the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior, with the reference number HU OSA 394. These records contain a comprehensive collection of films produced by the Film Studio, which were primarily intended for professional and political training of Ministry of the Interior personnel. These films covered a range of topics, including state security and administration, border protection, public order, fire department, and direct political propaganda. The collection includes approximately 320 films produced between 1955 and 1989, classified, the most sensitive films designated as "Top Secret

During the socialist era in Hungary, the police utilized audiovisual materials, including training videos and films based on actual events, to educate police officers on investigative methods.

These materials, including *The Leaflets* produced in 1969, were critical in providing practical and visual demonstrations, standardizing investigative skills, and shaping public perception of police work.

An illustrative instance is evident in *Join our forces*, a film that showcases the quotidian routine, incentives, personal life, earning prospects, and avenues for further education of police officers, thereby exemplifying the strategic use of audiovisual resources to advocate for the police force and entice prospective candidates to enlist.

The research also encompasses an examination of media portrayals of criminal activity, with particular emphasis on the television program *Kékfény*. It was a crucial factor in the success of law enforcement during the socialist era in Hungary. This program enabled public engagement with judicial policy by featuring criminals and their crimes on screen and requesting audience participation.

My research project pertains to the development of an interactive documentary project named *Analog Detectives*, which comprises a web series and an interactive digital platform. The digital platform aims to provide the audience with an immersive experience of investigation using advanced analytical and investigative methods from the socialist era. *Analog Detectives* provide a unique perspective into the thought processes behind policing through the exploration of archival and previously classified documents.

In conclusion, the analysis of the records of the Film Studio of the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior: Propaganda and Educational Films has yielded significant insights into the use of audiovisual materials for educational purposes by the police in Hungary during the socialist era. This research has demonstrated that audiovisual materials, such as training videos and films based on actual events, played a pivotal role in standardizing investigative skills, filling the skills gap through rapid police officer training, and shaping the public perception of police work. Furthermore, this research highlights the strategic use of audiovisual resources to promote and advocate for the police force, and to engage the public in judicial policy, as evidenced by the television program *Kékfény*.

In summary, the collection of films at OSA Archivum includes valuable sources on state security in Hungary. These films provide insights into state security forces' work. Additionally, the collection includes detailed depictions from surveillance techniques to secret house searches and the management of secret agents. These films provide a glimpse into the historical context of policing and propaganda in Hungary during the socialist era.