

ANNA SZAKÁL

PhD, Folklorist

MA, Ethnologist and Folklorist, Philologist and teacher in Hungarian Studies, Expert in Film History and Film Theory

RESEARCH INTEREST

- the beginnings of collection of folk poetry in Transylvania, the sociocultural background of the participants
- intellectual networks in the 19th century
- role of the Transylvanian Hungarian Protestant colleges
- influences of different folk collections and folk collecting networks on one another in the 19th century
- micro-historical study of Unitarian priests and teachers of the mid-19th century
- theory, methodology and history of folkloristics
- folklore archives, researchers' ego-documents, legacies

PUBLICATIONS

<https://m2.mtmt.hu/gui2/?type=authors&mode=browse&sel=authors10052994>

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

- 2026– **Senior research fellow:** Institute of Ethnology, ELTE Research Centre for the Humanities
- 2021–2025 **Research fellow:** Institute of Ethnology, HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities, Budapest, Hungary
- 2018–2023 **Research fellow:** MTA–ELTE Momentum Historical Folkloristics Research Group
- 2018–2021 **Postdoctoral scholar:** Institute of Ethnology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary
- 2017–2018 **Research fellow (part-time position):** *Vernacular religion on the boundary of Eastern and Western Christianity: continuity, changes and interactions* (ERC project № 324214) Institute of Ethnology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary

- 2016 **PhD** defence at the Babeş–Bolyai University, Cluj. Title of the thesis: *A 19th century folklore collecting network as a research problem. Possible approaches to the Vadrózsák (Wild Roses)*. Result: summa cum laude.
- 2013–2016 **PhD candidate**, Hungarian and Comparative Folkloristics PhD Program, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary
- 2012–2013 **Cultural organiser**, Hungarian Ethnographic Museum, Budapest, Hungary
- 2009–2012 **PhD candidate**, Hungarology Doctoral School, Babeş–Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca
- 2005–2010 Expert in Film History and Film Theory (MA)
Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary
- 2004–2010 Ethnologist and Folklorist (MA)
Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary
- 2001–2007 Philologist and teacher in Hungarian Studies (MA)
Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

PROJECTS

- 2025– *Collection and dissemination of folklore in the 19–20th century Transylvania* (Hungarian–Romanian bilateral project, NKM 2024-7, project leader)
- 2025– *Digital methods and scholarly networks in folklore studies* (Estonian–Hungarian bilateral project, NKM 2024-3)
- 2020– Encyclopaedia of Hungarian Folk Poetry
- 2021–2024 *Global and local elements in contemporary folklore in Hungary and Estonia* (bilateral project, NKM 2022-19)
- 2023–2024 HUN-REN ARP – data repository ambassador

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 Klebelsberg-scholarship (1 month, Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura, Helsinki)
- 2023–2026 Bolyai János Research Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- 2023 Klebelsberg-scholarship (2 months, Hungarian Unitarian Church Archives in Cluj)
- 2018–2021 Premium Postdoctoral Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- 2017–2018 ÚNKP (New National Excellence Program) scholarship (10 months, ELTE BTK)

2017	Klebensberg-scholarship (2 months, Hungarian Unitarian Church Archives in Cluj)
2017	Campus Hungary (1 month, Hungarian Unitarian Church Archives in Cluj)
2016–2017	Tempus Foundation, research grant (10 months, Romania)
2014	Campus Hungary (4 months, Hungarian Unitarian Church Archives in Cluj)
2014	Campus Hungary (1 week, Oxford, Harris Manchester College Library)
2012	CEEPUS (2 months, Prague, University Karlovy)
2009–2012	full time PhD scholarship from the Hungarian Scholarship Committee (Babeş–Bolyai University, Cluj)
2009	CEEPUS (2 months, Babeş–Bolyai University, Cluj)
2009	Erasmus (3 months, Université Lumière Lyon 2)
2008	CEEPUS (2 months, Babeş–Bolyai University, Cluj)
2007	CEEPUS (6 months, Babeş–Bolyai University, Cluj)
2006	CEEPUS (6 months, Babeş–Bolyai University, Cluj)
2004	CEEPUS (3 months, Babeş–Bolyai University, Cluj)
2002	CEEPUS (1 month, Babeş–Bolyai University, Cluj)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

at Eötvös Loránd University

2018/2019 spring	Historical Folkloristics (BA 3rd year, 24 hours seminar)
2017/2018 spring	Studying different sources (MA 1st year, seminar)
2015/2016 autumn	Theory and history of Hungarian folkloristics (MA 1st year, seminar, together with Krisztina Tompos)
2014/2015 spring	Historical Folkloristics (MA 1st year, seminar, together with Emese Ilyefalvi)

at Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church

2019/2020 autumn	Tale-theories, tale-researches (postgradual, lecture)
2018/2019 autumn	Tale-theories, tale-researches (postgradual, lecture)
2016/2017 spring	Tale-theories, tale-researches (postgradual, lecture)

at University of Pécs

2012/2013 autumn	Orality and literacy (MA 1st year, lecture)
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at Babeş–Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca (Romania)

2011/2012 spring

Historical Text-folkloristics (BA 3rd year, seminar)

