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Language competencies: Mongolian, English

Scientific degree: PhD

Fields of interest, research topics, keywords: Inner and East Asia, history, society and cultural history, ethnological research

Place and date of birth: Miskolc, Hungary, 1970

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Education and Degrees

1992–1999 Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest – MA in Mongolian Studies

1993–1999 University of Miskolc – MA in History

1995 – Mongolian State University, one semester

1999–2002 Eötvös Loránd University, Mongolian Studies Doctoral Program

2005 PhD in Linguistics [Mongolian Studies] (Summa cum laude)

2006–2008 Eötvös Loránd University, East European History Doctoral Program

2011 PhD (Summa cum laude)

Employment

1999–2005 Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS) – ELTE, Research Group for Altaic Studies, assistant research fellow

2005–2006 (HAS) – ELTE, Research Group for Altaic Studies, research fellow

2007–2010 Institute of Ethnology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, research fellow

2011–2012 Institute of Ethnology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, senior research fellow

2012–2019 Institute of Ethnology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, senior research fellow

Since September 2019 Institute of Ethnology, Research Centre for the Humanities, senior research fellow

Awards, scholarships

1999–2002 State scholarship for PhD studies

2000 – Hungarian Scholarship Committee, Mongolia, 6 months. Mongolian State University.

2004 – Hungarian Scholarship Committee, Mongolia, 6 months. Mongolian State Archives, Mongolian State Library, Institute of History of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences

2008–2010 Bolyai János Research Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Research Activities

Finished projects

- 1997 – National Cultural Fund application. Documentation of expedition materials, continuation of fieldwork in Mongolia, research in the Mongolian Central Archive.
- 1998 – Ministry of Culture, Higher Education Development Program. Continuation of field research in Northern Mongolia.
- 2000 – Hungarian Soros Foundation Culture and Arts Program (434/2765)
- 2001 – Hungarian Soros Foundation Culture and Arts Program (434/3551)
- 2002–2005 – *Processing of Mongolian Written Sources*. (Hungarian Scientific Research Fund, OTKA K37662), participating researcher
- 2003–2005 – *Hungarian-Mongolian folk culture and dialect research expedition (continued)* (OTKA K34689), participating researcher
- 2004–2005 – *UNESCO Complex Digital Documentation and Preservation of Rare Mongolian and Tibetan Manuscripts and Xylographs* – participating researcher
- 2006–2010 – *Hungarian-Mongolian Fieldwork Researches for Mongolian Dialects and Folk Culture (continued)* (OTKA 62501), participating researcher
- 2007–2012 – *Dictionaries of Tibeto-Mongolian Buddhism* (OTKA 68876) participating researcher
- 2007–2010 – *Manchu-Mongol Diplomatic Correspondence* (OTKA 68673), project leader
- 2009 – *UNESCO Complex Digital Documentation and Preservation of Rare Mongolian and Tibetan Manuscripts and Xylographs* – project leader
- 2011–2014 – ETNOFOLK: Preservation and Enhancement of Folk Culture Heritage in Central Europe (ERDF Central Europe Program, 3CE296P4), participating researcher
- 2012–216 – *Field research (dialects, folk culture) among the Mongol ethnic groups in Mongolia and China* (OTKA 100613), participating researcher
- 2013–2017 – *The political and social role of the Mongolian chief lamas and their church from the beginnings until the present days*. (OTKA 109043), project leader
- 2013–2014 – *Folklore and Modernization among the Turkic and Mongolian Minority in China*. Joint program of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, project leader
- 2015–2017 – *Tradition and Modernization. Folklore and Ethnological Research in Mongolia*. Joint program of the Hungarian and Mongolian Academy of Sciences, project leader
- 2017–2019 – *Folklore and Culture Studies of Mongolian and other Northern Ethnic Minorities in China*. Joint program of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, project leader
- 2017–2022 – British Library Endangered Archives Program – *Historical Documents from the 19th and early 20th Century*, project leader
- 2017–2018 *Archaeological and Historical research on the Northern Region of the Liao State*. British Academy, Arnold Stein Exploration Fund, project leader
- 2018–2020 – *Historical and ethnological research in Mongolia*. Joint program of the Hungarian and Mongolian Academy of Sciences, project leader
- 2018–2019 *Archaeological Prospection and historical Research in Mongolia on the Northern Region of the Liao Dynasty*. British Academy, Arnold Stein Exploration Fund – project leader

Projects in progress

- 2019–2023 – *Archaeological Prospection and historical Research in Mongolia on the Northern Region of the Liao Dynasty* – project leader

