



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.).

	Latin Palaeography, Book Hand (4 th -15 th c.).
	Late Ancient and Medieval Science (5 th -15 th c.).
	Ancient and Medieval Cosmologies (since 2019/2020).
	Reading Late Ancient and Medieval Autobiographies (since 2018/2019).
Since 2006 to present	University of London , London International Palaeography Summer School at the Centre for Manuscript and Print Studies. Current courses: Cognitive Elements of Medieval Manuscript Layouts: Designing and Using the Folio Space (one-day course). Medieval Philosophical and Scientific Manuscripts: From Monastic Copying to University Teaching (one-day course).
2021	University of London , London International Palaeography Summer School at the Centre for Manuscript and Print Studies. Spring Course: Medieval Philosophical and Scientific Manuscripts: From Monastic Copying to University Teaching (one-day course).
2020	Central European University, Budapest , Online Summer School in Latin and Greek Codicology and Palaeography, 6-10 July 2020.
2011 and 2013	Central European University, Budapest , Summer School in Medieval Codicology and Palaeography (Latin and Greek), 18-23 July 2011 and 15-20 July 2013.
2008/2009	Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME) , Department of Cognitive Science. Course: Introduction to cognitive science.
1994/1995-1996/1997	University of Cambridge , Faculty of History. Courses: Medieval Latin palaeography (book hand and document hand).
1993/1994	Central European University, Budapest , Department of Medieval Studies. Course: Medieval Latin semantics.
1992/1993-1993/1994	Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest , Department of Medieval European History. Courses in medieval intellectual history.

TEACHING COMPETENCE

Ancient and medieval philosophy, cosmology, science. Codicology. Textual criticism. Ancient and medieval Latin palaeography. Latin text reading. Latin language. Medieval intellectual history. Medieval visual culture. Medieval history. Book history.

RESEARCH

My current research focuses on the cognitive aspects of the medieval manuscript page layout, visual thinking, the use of diagrams in manuscripts of philosophical and scientific texts, Plato's *Timaeus*, and the cosmological concepts of infinity.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 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

- 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 (<http://palaeography.org.uk/teachers/>).

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 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.

PUBLICATIONS IN HUNGARIAN

Book

- John of Salisbury, *Policraticus. Az udvaroncok hiábavalóságairól és a filozófusok nyomdokairól*, Hungarian transl. (of a 250-page selection of John of Salisbury’s *Policraticus*) with introductory study and notes, Budapest 1999.

Book chapter

- ‘Szöveglátás és szövegértés: eltűnt lábjegyzetek nyomában’ in *Hogyan hivatkozzunk*, ed. András Benedek and Kristóf Nyíri, Budapest 2019, pp. 13-16.

Articles

- ‘Hildegard von Bingen: a vízió hatalma és a hatalom víziója’ in *A középkor szeretete*, ed. G. Klaniczay, B. Nagy, Budapest 1999, pp. 93-103.
- ‘A szervanalógia a középkori nyugat-európai gondolkodásban’ (‘The Organic Analogy in the Medieval Western-European Thought’) in *Jelbeszéd az életünk*, ed. Á. Kapitány, G. Kapitány, Budapest 1995, pp. 372-383.
- ‘A 12. századi reneszánsz’ (‘The Twelfth-Century Renaissance’) in *Rubicon*, 1993/3, pp. 27-29.

- “Az epikureista”. John of Salisbury *Policraticus*ának etikai interpretációja’ (“The Epicurean”: An Ethical Interpretation of John of Salisbury’s *Policraticus*’) in *Mediaevalia*, Budapest 1992, pp. 32-52.

UNPUBLISHED DISSERTATIONS

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).

CONFERENCE TALKS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

- 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’, 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 scirpta 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*', 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' 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)' 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)' 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' 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*' 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.