

ZSUZSANNA VÁRHELYI

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Department of Classical Studies
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MAJOR FIELDS OF INTEREST

- Ancient History: The social, political and cultural history of the ancient Mediterranean with a focus on Late Republican Rome and the Roman Empire
- Ancient Religion: The religions of the ancient world with a focus on Roman religion
- Latin: Historiography, literature, rhetoric and philosophy under the Roman Empire with a focus on prose genres
- Ancient Greek: Literature, history and philosophy in the Classical and Imperial periods
- Related Fields: Greek and Latin epigraphy, prosopography, Latin paleography; archaeological, art historical and numismatic evidence for the Roman Empire; theoretical approaches to the study of antiquity
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2010-: *Boston University*, Boston
Associate Professor, Department of Classical Studies
- 2001-2010: *Boston University*, Boston
Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies
- 1995-1996: *Pázmány Péter University*, Hungary
Lecturer, Department of Ancient Studies
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EDUCATION

- 2002: Ph.D. in History
Columbia University, New York
Dissertation: *The Religion of the Senatorial Elite in the Roman Empire from 69 to 235 AD*. Adviser: William V. Harris
- 2002: M.A. in Ancient Greek
Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest, Hungary
Thesis: *Philosophy and Philosophers in Dio Chrysostom*
- 1998: M.Phil. in History
Columbia University, New York
Major field exams: Greek intellectual history, Roman social history, Religious history of the Roman Empire. Minor: Latin historiography

EDUCATION (CTD.)

- 1996: M.A. in English Language and Literature
Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest, Hungary
Thesis: *The Joyce Experience Today: Postmodern Readings of Ulysses*
- 1995: M.A. in History, *summa cum laude*
Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest, Hungary
Honors Thesis: *The Written Word in Archaic Attica* [In Hungary, grant of masters degree implies fulfillment of B.A. requirements]
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MONOGRAPHS

- Planned:* *The Trauma of War in the Ancient and Modern Worlds* (Proposal is being prepared for the Classical Inter/faces series of Duckworth)
- In progress:* *The Others of the Self: Communities of Belonging in Imperial Rome* (Proposal with Cambridge University Press)
- 2010: *The Religion of Senators in the Roman Empire: Power and the Beyond* (Cambridge University Press)
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EDITED VOLUMES

- 2011: With co-editor J. Knust, *Sacrifice in the Ancient Mediterranean. Images, Acts, Meanings*. Oxford University Press: Oxford.
- 2005: With co-editor J.-J. Aubert, *A Tall Order: Writing the Social History of the Ancient World. Essays in Honor of William V. Harris*. Beiträge zur Altertumskunde. Saur, Munich.
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ARTICLES

- In progress:* “Appropriation: ‘lived religion’ and the imperial cult in the Roman empire”
- Forthcoming:* “Gendered agents and embodied religious experience,” *Blackwell Companion to the Archaeology of Religion in the Ancient World*. Edited by R. Raja, J. Rüpke. 120-130.
- “Les ostraca de l’Antiquité tardive de l’Afrique du Nord: contextes d’interprétation,” *Africa*
- 2014: “A paradigm of Roman priestly groups? Reconsidering membership in the “religious” collegia of early imperial Italy,” in *Sacerdos. Figura del sacro nella società Romana*. Ed. by G. Urso. I convegni della Fondazione Niccolò Canussio 12, 239-258.

ARTICLES (CTD.)

- 2013: "Health-care and self-care: religious aspects of health and illness among the imperial elite," in: J. Rüpke and G. Woolf (eds.) *Religious Dimensions of the Self in the Second Century CE*. (Studien und Texte zu Antike und Christentum 76.) Tübingen, 221-242.
- 2012: "'To forgive is divine:’ gods as models and guides of forgiveness in early imperial Rome," in C. Griswold, D. Konstan (eds.) *Ancient Forgiveness*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 115-133.
- 2011-12: (With R. Ast, R. Bagnall and A. Drine) "Two Latin accounts on amphora walls from Gigthi," *Analecta Papyrologica* 23-24, 205-236.
- 2011: "Political murder and sacrifice: from republic to empire," in J.W. Knust, Zs. Várhelyi (eds.), *Sacrifice in the Ancient Mediterranean. Images, Acts, Meanings*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 125-141.
- 2010: "Continuities in late antique literacy: the evidence from North Africa and Gaul," *Acta Classica Univ. Scient. Debrecen*. 46, 179-188.
- 2009: With R.S. Bagnall, "Sites, stratigraphy and materials: ostraka," in: A. Drine, E. Fentress, R. Holod (eds.), *Studies on Jerba*. JRA Supplement, Portsmouth, 330-340.
- 2008: "Finding a place for religion in Roman historiography: between the Scylla of the Roman Empire and the Charybdis of Late Antiquity," G. Németh (ed.), *Kalendae. Studia sollemnia in memoriam I. Sarkady* (Hungarian Polis Studies 16.) Debrecen, 337-344.
- 2007: "The specters of Roman imperialism: the live burials of Gauls and Greeks in Rome," *Classical Antiquity* 26, 277-304.