- 2021–2023 – *Folklore and ethnological research along the Silk Road in China and Inner Asia*. Joint program of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, project leader
- 2021–2023 – *Tradition, History and Heritage in Modern Mongolia. Ethnological and Historical research*. Joint program of the Hungarian and Mongolian Academy of Sciences, project leader
- 2021–2023 – *Organizing, Processing, and Publishing the legacies of great Hungarian ethnologists and anthropologists*. Research Grant of the Eötvös Loránd Research Network, project co-leader
- 2022–2024 *Organizing, Processing, and Publishing of the Research Legacy of Éva Schmidt* (NKFIH 2020-2.1.1-ED) – project coordinator

Teaching Activities

- 1999–2006 – Mongolian language, history, History of Inner Asia, Department of Inner Asian Studies, Eötvös Loránd University, assistant professor
- 2006–2016 Inner Asian and Mongolian History, Department of Inner Asian Studies, Institute of East Asian Studies, Eötvös Loránd University, lecturer
- 2017– History of Inner Asia, Institute of East Asian Studies, Eötvös Loránd University, lecturer
- 2016– Inner and Central Asia in international politics, Institute of International Studies and Political Sciences, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, lecturer
- 2018– History of Korea in the 20th Century. Institute of International Studies and Political Sciences, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, lecturer

Publications

A complete updated list of publications is available in the Hungarian National Scientific Bibliography (MTMT):

<https://m2.mtmt.hu/gui2/?type=authors&mode=browse&sel=authors10012881>

Most important professional talks, papers or posters

- 2023 – *Mongol-Ungariin khamtarsan Khi-Land Kidani landshaft arkheologiin sudalgaa: ür dүн, тösөөлөл*. Ungar-Mongoliin Shinjlekh Ukhaanii Akademiin Khoorondiin Khamtiin Ajillagaa 23. November 2023. Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- 2023 – *On the Cultural Crossroads. East in Focus - The Research Activities of the Institute of Ethnology and the 200 Years Hungarian Academy of Sciences Connection with Inner Asia*. ANSO Silk Road Forum The 2nd ATES Open Science Conference 23-25. August, 2023, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, China.
- 2023 – *The Hungarian press perceptions of Mongolia at the beginning of the 20th Century*. МОНГОЛЧУУДЫН СОЁЛЫН ӨВ: ГАР БИЧМЭЛ БА АРХИВЫН БАРИМТЫН ЦУГЛУУЛГА. 19-21. April 2023. Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- 2022 – *Diószegi Vilmos 1960 ond Mongold khiisen kheeriin sudalgaa ba tuunii tailbar*. [Vilmos Diószegi's 1960 fieldwork in Mongolia and its consequences] Institute of Histors and ethnography, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Ulaanbaatar, 20 July 2022.
- 2022 – *Vissza az időben: Nation branding, identitás és történelem Mongóliában*. [Back in Time: Nation Branding, Identity and History in Mongolia.] Media and Popular Culture in Asia Conference, Research Group for Modern East Asia, Pázmány Péter Catholic University – Istitute of Ethnology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Budapest 30. April, 2022.
- 2022 – *Kitan erődített települések és környezetük kutatása Mongólia területén. Khi-Land Projekt (2017-2023)*. [Research of Kitan fortified settlements and their surroundings in

