



CURRICULUM VITAE

ANNA SOMFAI

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EDUCATION

- 1998 **PhD**, University of Cambridge.
1992 **MPhil**, University of Cambridge.
1991 **BA**, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest.

POSITIONS

- Since 2012 **Central European University, Budapest**, Department of Medieval Studies: Visiting Professor.
2009 – 2012 **Central European University, Budapest**, Department of Medieval Studies: Senior Research Fellow (NKTH ERC HU grant, European Research Council, Starting Independent Researcher Grant 2007).
2007 – 2009 **Central European University, Budapest**, Department of Medieval Studies: Visiting Professor.
2006 – 2007 **Collegium Budapest**, Institute for Advanced Study: Research Fellow.
2005 **Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin**: Invited Visiting Scholar.
2001 – 2004 **The Warburg Institute, University of London**: Research Assistant.
1999 – 2001 **The Warburg Institute, University of London**: Frances A. Yates Research Fellow.
1998 –1999 **University of Cambridge**, Department of History and Philosophy of Science: Research Associate.

TEACHING

- Since 2003/2004 to present **Central European University, Budapest**, Department of Medieval Studies. Graduate seminars:
- Medieval Codicology: The Physical and Intellectual Production and Use of Manuscripts (8th-15th c.).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin Palaeography, Book Hand (4th-15th c.). • Late Ancient and Medieval Science (5th-15th c.). • Ancient and Medieval Cosmologies (since 2019/2020). • Reading Late Ancient and Medieval Autobiographies (since 2018/2019).
Since 2006 to present	<p>University of London, Institute of English Studies, London International Palaeography School.</p> <p>Current Summer School courses (onsite or online) and Winter and Spring online short courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive Elements of Medieval Manuscript Layouts: Designing and Using the Folio Space. • Medieval Philosophical and Scientific Manuscripts: From Monastic Copying to University Teaching. • Latin Palaeography Book Hands.
2023/2024	<p>University of London, The Warburg Institute.</p> <p>Online short course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textual Criticism and the Transmission of Texts.
2020	<p>Central European University, Budapest, Online Summer School in Latin and Greek Codicology and Palaeography, 6-10 July 2020.</p>
2011 and 2013	<p>Central European University, Budapest, Summer School in Medieval Codicology and Palaeography (Latin and Greek), 18-23 July 2011 and 15-20 July 2013.</p>
2008/2009	<p>Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME), Department of Cognitive Science. Course: Introduction to cognitive science.</p>
1994/1995-1996/1997	<p>University of Cambridge, Faculty of History. Courses: Medieval Latin palaeography (book hand and document hand).</p>
1993/1994	<p>Central European University, Budapest, Department of Medieval Studies. Course: Medieval Latin semantics.</p>
1992/1993-1993/1994	<p>Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Department of Medieval European History. Courses in medieval intellectual history.</p>

TEACHING COMPETENCE

My teaching in manuscript studies covers codicology, the material and intellectual aspects of book production, textual criticism, ancient and medieval Latin palaeography, script history, book history, and digital manuscript studies. My research in philosophical and cosmological questions translate into teaching seminars based on the close reading of texts within ancient and medieval philosophy, cosmology, and science. Using my background in classics and literary studies, my further teaching competence relates to teaching seminars on literary texts, currently within the genre of autobiography. My broad teaching competence includes Latin text reading, Latin language, ancient and medieval intellectual history, and medieval history.

RESEARCH

My current research focuses on the cognitive aspects of the medieval manuscript page layout, visual thinking, use of diagrams and transmission of concepts in manuscripts of philosophical and scientific texts, late ancient and medieval reading, writing, and interpreting practices, textual transmission and genesis of marginalia; Plato's *Timaeus*, Calcidius' *Commentary* and the cosmological concepts of infinity.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2022	'Online Manuscript Studies in the Digital Age' Project, OSUN Small Grant.
2009 – 2013	Senior Research Fellowship, Department of Medieval Studies, Central European University, Budapest (NKTH ERC HU grant, European Research Council, Starting Independent Researcher Grant 2007).
2006/2007	Fellowship, Collegium Budapest, Institute for Advanced Study.
2005	British Academy Neil Ker Memorial Fund Grant. Invited Visiting Scholarship, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin.
1999 – 2001	Frances A. Yates Research Fellowship, The Warburg Institute, University of London.
1998	Saxl Fellowship, The Warburg Institute, University of London.
1993 – 1997	Grant of the European Science Foundation. Jebb Fund Grant. Grant of the British Federation of Women Graduates. Le Bas Research Studentship. Scholarship of the Cambridge Overseas Trust. ORS Award. Annual bursary of the Royal Historical Society.
1993	Award of the Fédération Internationale des Instituts d'Études Médiéval.
1992/1993	Research Fellowship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (TMB).
1991/1992	Scholarship of the Cambridge Overseas Trust.

