

## **Curriculum vitae: László Kontler**

### ***Current position***

Pro-Rector for Budapest and KEE  
Professor, Department of History  
Central European University Private University (CEU PU), Quellenstrasse 51-55, 1100  
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### ***University studies***

Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE, Budapest), 1978-1983. BA/MA in History and English  
Studies

### ***Degrees and qualifications***

1987: *doctor universitatis*, Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest)  
1996: Candidate of Historical Science (CSc/PhD), Hungarian Academy of Sciences  
(Budapest)  
2006: Dr. Habil. (habilitation), Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest)  
2014: Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (DSc)

### ***Academic positions***

1987-1989: Institute of History, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (editorial assistant,  
*Danubian Historical Studies*); University of Debrecen (part time lecturer)  
1991-1992: Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (visiting lecturer)  
1992-2010: Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest), Department of Medieval and Early-  
Modern World History (part time guest lecturer)  
1992-: Central European University (Budapest), Department of History (assistant professor  
1992-1998; associate professor 1998-2000; professor since 2000)

### ***Fellowships and grants***

1983-1986: Doctoral Fellowship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (36 months)  
1986-1987: British Council Research Scholarship (6 months, London School of Economics  
and Political Science, University of Oxford, University of Cambridge)  
1989-1990: Soros Foundation Postdoctoral Scholarship (9 months, University of Oxford, St.  
Antony's College)  
1990-1991: Europa Institut Budapest (12 months)  
1991-1992: Fulbright Fellowship (10 months, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ)  
1995: Research Fellowship of the Herzog August Bibliothek (3 months, Wolfenbüttel,  
Germany)  
1996-1999: Fellowship of the Hungarian National Research Fund (36 months)

1999: Andrew Mellon Fellowship (3 months, Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh)  
2000: DAAD Fellowship (1.5 months, Max-Planck-Institut für Geschichte, Göttingen and Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel)  
2004: Fellowship of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft (1 month, Max-Planck-Institut für Geschichte, Göttingen)  
2005-2006: Marie Curie Fellowship of the European Commission (12 months, European University Institute, Florence)  
2012: Andrew Mellon Fellowship (1 month, Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, Germany)  
2017: Senior Research Fellowship, Lichtenberg Kolleg, Göttingen (2 months)  
2017: Fernand Braudel Senior Fellowship, European University Institute, Florence (3 months)  
2018: Leverhulme Visiting Professorship, Trinity Hall and History Faculty, University of Cambridge (8 months)

### ***Teaching and mentoring***

- Continuous university teaching since 1985. Areas of focus: early-modern European history, especially intellectual history, political thought, political culture and institutions; the production and exchange of scientific knowledge; inter-cultural communication, translation and reception in historical perspective; historiography; Hungarian and Central European history in comparative perspective
- Supervision of c. 50 MA theses and 11 PhD dissertations (4 further PhD dissertations in progress)

### ***Research***

Intellectual history: history of political and historical thought in the early-modern period, especially the Enlightenment; trans-national cultural communication, translation and reception; history of scientific knowledge production

### ***Administrative experience / university service***

- Head, Department of History, Central European University (1999-2005, 2006-2008)
- Member, University Senate, Central European University (2003-2011)
- Member/chair, several Senate standing committees, Central European University (2003-2011, 2018-)
- Pro-Rector for Hungarian Affairs, Central European University (2011-2016: chief liaison person with Hungarian educational authorities; ensuring the conformity of the internal regulations of CEU as an international university with the changing legal environment; promoting the further integration of the university in local academic life)
- Pro-Rector for Social Sciences and Humanities, Central European University (2014-2016: supervising day-to-day academic, faculty and student affairs in the relevant departments)
- Doctoral Program Director, Department of History, Central European University (2018-)
- Pro-Rector for Budapest and KEE (2022-: overseeing the operation of the university's units based in Budapest and their integration with those in Vienna)

