

Katalin Varga, scientific secretary, senior research fellow, Department of Folklore Studies

Office room number: B.8.27.

Office phone: +36-1-224-67-00/4161

Mobile phone: +36-70-502-6945

Email: vargha.katalin at htk.elte.hu

Language competencies: English, Russian

Scientific degree: PhD

Fields of interest, research topics, keywords: folklore, textology, humour, short forms, riddles, digital humanities

Place and date of birth: Budapest, Hungary, 1980

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6057-3121>

Web of Science ResearcherID: [ISA-7338-2023](#)

Researchgate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Katalin-Varga>

Education and Degrees

1998–2004 Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest – MA in Ethnography

2005–2008 Eötvös Loránd University, Hungarian and Comparative Folklore Studies Doctoral Program

2011 PhD (Summa cum laude)

Awards, scholarships, grants

Awards

2010 Jelismervény (Hungarian Association for Semiotic Studies)

2015 Jankó János Award for Outstanding Performance of Junior Researchers (Hungarian Ethnographic Society)

Grants

2005–2008 State scholarship for Ph.D studies

2016–2019 Bolyai János Research Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Employment

2011 Institute of Ethnology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (assistant research fellow)

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

2019–2021 Institute of Ethnology, Research Centre for the Humanities (research fellow)

2021–2023 Institute of Ethnology, Research Centre for the Humanities (senior research fellow)

2023–2025 Institute of Ethnology, HUN–REN Research Centre for the Humanities (senior research fellow)

2025– Institute of Ethnology, ELTE Research Centre for the Humanities (senior research fellow)

Research Activities

Finished projects

2006–2009 Folklore text research, philology, historical poetics. The 19th century corpus and interpretation of folklore genres (OTKA NI 61252)

2013–2014 ETNOFOLK: Preservation and Enhancement of Folk Culture Heritage in Central Europe (ERDF Central Europe Programme, 3CE296P4)

2013–2015 Hungarians in Serbia – Serbs in Hungary (bilateral project, NKM 18/2015)

2022–2024 Global and local elements in contemporary folklore in Hungary and Estonia (bilateral project, NKM 2022-19, project leader)

2024 HUN–REN ARP data repository ambassador

Projects in progress

2025–2027 Digital methods and scholarly networks in folklore studies (Estonian – Hungarian bilateral project, project leader)

2025–2027 Collection and dissemination of folklore in the 19–20th century Transylvania (Romanian – Hungarian bilateral project)

2012– Encyclopaedia of Hungarian Folk Poetry (Department of Folklore Studies, Institute of Ethnology, HUN–REN Research Centre for the Humanities; editor-in-chief: Ágnes Szemerédkényi)

Teaching Activities

2011 Minor genres of folk prose. Institute of Ethnography, Eötvös Loránd University

2022 Hungarian and comparative folklore 5. Minor genres of folk prose. Institute of Ethnography, Eötvös Loránd University

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=authors10028173>

Most important professional talks, papers, or posters

2025 "Ethnographia. Ethnologia. Folklore" – a key publication and its author, Lajos Katona / **SIEF 2025: UNwriting.** / Aberdeen, Scotland, June 3–6, 2025.

2025 The character of the "joke killer" as a source of humor. A case study from Hungary / **15th annual Humor Research Conference (HRC)** / online, February 14–16, 2025.

2023 The ARP data repository and an experiment in archiving contemporary folklore (with Anna Szakál) / **Global and local elements in contemporary folklore in Hungary and Estonia** / Tartu, Estonia, November 21, 2023.

2023 "What is red, what is scarlet?" Colours in Hungarian riddles / **Paremiology, folkloristics and digital humanities: new perspectives and methods** / Ljubljana, Slovenia, September 7–8, 2023.

2023 "The new Chuck Norris." A model for (satirical) heroisation in the global digital space / **SIEF2023: Living Uncertainty** / Brno, Czech Republic, June 7–10, 2023.

2022 "Ugocsa non coronat!" A Hungarian historical proverb in contemporary context / **16th Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs (ICP22).** / Tavira, Portugal, November 6–13, 2022.

2022 Creative language use and linguistic humour in Hungarian COVID-19 jokes and memes. / **Subjectivity and Intersubjectivity in Language and Culture.** / 13th Annual conference of the Centre of Excellence in Estonian Studies. Tartu, Estonia, May 12–13, 2022.

2021 Enigmatic emotions. Expressions of emotions in Hungarian riddles. / **Emotions in folk narrative and folklife.** / 18th Congress of ISFNR. / Zagreb, September 5–8, 2021. (online)

2017 Visualisation of Hungarian twisted proverbs. Global and local attributes. / **Across Borders. Cultures in Dialogue** / Tartu, April 27–29, 2017.

2016 Towards a digital database of Hungarian riddles. / **Towards digital folkloristics. Research perspectives, archival praxis, ethical challenges** / Riga, September 14–16, 2016.

2015 Creativity and humour in the online folklore of the 2014 political elections in Hungary. / **Folklore Fellows' Summer School. Doing Folkloristics in the Digital Age.** / Seili Research Institute in the Turku Archipelago, Turku, June 11–18, 2015.

2015 What is the difference? Joking questions in traditional and contemporary Hungarian folklore. / **Utopias, Realities, Heritages: Ethnographies for the 21st century** / 12th Congress of SIEF. / Zagreb, June 21–24, 2015

2014 Verbal and Visual Humor in the Online Folklore of Political Elections in Hungary, 2014 / **International Humour Symposium. A multiple perspective approach to humour** / organized by the Department of Modern Philology, Faculty of Education, J. Selye University / Komárno, November 14, 2014.

2013 “Hungary, I Love You This Way!” Variations of a Beer Commercial as Narratives of Group Identity. / **Folk Narrative in the Modern World: Unity and Diversity** / 16th Congress of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR) / Vilnius, June 25–30, 2013.

2006 Proverb Is as Proverb Does: A Survey of the Use of Proverbs and Anti-Proverbs. / **Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Phraseology International Conference** / organised by the Institute of German Studies of the Pannonian University of Veszprém (Hungary) and the European Society of Phraseology (EUROPHRAS) / Veszprém, June 9–11, 2006.

Social activities

Memberships, ranks

Hungarian Ethnographic Society (member, 1998–)

International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF) (member, 2015–)

Folklore Fellows' Society (member, 2015–)

SIEF Working Group on Digital Ethnology and Folklore – secretary (2023–2025, 2025–2027)

International Scientific Advisory Board, of the Estonian Literary Museum, Tartu (ISAB) (member, 2024–2028)

International Society of Humour Studies (member, 2024–)

Editorial roles

Proverbium (member of editorial board, 2021–)

European Journal of Humour Research (reviewer, 2021–)

Humanities (reviewer, 2023–)