ORGANISING ACTIVITIES

2020	Online Summer School in Latin and Greek Codicology and Palaeography, Summer University of the Central European University, Budapest.
2013, 2011	Summer Schools in Medieval Codicology and Palaeography (Latin and Greek), Summer University of the Central European University, Budapest.

- 2012 'Medieval manuscripts: visual layout and cognitive content in cross-cultural perspective' two-day international workshop at the Central European University, Budapest, 30-31 March 2012.
- 2010-2016 Specialisation in Medieval Manuscript Studies, Department of Medieval Studies, Central European University, Budapest.
- 2000/2001 Postgraduate Seminar, The Warburg Institute, University of London.
- 2000 Co-organiser with Prof. Charles Burnett of the '*Philosophia: Shifts in the Content and Method Between the Eleventh and Thirteenth Centuries*' workshop, The Warburg Institute, University of London.

ACADEMIC FUNCTIONS AND SERVICE TO THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

- 2021 Member of CEU Task Force of Online Activities.
- 2011 Invited peer reviewer for the European Research Council FP7 'Ideas' Specific Program.
- 2007 – 2011 Consultant for the *Liber Floridus* Project, University of Ghent.
- 2005 – 2006 Consultant for the Cambridge Illuminated Manuscript Project, University of Cambridge (for medieval philosophical and scientific manuscripts).
- 1993 Secretary of the Association of Hungarian Medievalists.

MEMBERSHIP

London Palaeography Teachers' Group.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Fluent English and French, reading knowledge of Latin, Greek, German, Italian.

CITIZENSHIP

British and Hungarian.

PUBLICATIONS IN ENGLISH

Book chapters

- 'iPros and iCons: Minds Meeting Online' in *Online Communication and the New World of Scholarship*. Papers Prepared for a Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS) online workshop held on 9 October 2020, Budapest 2020, pp. 37-39.
- 'Visual Thinking: A Cognitive Reading of Codex Layouts' in *Visual Learning – A Year After*, ed. András Benedek and Kristóf Nyíri, Budapest 2019, pp. 19-27.

- ‘Déjà Vu? Visual Thinking in Medieval Manuscripts and Imaging the Unimaginable’ in *Learning and Technology in Historical Perspective*, ed. András Benedek and Kristóf Nyíri, Budapest 2019, pp. 79-90.
- ‘The *Liber Floridus* in the Encyclopaedic Tradition: Philosophical and Scientific Diagrams in Context’ in *Liber Floridus 1121. The World in a Book*, ed. Karen De Coene, Martine De Reu, Philippe De Maeyer, Ghent 2011, pp. 75-89. Two-volume bilingual (English and Dutch) edition.

Articles

- ‘Calcidius’ and ‘Isidore of Seville’ entries in *Encyclopedia of Ancient Natural Scientists: The Greek Tradition and Its Many Heirs*, ed. Paul T. Keyser & Georgia L. Irby-Massie, Routledge 2008, pp. 203-204, 445.
- ‘The Brussels gloss: a tenth-century reading of the geometrical and arithmetical passages of Calcidius’s *Commentary* (ca. 400 AD) to Plato’s *Timaeus*’ in *Scientia in margine. Études sur les marginalia dans les manuscrits scientifiques du moyen âge à la renaissance*, ed. D. Jacquart, Ch. Burnett, Geneva 2005, pp. 139-169.
- ‘Calcidius’s *Commentary* to Plato’s *Timaeus* and its place in the commentary tradition: the concept of *analogia* in text and diagrams’ in *Philosophy, Science and Exegesis in Greek, Arabic and Latin Commentaries*, ed. P. Adamson, H. Baltussen, M. W. F. Stone, in 2 vols, (*Supplement to the Bulletin of the Institute Of Classical Studies* 83), 1-2, London 2004, vol. 1, pp. 203-220.
- ‘The nature of daemons: a theological application of the concept of geometrical proportion in Calcidius’ *Commentary* to Plato’s *Timaeus* (40d-41a)’ in *Ancient approaches to the ‘Timaeus’* (*Supplement to the Bulletin of the Institute Of Classical Studies* 78), ed. R. Sharples, A. Sheppard, London 2003, pp. 129-142.
- ‘The Eleventh-Century Shift in the Reception of Plato’s *Timaeus* and Calcidius’s *Commentary*’ in the *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes* 65 (2002), pp. 1-21
- ‘Hildegard of Bingen: the vision of power and the power of vision’ in *Issues in Medieval Philosophy: essays in honor of Richard C. Dales*, ed. N. van Deusen, Ottawa 2001, pp. 97-120.
- Book review of Vivien Law, *Wisdom, Authority and Grammar in the Seventh century. Decoding Virgilius Maro Grammaticus*, Cambridge 1995 in *Early Medieval Europe* 5/1 (1996) pp. 100-101.