***Further professional activity / service to the academic community***

- Editorial committee member: *European Review of History/Revue européenne d'histoire* (since 1997); *Europäische Geschichte Online* (Institut für europäische Geschichte, Mainz, 2009-2015); book series *History of European Political and Constitutional Thought* (Leiden: Brill, 2018-)
- Advisory Board member: *Europa entdecken* series (Fischer europäische Geschichte, ed. Wolfgang Benz, 1999-2008); *Central Europe* (since 2002); *East-Central Europe* (since 2004); *Modern Intellectual History* (2004-2012); Central European University Press (since 2007); *Contexts: The Journal of Educational Media, Memory and Society* (2007-2019); *Hungarian Historical Review* (since 2012); *Global Intellectual History* (since 2017); book series *The Younger Europe* (Leiden: Brill, since 2021)
- Memberships: Hungarian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (since 1987); International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (since 1987); Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society (since 1997; board member 2002-2008); European Society for the History of Political Thought (since 2009 – founding member; executive secretary 2012-2014; vice president 2014-2016; president 2016-2018); Member of the Council of Scholars, European Doctoral Program (SUM, Florence; EHESS, Paris; EPHE, Paris; Humboldt University, Berlin; CEU, Budapest - 2009-2014)
- International conferences: organization of c. 20, participation in c. 60
- Invited talks, keynotes: c. 25 in leading academic institutions in Europe and North America (including: University of British Columbia; Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum Geschichte und Kultur Ostmitteleuropas, Leipzig; European University Institute, Florence; University of Maryland; School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London; European University, St Petersburg; Università di Napoli “Orientale”; Università di Trieste; University of Zagreb; New Europe College, Bucharest; University of Cambridge; Trinity College, Dublin; Universität Wien; University of Luxemburg; University of Zürich; Institute for Intellectual History, University of St. Andrews; Centre for Intellectual History, University of Helsinki; Voltaire Foundation / University of Oxford)
- regular reviewer for several international academic journals and publishers
- external member (reviewer and examiner) of PhD dissertation committees: Eötvös University, University of Debrecen, University of Pécs, University of Szeged, University of Oxford, University of Vienna, University of Luzern, Tromsø University
- evaluation panel member for various European Commission funding schemes (European Research Council Starting Grant [panel chair since 2021]; Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowship)

***Main publications (in a full list of c. 120 items)***

**Monographs**

*Az állam rejtelmei. Brit konzervativizmus és a politika kora újkori nyelvei* (The mystery of the state. British conservatism and the early-modern languages of political thought, in Hungarian) (Budapest: Atlantisz, 1997), 318 pp.

*Millennium in Central Europe. A History of Hungary* (Budapest: Atlantisz, 1999), 527 pp; revised edition (Basingstoke: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2002); Czech (2001) Russian (2002), Slovene (2005), Croatian (2008), Bulgarian (2009), Brazilian (2021) editions; Albanian edition forthcoming.

*Translations, Histories, Enlightenments: William Robertson in Germany 1760-1795* (Basingstoke: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2014), 261 pp.

(with Per Pippin Aspaas) *Maximilian Hell (1720-1792) and the Ends of Jesuit Science in Enlightenment Europe* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2020), 477 pp.

### **Edited volumes (books and special journal issues)**

*Central Europe, Ten Years After*, special issue of *European Review of History/Revue européenne d'histoire*, 6:1 (1999), pp. 7-111.

*Enlightenment and Communication: Regional Experiences and Global Consequences*, special issue of *European Review of History/Revue européenne d'histoire*, 13:3 (2006), pp. 357-508.

(with Jaroslav Miller), *Friars, Nobles and Burghers – Sermons, Images and Prints. Studies of Culture and Society in Early-Modern Europe, In Memoriam István György Tóth* (Budapest: Central European University Press, 2010), 490 pp.

(with Antonella Romano, Silvia Sebastiani and Zsuzsanna Borbála Török), *Negotiating Knowledge in Early Modern Empires: A Decentered View* (Basingstoke: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2014), 273 pp.

