The Hungarian Pocahontas: The Life and Times of Laura Polanyi Stricker, 1882-1959 (East European Monograph)

by Judith Szapor

Laura Polanyi was born in 1882 in Vienna, the eldest child of Mihaly. From grade 5 (high schools had 8 grades at the time), Laura had been in the first class. She moved back to the North-Eastern parts of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and to the late 19th century. Her education was interrupted by the First World War. 

After the war, Laura Polanyi Stricker continued her studies in the United States. She received her Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1918. In 1920, she became the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in history from Columbia University. 

Laura Polanyi Stricker was a prominent figure in the American intellectual and women's movements. She was a member of the American Historical Association and the American Society for the Advancement of Science. She was also a contributor to the American Historical Review and the American Journal of Sociology. 

Laura Polanyi Stricker's work focused on the history of Central and Eastern Europe. Her most notable work is "The Hungarian Pocahontas: The Life and Times of Laura Polanyi Stricker, 1882-1959" (East European Monographs, distributed by Columbia University Press, 2005). This book covers many different aspects of Laura Polanyi Stricker's life and times, including her education, her career, and her contributions to American scholarship. 

Laura Polanyi Stricker passed away in New York in 1959. She is remembered as a pioneer in the field of American history and as a trailblazer for women in the academic world. Her legacy continues to inspire scholars and students alike.