"Salus senatorum: pro salute inscriptions in the Roman Empire," in: *Actes du XIIIe Congrès International d'Épigraphie*, ed. X.E. Corbalan
- 2006: "Social history and archaeology: opportunities and problems," in: C. Mattusch, A. Donohue, A. Brauer (eds.), *Common Ground: Archaeology, Art, Science and the Humanities: the Proceedings of the XVIth International Congress of Classical Archaeology*. Oxbow, Oxford, 312-314.
- 2005: "A sense of change and the historiography of the turn from Republic to Empire," in: J.-J. Aubert, Zs. Várhelyi (eds.), *A Tall Order*, Saur, Munich. 357-375.
- 2001: "Magic, religion and syncretism at the oracle of Claros," in: S. Asirvatham, C. Pache, J. Watrous (eds.), *Between Magic and Religion*. Rowman and Littlefield, Lanham, MD, 11-29.
- 2000: "Jews in civic life under the Roman Empire," *Acta Ant. Hung.* 40, 471-478.
- 1998: "What is the evidence for the survival of Punic culture in Roman North Africa?," *Acta Ant. Hung.* 38, 387-399.

ARTICLES (CTD.)

- 1997: "The religion of the 'other:' the religion of the Egyptians in the Greek Novel," in: Z. Nemes, Gy. Németh (eds.), *Heorte. Studia in honorem J. Sarkady*. (Hungarian Polis Studies 2.) Debrecen, 89-113.
- 1996: "The written word in Archaic Attica," *Klio* 78, 28-52.
- 1996: "*Menos stalas*: görög írásbeliség a korabeli feliratok tükrében" [Greek literacy in the mirror of contemporary inscriptions], *Antik Tanulmányok* 40, 1-9. (in Hungarian)
- 1993: "A görögök és a korai írásbeliség" [The Greeks and early literacy], *Sic itur ad astra*, 17-40. (in Hungarian)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND BOOK REVIEWS

- 2013: "Priests and priestesses, Roman," "Flamines," "Quindecemviri sacris faciundis," "Septemviri epulones," "Sodales," Entries, Wiley-Blackwell's Encyclopedia of Ancient History
- 2011: Review of W.A. Johnson, *Readers and Reading Culture in the High Roman Empire: a Study of Elite Communities*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 2010. *American Journal of Philology*.
- 2010: Review of J.B. Rives, *Religion in the Roman Empire*. Malden, Blackwell 2007. *Phoenix* 64: 200-202.
- 2009: "Imperial cult, Roman." Entry, *Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome*, ed. by Michael Gagarin et al., Oxford University Press
- "Roman religion: Rome and Italy." Research report, *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte* 11: 338-341.
- Review of C. M. C. Green, *Roman Religion and the Cult of Diana at Aricia*. Cambridge 2007. Book review, *International Journal of the Classical Tradition* 16: 577-581.
- Review of J. Bodel and S. M. Olyan (edd.), *Household and Family Religion in Antiquity*. Malden: Blackwell 2008. *New England Classical Journal* 36.3: 207-209.
- (with Jennifer Knust) "What the Gods Demand: Blood Sacrifice in the Ancient Mediterranean." Conference report, *The Journal Henoche* 31: 217-220.
- 2007: Review of D. Fishwick, *The Imperial Cult in the Latin West*. 3.1-3.4. Leiden, Brill 2002. Book review, *Phoenix* 61, 380-382.
- 2006: Review of T. Murphy, *Pliny the Elder's Natural History: The Empire in the Encyclopedia*. Oxford, Oxford UP 2004. Book review, *Classical Bulletin* 82, 149-151.
- 2004: Review of R. Rollinger, Ch. Ulf (edd.), *Geschlechterrollen und Frauenbild in der Perspektive antiker Autoren*. Innsbruck, Studien Verlag 2000. Book review, *International Journal of the Classical Tradition* 9, 607-609.
- 2003: Review of D. Frede, A. Laks (edd.), *Traditions of theology. Studies in Hellenistic theology, its background and aftermath*. (Philosophia Antiqua, 89.) Leiden, Brill 2001. Book review, *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte* 5, 383-384.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND BOOK REVIEWS (CTD.)