(with Mark Somos), *Trust and Happiness in the History of European Political Thought* (Leiden: Brill, 2017), 481 pp.

(with Cesare Cuttica and Clara Maier), *Crisis and Renewal in the History of European Political Thought* (Leiden: Brill, 2021), 383 pp.

(with István Szijártó and Wim Blockmans), *Parliamentarism in Northern and East-Central Europe in the long eighteenth century: Volume I. Representative institutions and political motivation* (in print, London: Routledge, 2022)

### **Text editions**

Hungarian translations, with scholarly introductions and apparatus, of classics in the history of political thought:

Edmund Burke, *Töprengések a francia forradalomról* (Reflections on the Revolution in France) (Budapest: Atlantisz, 1990), 401 pp., Introduction pp. 9-79.

*Konzervativizmus 1593-1872. Szöveggyűjtemény* (Conservatism 1593-1872. An Anthology) (Budapest: Osiris, 2000), 644 pp., Afterword pp. 573-640.

John Locke, *A vallási türelemről* (Collected writings on religious toleration) (Budapest: Stencil, 2003), 262 pp., Introduction pp. 7-55.

### **Selected peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters**

“William Robertson’s history of manners in German 1770-1795”, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 58:1 (1997), 125-144.

“The ancien régime in memory and theory. Edmund Burke and his German followers”, *European Review of History*, 4:1 (1997), 31-43.

“Superstition, enthusiasm and propagandism: Burke and Gentz on the French Revolution”, in B. Taithe, T. Thornton (eds.): *Propaganda. Political Rhetoric and Identity 1300–2000* (Phoenix Mill: Sutton Publishing, 1999), 97-114.

“William Robertson and his German audience on European and non-European civilisations”, *Scottish Historical Review* 80:1 (2001), 63-89.

“Beauty or Beast, or Monstrous Regiments? Robertson and Burke on Women and the Public Scene”, *Modern Intellectual History*, 1:3 (2004), 305-330.

“Introduction: The Enlightenment in Central Europe?”, in Balázs Trencsényi and Michal Kopeček (eds.), *Discourses of Collective Identity in Central and Southeast Europe*