- Mongolia. Khi-Land Project (2017-2023).] Tibor Horváth memorial conference , Hopp Ferenc Museum of Asian Art, 8 April, 2022..
- 2021 – Tolnai, Katalin – Harmath, András – Szilágyi, Zsolt: *Khitan period fortified settlements in Mongolia. A comparative study*. Modern and Contemporary Art in Asia. European Association for Asian Art and Archaeology, Ljubljana, November 2, 2021.
- 2021 – *Gheser Khan Related documents in the Oriental Collection of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences*. The Symposium on Shi Shao (The Book of Songs and the Songs of Chu) and Three Grand Epics of China. Northwest Normal University and Gansu Normal Minzu College. July 28 – August 1, 2021.
- 2021 – *A farkas a medve és a sárkány. Mongólia elmúlt 30 éve a poszt-szovjet korszakban*. Poszt-szovjet Ázsia. [The wolf, the bear and the dragon. The last 30 years of Mongolia is the post-soviet era], Pázmány Péter Catholic University. 11 December, 2021.
- 2021 – *Attila kései örökösei. Lehet-e a közös kulturális hagyomány az egyetlen kapocs két ország bilaterális kapcsolataiban?* [Attila's later heirs. Can the common cultural tradition be the only link in the bilateral relations of two countries?] Cultural Diplomacy in Asia Research Group for Modern East Asia, Pázmány Péter Catholic University – Institute of Ethnology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Budapest. 22 May 2021.
- 2019 – Szilágyi, Zsolt – Tolnai, Katalin – Laszlovszky, József – Harmath, András – Siklódi, Csilla: *Under the Eternal Blue Sky: The Khi-Land Research Project in Mongolia*. 2nd Annual Conference on Traditional Cultures along the Silk Road. Peking, 2019. augusztus 26–28.
- 2019 – Tolnai, Katalin – Laszlovszky, József – Siklódi, Csilla – Szilágyi, Zsolt – Siklódi, Csilla: *10th-12th Century remains of the Khitan Liao Empire in the territory of Mongolia – Landscape Archaeological Approaches and the Power Centers of a Nomad Society*. Second Conference of the Medieval Archaeology of the Danube Basin and the Russian Plain., Budapest – Visegrád – Esztergom. 9–11 October 2019.
- 2019 – Tolnai, Katalin – Harmath András: *Khitan-period fortified settlements in Mongolia. A comparative study*. – International Archaeological Conference. Pliska, Bulgaria. 8–9 October 2019.
- 2019 – *The Khiland Landscape Archaeology Project in Mongolia*. 3rd Asian Conference of IAMS. The Association for Central Asian Studies – The International Association for Mongolian Studies. Seoul, Korea. 8 – 9 November, 2019.
- 2019 – *Etnológia és diplomácia*. [Ethnology and Diplomacy. Research and Cooperation in the Changing Context of International Relations] The 4th conference on state and future of ethnography. – Institute of Ethnography, Research Centre for the Humanities, 6 October 2019.
- 2019 – Tolnai, Katalin – Szilágyi, Zsolt – Harmath András – Lkh. Erdenebold – Barcza, Gergely: *Surviving Remains of Early Buddhism. Architectural and Archaeological Survey of the Monastery at Khar Bukh Balgas, Dashinchilen District, Bulgan province, Mongolia*. Mongolian Buddhism. Tradition and Innovation. 3rd International Conference on Mongolian Buddhism. Budapest. 25–26 April 2019.
- 2019 – *Interstate relations between Hungary and the countries of the Far East*. Research Group for Modern East Asia, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest, 7 December 2019.
- 2019 – *Ázsia Mozgó határai*. [Moving Frontiers of Asia] Research Group for Modern East Asia, Pázmány Péter Catholic University – Institute of Ethnology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Budapest 19. October 2019.
- 2018 – *Khitan-Landscapes from New Perspective*. Competing narratives between nomadic people and their sedentary neighbours. 7th International conference on the Medieval history of the Eurasian steppe. Shanghai University, China. 9–12. November 2018.

- 2017 – *Veszélyes vizeken. Konfliktuszónák és biztonsági dilemmák a Távol-Keleten.* [In dangerous waters. Conflict zones and security dilemmas in the Far East Research Group for Modern East Asia, Pázmány Péter Catholic University – Institute of Ethnology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Budapest, 18 November 2017.
- 2016 – *The Ethnofolk project.* IUAS Intercongress. *World Anthropologies and Privatization of knowledge: engaging anthropology in public.* Dubrovnik. 4–9 May 2016.
- 2015 – *Mongolia and Central Asia.* International Conference. Mongolian National University of Education, National Council of Mongolian Studies, Foundation for Mongolian Studies. Ulaanbaatar, 19–21 June 2015.
- 2014 – *Changing Patterns of Power in Historical and Modern Central and Inner Asia* – Ulaanbaatar, 2014. augusztus 8–9.
- 2013 – *Mongolian Studies toward the 21st Century.* International Conference on Mongolian Studies, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, 3–4 July 2013.

Social activities,

Membership, ranks

Hungarian Ethnographical Society (member, 2006–)

Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Society (member, scientific secretary since 2008)

Hungarian Association for Academic Study of Religions (member, vice-president since 2019)

International Association for Mongolian Studies (member, 2006–)

Editorial roles

2019– *Ugsaatan sudlal* [Scientific journal of Institute of History and Ethnology of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences] – member of the editorial board

2019– *Acta Historica Mongolicii* [Scientific journal of the Mongolian State University of Education] – member of the editorial board

2018– *Studies on Cultures along the Silk Road* journal [Scientific journal of the Institute of Ethnology, Research Centre for the Humanities and the Institute of Ethnic Literature, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences] – member of the editorial board, executive editor

2017– Papers on Religion Studies – Series of the Hungarian Association for Academic Study of Religions – editor of the series

Awards, honours:

2023– Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Institute of International and Political Science, honorary university associate professor award

2014– Altan Gadas (Polar Star Order of Merit). Donator: Ts. Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia.

2010– Friendship Medal of Merit. Donator: Ts. Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia.

2010– Award for Mongolian-Hungarian scientific relations. Donator: O. Erdenechimeg, accredited ambassador of Mongolia to Hungary.

2010– Award for Mongolian culture and science. Donator: Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Institute of History. S. Chuluun, Director

2008–2010 – MTA, Bolyai Research Scholarship

2006– MTA Academic Youth Award

2006– Honored Medal for the 800th Anniversary of Great Mongol State - Donator: N. Enkhbayar, President of Mongolia.