- 2003: Review of E. Bispham, C. Smith (edd.), *Religion in archaic and republican Rome and Italy: evidence and experience*. (New perspectives on the ancient world, 2.) Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press, 2000. Book review, *Classical Review* 53, 203-205.
- 2003: Review of J. Rüpke, *Die Religion der Römer. Eine Einführung*. Munich, Beck, 2001. Book review, *Classical Review* 53, 202-203.
- 1996: “Demetrios and the Athenian volunteers,” in: *Greek History: Documents*, Gy. Németh (ed.), n.169. Hungarian translation of a fourth-century inscription
- 1995-96: Greek and Roman lexicon entries (in Hungarian) to *Magyar Nagylexikon*. Budapest.
- 1994: Bibliography (in German), “Die wissenschaftliche Tätigkeit von Prof. István Hahn” with E. Missura and Gy. Németh. *Annales Univ. Sci. Budapestiniensis de Rolando Eötvös Nom., Sect. Hist.*, XXVI, 271-291.
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PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2011-: Member, Editorial Board, *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte*
- 2010-: Member, Program Committee, *Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions*
- 2009-: Member, Editorial Board, *Acta Classica Univ. Debreceniensis*
- 2005-: External reviewer: Blackwell, Cambridge University Press, NYU Press, *Classical Antiquity*
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CONFERENCES / COLLOQUIA ORGANIZED

- November 2008: “What the gods demand: blood sacrifice in the ancient Mediterranean” (with Jennifer Knust, BU, School of Theology)
- August 2003: “Roman social history and archaeology: new models and material evidence” (with David Hollander, Iowa State University)
XVIth International Congress of Classical Archaeology, Boston
- 2002-: Annual Roman Studies Conference, Boston University (co-organizer with fellow Latinists in the Department of Classical Studies)
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PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS

- July 2014: “The lived experience of social and religious communities in the cities of Roman Asia Minor,” Colloquium on Material Culture and Ancient Religion, Turkey
- December 2013: “Self-talk: The rhetoric and the spaces of representing the self from the mid-Republic to the early Empire,” Brown University
- November 2013: “Telling a li(fe): the uses and abuses of religious biographies,” Annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Baltimore
- May 2013: “Experiencing Roman imperial sacrifice,” Ritual Matters: Material Residues and Ancient Religions, American Academy in Rome

PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS (CTD.)

- April 2013: "Representing leaders: from Republic to Empire" Boston Area Roman Studies Conference, Boston
- November 2012: "Gods and (wo)men," The Archaeology of Lived Religion in Antiquity, Rome, Italy
- November 2012: "Visualizing domesticity in the religions of the Roman empire," Annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Chicago
- September 2012: "The meetings of priests: their religious, social and cultural significance," Convention entitled "Sacerdos" by the Fondazione Niccolo Canussio, Castello Canussio, Italy
- January 2012: "Women and sacrifice in the Roman Empire," Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association, Philadelphia
- September 2011: "Encountering divine charisma: gods, men and women in late Republican and early imperial religion," Conference on Encountering the Divine: Between Gods and Men in the Ancient World, University of Reading, UK
- May 2011: "Self-praise and self-talk in Roman politics," Psychology Workshop, Columbia University
- January 2011: "Religiously sanctified murders and the transformation of religious authority in the civil wars of the late Roman Republic," Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association, San Antonio
- November 2010: "'Doctrines' in traditional narratives and exemplary figures: rethinking 'belief' in Roman religion," Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta
- October 2010: "Roman human sacrifice" A conversation between Arthur Eckstein and Z. Várhelyi, Boston University, Boston
- June 2010: "Selfhood, power and religion among pagan elites." Conference on the 'Religious Dimensions of the Self in the Second Century CE,' Erfurt, Germany (invited)
- May 2010: "Through thick and thin: health and illness in the pagan religion and philosophical communities of imperial Rome," Department of Ancient History, ELTE, Budapest, Hungary
- January 2010: "The development of the worship of the *genius Augusti* in Italy in the early Roman empire." Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association, Anaheim, CA
- January 2010: "*Personae*, individuals and selves: what are we talking about when we discuss ancient individuals?" With Thomas Habinek, Roundtable, Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association, Anaheim, CA
- July 2009: "Power and religion in the 'pagan' Roman empire." Colloquium on Material Culture and Ancient Religion 2009, Rome
- July 2009: "Morality and religion in pagan, Jewish and Christian characters in recent cinematic visions of ancient Rome." International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Rome
- January 2009: "Sexual selves in play: homoerotic poetry in imperial Rome." Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association, Philadelphia

PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS (CTD.)

- November 2008: "The 'graffiti habit' in the early Roman Empire." Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Boston
- October 2008: "Thinking like a Rhizome: The Impact of Deleuze and Guattari." Mind and Matter Seminar, University of Southern California, Los Angeles
- January 2008: "Comparative mappings of (the study of) religion and of emotions in the ancient world." Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association, Chicago
- November 2007: "'Family values' in the first- and second-century Greek East of the Roman Empire." Annual Meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature, San Diego
- July 2007: "Power and Religion in the 'pagan' Roman Empire." International Annual Meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature, Vienna, Austria
- April 2007: "The altars of the fortunate: senators, religion and power in the Roman empire." Columbia University, Department of Classics, New York
- January 2007: "Finding the proper place for religion: between the Scylla of the Roman Empire and the Charybdis of Late Antiquity?" Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association, San Diego
- November 2006: "Subverting narrative qualities in second-century retellings of 'pagan' myths." Annual Meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature, Washington D.C.
- May 2006: "The religion of Roman senators in the Empire: between power and belief." 7th International Conference of Hungarian Ancient Studies, Debrecen, Hungary
- March 2006: "Les ostraka de l'Antiquité tardive de l'Afrique du Nord: contextes d'interprétation." Institut National du Patrimoine, Tunis
- April 2005: "Religion and power in the early Empire." Boston Area Roman Studies Conference
- January 2005: "Social mobility and the renewal of the Senate in the Roman Empire." Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association, Boston
- November 2004: "Elite community, prayer and healing in the Roman Empire." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio
- April 2004: "*Aut Finis Aut Transitus*: death, senatorial style, in the Roman Empire." New England Ancient Historians' Colloquium, Bridgewater State College
- January 2004: "Between public and private: elite dining and bathing in Late Republican and Early Imperial Italy." Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America, San Francisco
- August 2003: "Social history and archaeology: opportunities and problems." XVIth International Congress of Classical Archaeology, Harvard University Art Museums
- October 2002: "Roman prosopography and microhistory: convergences and divergences." New England Historical Association, Fall Meeting, Rhode Island College
- September 2002: "The problem of dating change: the Stoic theory of incorporeal transformations." Conference on "Redrawing the Boundaries," Yale

PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS (CTD.)

- September 2002: “*Salus senatorum: pro salute* inscriptions in the Roman Empire.” (poster) 12th International Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy, Barcelona, Spain
- January 2002: “The *oikos* recalled: the classical family in the Second Sophistic.” Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association, Philadelphia
- February 2001: “Revenge and forgiveness, gods and emperors in the Roman Empire.” Conference at the Center for the Ancient Mediterranean, Columbia University
- May 1999: “Jews in civic life under the Empire.” Annual Meeting of the Association of Ancient Historians, Columbia University
- November 1998: “The oracle of Claros and hymns in Imperial Asia Minor.” Conference on “Between Magic and Religion in the Ancient and Medieval World,” Harvard University
- October 1998: “Ethnic markers in the religion of the Roman Empire: foreign cults and their personnel.” Graduate Conference on “Multiplying Ethnicities: Perspectives on Self and Other in the Greek and Roman Worlds,” Columbia University
- March 1998: “What good can be found in Pandora’s box? Electronic resources at Butler Library.” Seminar at the Electronic Resources Center, Columbia University
- May 1997: “The live burial of Gauls and Greeks at Rome.” Annual Meeting of the Association of Ancient Historians, Trinity University
- February 1995: “*Menos stalas: görög írásbeliség a korabeli feliratok tükrében.*” [Greek literacy in the mirror of contemporary inscriptions] (in Hungarian) Society for Ancient Studies, Budapest
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INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT

- 2004-2008: Study, publication and preservation of ostraka from Gigthis (Bu Grara), Tunisia in association with Roger S. Bagnall (Columbia University) and Ali Drine (Institut National du Patrimoine, Tunisia)
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

- 1998: American Academy in Rome, Summer Program in Archaeology
Archaeological survey and excavation in cooperation with the University of Pennsylvania, on the island of Jerba (Tunisia)
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COURSES TAUGHT

Boston University, Boston (2001-)
Lecture courses

Roman civilization
Roman history
Greek and Roman religion
The Roman Empire
Public virtues and private vices in the Roman Empire
The Roman Empire in Film and Fact

COURSES TAUGHT (CTD.)

Seminars (undergraduate)

Intermediate Latin
Readings in Latin prose: Cicero and Pliny
Latin: Seneca's *Moral Epistles* and *On Clemency*
Latin seminar: Tacitus
Latin seminar: Petronius' *Satyrica*
Latin seminar: The emperor Nero
Advanced Latin: Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*
Advanced Latin: Suetonius' *Lives of emperors*

Seminars (graduate)

History of the Roman Empire
Ancient selfhood: readings in Latin epistolography and biography
Tacitus

Pro-seminars (graduate)

Early Greek literacy
Latin epigraphy
The scholarly publication process
Writing conference abstracts

Columbia University, New York (2007)

Latin paleography (co-taught with Roger Bagnall and Rodney Ast)

Pázmány Péter University, Piliscsaba, Hungary (1995-1996)

Reading Homer as historical evidence
Introduction into Greek history
Asia Minor from Alexander to Constantine

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2013: Senior Fellow, Center for the Humanities, Boston University
- 2011: "Psychology for Ancient and Mediaeval Historians" workshop funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Center for the Ancient Mediterranean at Columbia University
- 2010: The Templeton Prize for Excellence in Student Advising, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University
- 2010: Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation Fellowship for research trip in Israel and Jordan.
- 2009: Grants for conference: "What the gods demand: blood sacrifice in the ancient Mediterranean" (with Jennifer Knust, BU, School of Theology) from Boston University, College of Arts and Sciences; Humanities Foundation; Departments of Classical Studies and Religion; School of Theology, Brown Lecture Series and Alumni Relations Office; Center for Philosophy and History of Science; The Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies; The William Goodwin Aurelio Endowment; The Program in Scripture and the Literary Arts; American Academy of Religion, New-England Maritimes Region.

AWARDS AND GRANTS (CTD.)

2003-2004:	Junior Fellow: Humanities Foundation, Boston University
2000-2001:	Dissertation Fellow: Whiting Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University
1998:	Fellowship to attend the Summer Program in Archaeology: The American Academy in Rome and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation
1997-2000:	President's Fellow: Columbia University
1996-1997:	Morton Smith Fellow: Columbia University
1996-1997:	Pre-doctoral Fellow: Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst University of Heidelberg (Prof. Géza Alföldy, July 1997); Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Prof. Christian Meier, June-July 1996)
1993-1994:	Tempus scholar: University of Heidelberg

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2003-present:	Associazione Internazionale di Archeologia Classica
2002-present:	Archaeological Institute of America
1999-present:	Society of Biblical Literature
1997-present:	Association Internationale d'Épigraphie Grecque et Latine
1996-present:	American Philological Association
1996-present:	Association of Ancient Historians

ADDITIONAL STUDIES

1990-1996:	Latin at ELTE, Hungary
1993-1994:	Ancient History at the University of Heidelberg, Germany
1998-2001:	Philosophy, Media Studies at The New School, New York: -Publication of an essay: <i>Histories, memories and a few videotapes in Immediacy</i> (On-line journal of the New School's Media Studies Program) http://people.bu.edu/varhelyi/immediacy.htm -Video: <i>Creating a past</i> (Shot at the American Academy in Rome, during the 1998 Summer Program in Archaeology)

LANGUAGES

Native:	Hungarian
Fluent:	English, German
Reading skills:	French, Italian, Russian
Ancient:	Greek, Latin