- (1770-1945). *I: Late Enlightenment – Emergence of the Modern National Idea* (Budapest and New York: Central European University Press, 2006), 33-44.
- “Introduction: What Is the (Historians’) Enlightenment Today?”, in *Enlightenment and Communication: Regional Experiences and Global Consequences*, ed. László Kontler = *European Review of History / Revue d’histoire européenne*, special issue 13:3 (2006), 337-355.
- (with Balázs Trencsényi) “Hungary”, in Howell Lloyd, Glenn Burgess, Simon Hodson (eds.), *Religion, Politics, and Philosophy: European Political Thought 1450-1700* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007), 176-207.
- “Translation and Comparison: Early-Modern and Current Perspectives”, *Contributions to the History of Concepts*, 3:1 (2007), 71-103.
- “Translation and Comparison II: A Methodological Inquiry into reception in the History of Ideas”, *Contributions to the History of Concepts*, 4:1 (2008), 27-56. “Time and Progress – Time as Progress: An Enlightened Sermon by William Robertson”, in Tyrus Miller (ed.), *Given World and Time. Temporalities in Context* (Budapest and New York: Central European University Press, 2008), 195-220.
- “Polizey and Patriotism: Joseph von Sonnenfels and the Legitimacy of Enlightened Monarchy in the Gaze of Eighteenth-Century State Sciences”, in Cesare Cuttica, Glenn Burgess (eds.), *Monarchism and Absolutism in Early-Modern Europe* (London: Pickering and Chatto, 2012)
- “Mankind and Its Histories: William Robertson, Georg Forster and a Late Eighteenth-Century German Debate”, *Intellectual History Review* 23:3 (2013), 411-429.
- “Distances Celestial and Terrestrial. Maximilian Hell’s Arctic Expedition, 1768-1769: Contexts and Responses”, in André Holenstein, Hubert Steinke and Martin Stuber (eds.), *The Practice of Knowledge and the Figure of the Savant in the Eighteenth Century* (Leiden: Brill, 2013), 721-750.
- “The Uses of Knowledge and the Symbolic Map of the Enlightened Monarchy of the Habsburgs: Maximilian Hell as Imperial and Royal Astronomer (1755–1792)”, in László Kontler, Antonella Romano, Silvia Sebastiani and Zsuzsanna Borbála Török (eds.), *Negotiating Knowledge in Early Modern Empires: A Decentered View* (Basingstoke: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2014), 79-105.
- “Historical discourses and the science of man in the late eighteenth century: separate Scottish and German paths?”, in Jean-François Dunyach and Ann Thomson (eds.), *The Enlightenment in Scotland: national and international perspectives* (Oxford: Voltaire Foundation, 2015), 107-139.
- (with Per Pippin Aspaas), “Before and After 1773: Central European Jesuits, the Politics of Language and Discourses of Identity in the Late Eighteenth Century Habsburg Monarchy”, in Gábor Almási and Lav Subarić (eds.), *Latin at the Crossroads of Identity. The Evolution of Linguistic Nationalism in the Kingdom of Hungary* (Leiden: Brill, 2015), 95-118.
- “Enlightenment and Empire”, in John MacKenzie et al. (eds), *The Encyclopedia of Empire* (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2016),  
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/9781118455074.wbeoe318>
- “Varieties of Old Regime Europe: Thoughts and Details on the Reception of Burke’s *Reflections* in Germany”, in Martin Fitzpatrick, Peter Jones (eds.), *The Reception of Burke in Europe* (London: Bloomsbury Books, 2017), 313-329.
- “Concepts, contests and contexts: Conceptual history and the problem of translatability”, in Michael Freeden (ed.), *Conceptual History in the European Space* (New York: Berghahn, 2017), 197-211.

- “The enlightened narrative in the age of liberal reform: William Robertson’s *View of the Progress of Society in Hungary*”, *History of European Ideas* 43:7 (2017), 745-61, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01916599.2017.1314155>
- (with Mark Somos), “Introduction: Trust, Happiness, and the History of European Political Thought”, in László Kontler and Mark Somos (eds.), *Trust and Happiness in the History of European Political Thought* (Leiden: Brill, 2017), 1-15.
- “Inventing ‘humanity’: early-modern perspectives”, H. Haara, M. Immanen and K. Stapelbroek (eds.), *Helsinki Yearbook of Intellectual History I: Passions, Politics and the Limits of Society* (Oldenbourg: De Gruyter, 2020), 25–46.
- “Relocating the ‘Human Zoo’: Exotic Displays, Metropolitan Identity, and Ethnographic Knowledge in Late Nineteenth Century Budapest”, *East Central Europe* 47:2-3 (2020), 173-201.
- “‘Humanity’ and its limits in early modern European thought”, in Maria Kronfeldner (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Dehumanization* (London: Routledge, 2021), 52-63.
- “Their Own State(s) of Nature. The Enlightenment Social Imaginary and the Invention of Hungarian Ethnic Origins”, in Mark Somos and Anne Peters (eds.), *The State of Nature. Histories of an Idea* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2021), 334-362.
- “Political Ambition. The Concept in Montesquieu’s *The Spirit of the Laws* and its Reception in Hungary (1748–1848)”, in István Szijártó, Wim Blockmans and László Kontler (eds.), *Parliamentarism in Northern and East-Central Europe in the long eighteenth century: Volume I. Representative institutions and political motivation* (in print, London: Routledge, 2022)
- “*Entretiens* with Fontenelle, 1688-1803: translating politeness into science”, in Jonas Gerlings, Ere Nokkala and Martin van Gelderen (eds), *Processes of Enlightenment: Essays in Honour of Hans Erich Bödeker*, Oxford Studies in the Enlightenment (in print, Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2022)