

“The Hungarian Passport”

(Um passaporte Húngaro)



A film by
Cogut Center for the Humanities
Distinguished Visiting Fellow

Sandra Kogut

Free screening

Wednesday, April 4
7:30 – 9:00pm

Joukowsky Forum
Watson Institute
111 Thayer Street
Brown University

Discussion with the filmmaker
following the screening.

Part of the Hannah Arendt Seminars

Speaking over the telephone with the Hungarian consulate, the Brazilian filmmaker Sandra Kogut asks, “Can someone who has a Hungarian grandfather obtain a Hungarian passport?” The bureaucrat on the other end of the line is confused, “Yes...it’s possible...but why do you want a Hungarian passport?”

The administrative process of obtaining a passport becomes the narrative thread of this disarmingly unaffected film diary. Kogut creates a private journal of her trips to and from Brazil, Hungary, and France, recording the Kafkaesque experience of her frustrating and often hysterical attempts to jump through the necessary bureaucratic hoops. On the way, she explores a painful family history of forced emigration and a hidden legacy of anti-Semitism as she confronts some essential questions: What is nationality? What is a passport for? What should we do with our heritage? How do we construct our history and our own identity?

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