MAGYAR REFERÁLT:

Könyv

John of Salisbury, *Policraticus. Az udvaroncok hiábavalóságairól és a filozófusok nyomdokairól*, válogatta, fordította, a bevezető tanulmányt és a jegyzeteket írta: Somfai Anna. Budapest 1999

Könyv fejezet

“Szöveglátás és szövegértés: eltűnt lábjegyzetek nyomában” in *Hogyan hivatkozzunk*, szerk. Benedek András és Nyíri Kristóf, Budapest 2019, pp. 13-16

Cikk

“Hildegard von Bingen: a vízió hatalma és a hatalom víziója” in *A középkor szeretete. Történeti tanulmányok Sz. Jónás Ilona tiszteletére*, szerk. Klaniczay G., Nagy B., Budapest 1999, pp. 93-103

“A szervanalógia a középkori nyugat-európai gondolkodásban” in “*Jelbeszéd az életünk*”, szerk. Kapitány Ágnes, Kapitány Gábor, Budapest 1995, pp. 372-383

“‘Az epikureista’. John of Salisbury *Policraticus*ának etikai interpretációja” in *Mediaevalia*, szerk. Molnár P., Szakács B. Zs., Budapest 1992, pp. 32-52

Magyar ismeretterjesztő:

Cikk

“A 12. századi reneszánsz” *Rubicon*, 1993/3, pp. 27-29

MTMT oldal: <https://m2.mtmt.hu/gui2/?type=authors&mode=browse&sel=10038524>

PUBLIKÁLATLAN DISSZERTÁCIÓK

PhD dissertation: *The Transmission and Reception of Plato's Timaeus and Calcidius's Commentary during the Carolingian Renaissance*, Cambridge 1998.

MPhil dissertation: *The Organic Analogy: A Comparison of its Secular with its Ecclesiastical Use in Twelfth-Century Europe, with Special Reference to John of Salisbury*, Cambridge 1992.

BA dissertation: *De nugis curialium et vestigiis philosophorum: The Balance of Historical Reality and Classical Tradition in the Political Theory of John of Salisbury*, Budapest 1991 (in Hungarian).

KONFERENCIA ELŐADÁSOK

- 2023 ‘Medieval Manuscripts: Physical and Intellectual Networks Entwined’. Invited keynote speaker, ‘International Congress on the Study of the Middle Ages’, Leeds, 3-6 July 2023.
- 2020 ‘iPros and iCons: Minds Meeting Online’ invited speaker at the ‘Online Communication and the New World of Scholarship’ Hungarian Academy of Sciences online workshop, 9 October 2020.
- 2019 ‘Visual Thinking: A Cognitive Reading of Codex Layouts’ at the ‘Visual Learning – A Year After’ Conference, Budapest, 23 May 2019.

- 2019 'Ancient Texts and their Medieval Manuscripts: From Main Text to the Margin and Back' Central European University, Budapest, 6 February 2019.
- 2018 'Déjà Vu? Visual Thinking in Medieval Manuscripts and Imaging the Unimaginable' at the 'Communication – Culture – Consciousness' Conference, Budapest, 28 April 2018.
- 2015 'Visual Thinking and Diagrammatic Reasoning in Early Medieval Philosophical and Scientific Manuscripts', invited speaker at the 'Graphic Compositions and Monogrammatic Initials in the Early Medieval Illuminated Book: Origins and Functions', international conference, Rome, 7-9 May 2015.
- 2014 'Visual thinking and diagrammatic reasoning in the transmission of knowledge in medieval philosophical, scientific and encyclopaedic manuscripts', 'Facing and Forming the Tradition. Illustrated Texts on the Way from Late Antiquity until the Romanesque Times', Interdisciplinary Symposium, Budapest, 18-20 March 2014.
- 2012 'Visual thinking: medieval diagrams and manuscript layouts in cognitive context' at the 'Medieval manuscripts: visual layout and cognitive content in cross-cultural perspective' two-day international workshop, CEU, 30-31 March 2012.
- 2011 'Page layout in science and philosophy', one-day workshop of the Summer School in Medieval Codicology and Palaeography, CEU Summer University, 21 July 2011.
- 2010 'Visual thinking and the creation and transmission of knowledge in medieval philosophical and scientific manuscripts', Visual Learning Conference, Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME), Budapest, 1 December 2010.
- 2009 'Visual thinking in medieval scientific and philosophical manuscripts', International Conference for the History of Science and Technology, 26 July-3 August 2009, Budapest.
- 2009 'Visual mental representation in medieval philosophical and scientific manuscripts', 'Perception and Mental Representation' Conference, Pázmány Péter Katolikus Egyetem, Piliscsaba, 24 April 2009.
- 2008 'Cognitive science: an introduction', Department of Cognitive Science, Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME), Budapest, 2 December 2008.
- 2008 'Visual thinking: cognitive processes behind the parchment folio', Institute of Psychology, Budapest, 19 November 2008.
- 2008 '*Verba volant scripta manent*: the changing character of manuscripts in the diverse networks of learning (Latin West, 1000-1200)' at the 'Charismatic Authority, Spiritual Friendship. Comparative approaches to networks of learning, Byzantine East and Latin West, c. 1000-1200' workshop, Central European University, Budapest, 30-31 May 2008.
- 2007 'Plato's *Timaeus* and the Latin tradition of diagrammatic reasoning', Hellenic Colloquia, Centre for Hellenic Traditions, Central European University, Budapest, 28 February 2007.
- 2007 'Creative copying or scientific imaging? Visual thinking and the case study of medieval manuscripts', Collegium Budapest, Institute for Advanced Study, Budapest, 29 March 2007.
- 2007 'Medieval manuscripts and the Western tradition of visualising concepts', Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, 3 April 2007.
- 2005 'Medieval Philosophical and Scientific Manuscripts: Physical Evidence and Intellectual Context', half-day seminar given for the staff of the Illuminated