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2025 KESZEG Vilmos – SZAKÁL Anna: 31st Annual of the János Kriza Ethnographic Society. KJNT, Kolozsvár.
- 2022a OLOSZ Katalin: „Mikor mennek vala a nagy rengetegben” Balladák, gyűjtők, gyűjtemények nyomában. Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület, Kolozsvár [984 p.]
- 2022b KESZEG Vilmos – NAGY Zsolt – SZAKÁL Anna: *Néprajzi kutatás- és tudománytörténeti tanulmányok*. (30th Annual of the János Kriza Ethnographic Society) KJNT, Kolozsvár. [592 p.]
- 2021 KESZEG Vilmos – SZAKÁL Anna: *Újabb tanulmányok a romániai magyar néprajzkutatásról*. (29th Annual of the János Kriza Ethnographic Society) KJNT, Kolozsvár. [344 p.]
- 2020 Szakál Anna – TEKEI Erika: „Tenger fenekéről gyöngyszemeket szednék.” *Tanulmányok Olosz Katalin tiszteletére*. (28th Annual of the János Kriza Ethnographic Society) KJNT, Kolozsvár. [512 p.]
- 2019 KESZEG Vilmos – SZAKÁL Anna: *Kutatástörténeti, -szemléleti és -módszertani tanulmányok*. (27th Annual of the János Kriza Ethnographic Society) KJNT, Kolozsvár. [474 p.]
- 2018 KESZEG Vilmos – SZAKÁL Anna: *Korszakok, életművek, események és eredmények az erdélyi néprajzkutatásban*. (26th Annual of the János Kriza Ethnographic Society) KJNT, Kolozsvár. [464 p.]
- 2017 KESZEG Vilmos – SZAKÁL Anna – VIRGINÁS-TAR Emese (szerk.): *Néprajzkutatás Erdélyben: intézmények, kutatói életpályák, mentalitások*. (25th Annual of the János Kriza Ethnographic Society) KJNT, Kolozsvár. [453 p.]
- 2011–2013 Co-founder, editor: *Etnoszkóp*

ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- 2025 organizer of the conference *Folklore studies – history – writing. New perspectives and sources in the history of Hungarian folklore studies in the 19th century* (ELTE Research Centre for the Humanities, Budapest)
- 2024 co-organizer with Vilmos Keszeg (16th Conference of the history of science, Cluj)
- 2023 co-organizer with Vilmos Keszeg (15th Conference of the history of science, Cluj)

- 2022 co-organizer with Vilmos Keszeg (14th Conference of the history of science, Cluj)
- 2021 co-organizer with Vilmos Keszeg (13th Conference of the history of science, Cluj)
- 2019 co-organizer with Vilmos Keszeg (12th Conference of the history of science, Cluj)
- 2018 co-organizer with Vilmos Keszeg (11th Conference of the history of science, Cluj)
- 2017 co-organizer with Vilmos Keszeg and Emese Virginás-Tar (10th Conference of the history of science, Cluj)
- 2012 co-organizer with Judit Farkas (Pécs–Kolozsvár Conference for PhD candidates)

ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENT, GRANTS

- 2009 1st place, XXIX. National Scientific Students' Associations Conference (OTDK) Szeged, Section of Humanities: Folkloristics

MOST IMPORTANT PROFESSIONAL TALKS, PAPERS OR POSTERS (IN ENGLISH)

- 2025 *Ethnographic–folkloristic interest before 1850* / SIEF (Aberdeen, Scotland)
- 2024 *Travelogues and the early ethnographic collecting movement in Transylvania in the 1830–40s* / Book / Quo vadis Book Culture. Slovak National Library (Martin, Slovakia)
- 2023 *An excellent folklorist as well as a tyrant: the controversial career of a Hungarian folklorist in Socialist Romania* / SIEF, Living Uncertainty (Brno, Czech Republic)
- 2023 *The ARP data repository and an experiment in archiving contemporary folklore.* / together with Vargha, Katalin. (Tartu, Estonia)
- 2022 *Possibilities, boundaries, and personal attitudes of ethnographers from Hungarian minority in Ceaușescu-era Romania.* / RE: 22 Nordic ethnology and folklore conference (Reykjavík, Iceland)
- 2022 *Possibilities and forces in the lives of Unitarian priests in 19th-century Transylvania* / Lower clergy and local religion in 16th–20th century Europe (Budapest, Hungary)
- 2019 *István Tiboldi a bad collector from the 19th century* / SIEF (Santiago de Compostella, Spain)
- 2017 *Error, distortion or overenthusiastic storytelling? The legendary of "Vadrózsák" (Wild Roses).* / Folklorist are fallible (Tartu, Estonia)
- 2015 *Inclusion and marginalisation: creating the criteria for proper collectors and proper collections.* / SIEF (Zagreb, Croatia)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

2024– Hungarian Ethnographical Society

2020– István Hajnal Circle

2015– SIEF (International Society for Ethnology and Folklore)

2015– János Kriza Ethnographic Society

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Hungarian: mother tongue

English: intermediate

German: intermediate

Romanian: basic

Budapest, 09. 01. 2026