- Manuscript Project at the Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge, 27 May 2005.
- 2004 'Choice and choices in Calcidius's *Commentary* on Plato's *Timaeus*', invited speaker at the 'Calcidius et le Timée: état de la question' colloquium at the CNRS Paris, 13-14 May 2004.
- 2002 'Calcidius's Latin *Commentary* to Plato's *Timaeus* and its place in the commentary tradition' invited speaker at the 'Philosophy, Science and Exegesis in the Greek, Arabic and Latin Commentary Tradition. International Conference Studying the Origins, Methods and Continuity of the Commentary from the Derveni papyrus to Averroes and beyond in honour of R. R. K. Sorabji', London, 27-29 June 2002.
- 2001 'Early medieval readings (9th to 12th centuries) of Plato's *Timaeus* and Calcidius's *Commentary* (ca. AD 400)' invited speaker at the 'Plato's *Timaeus* and the commentary tradition' seminar series at the Institute of Classical Studies, University of London, 14 May 2001.
- 2001 'The Brussels gloss: a tenth-century mathematical reading of Calcidius's *Commentary* (ca. 400 AD) to Plato's *Timaeus*' at the 'Writing in the margin: a context for the development of scientific ideas from late antiquity to the Renaissance', colloquium at the Warburg Institute, University of London, 20-21 April 2001.
- 2001 'Calcidius's *Commentary* to Plato's *Timaeus* (ca. AD 400)' invited speaker at the 'Plato's *Timaeus* and the commentary tradition' seminar series at the Institute of Classical Studies, University of London, 19 February 2001.
- 2000 'Changing methods of reading and glossing Calcidius's *Commentary* during the early eleventh to twelfth centuries' invited speaker at the '*Philosophia*: Shifts in the Content and Method Between the Eleventh and Thirteenth Centuries' workshop held at the Warburg Institute, University of London (organised by Prof. Charles Burnett and myself), 1 December 2000.
- 2000 'Reading Plato's *Timaeus* and Calcidius's *Commentary*: Visual and Verbal Annotations in Early Medieval Manuscripts', Public lecture at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, University of Toronto, 3 March 2000.
- 1998 'Reading Plato's *Timaeus* and Calcidius's *Commentary* in the eleventh century' at the Third International Medieval Latin Congress, 'The Eleventh Century', Cambridge 9-12 September 1998.
- 1996 'The Early Medieval Transmission and Reception of Plato's *Timaeus*' invited speaker at the meeting of 'The Transformation of the Roman World' project of the European Science Foundation, Rome 12-16 September 1996.
- 1995 'Reading Plato's *Timaeus* in the ninth century' at the 'Workshop on Carolingian Culture', organised by the Faculty of History and the Faculty of Music, Cambridge, 25 May 1995.
- 1993 'The Organic Analogy in Medieval Western Europe' at the 'Conference on Symbolism' held at the Institute of Sociology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, 28 April 1993.
- 1993 '*Furor Teutonicus* and *Flagellum Dei*: Ethnic Stereotypes and Politics in the Middle of the Twelfth Century' at the 'Workshop and Conference on Ethnicity Concepts and Conflicts in Medieval Central Europe' organised by the Department of Medieval Studies, Central European University, Budapest, 23-27 April 1993.