

## **Curriculum vitae: László Kontler**

### ***Current position***

Professor, Department of History  
Central European University (CEU), Budapest, Nádor u. 9. H-1051 Hungary  
Tel: +36 1 3273000/2514, fax: +36 1 3273191, mobile: +36 30 6196265, e-mail: [kontlerl@ceu.edu](mailto:kontlerl@ceu.edu)  
web: <https://history.ceu.edu/people/laszlo-kontler>

### ***University studies***

Eötvös Lóránd University (Budapest), 1978-1983. MA in history and English studies

### ***Degrees***

1987: *doctor universitatis*, Eötvös Lóránd University (Budapest)  
1996: Candidate of Historical Science (CSc/PhD), Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Budapest)  
2006: Dr. Habil. (habilitation), Eötvös Lóránd 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 Lóránd 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; head of department 1999-2005, 2006-2008; pro-rector for social sciences, humanities and Hungarian Affairs, 2011-2016)

### ***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: Europe 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: Postdoctoral 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 (6 weeks, 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); Fernand Braudel Senior Fellowship, European University Institute, Florence (3 months)  
2018 (forthcoming): Leverhulme Visiting Professorship, Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge (8 months)

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

Continuous university teaching since 1985. Areas of focus: historiography; Hungarian and Central European history in comparative perspective; early-modern European history, especially history of ideas, political thought, political culture and institutions; the production and exchange of scientific knowledge; inter-cultural communication in historical perspective

Primary supervision of c. 50 MA and 9 PhD dissertations (3 more PhD dissertations in progress); 7 out of 9 doctoral graduates hold academic positions in Hungary, Croatia, Romania and Russia

### ***Research***

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

### ***Administrative experience***

Head, Department of History, Central European University (1999-2005, 2006-2008)

Member, University Senate and several Senate standing committees, Central European University (2003-2011)

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 (2014-2016: supervising day-to-day academic, faculty and student affairs in the relevant departments)

### ***Further professional activity***

Editorial committee member: *European Review of History/Revue européenne d'histoire* (since 1997); *Europäische Geschichte Online* (Institut für europäische Geschichte, Mainz, 2009-2015)

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); *Contexts: The Journal of Educational Media, Memory and Society* (since 2007); *Hungarian Historical Review* (since 2012)

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 since 2014; president since 2016); Member of the Council of Scholars, European Doctoral Program (SUM, Florence; EHES, Paris; EPHE, Paris; Humboldt University, Berlin; CEU, Budapest - 2009-2014)

International conferences: organization of c. 10, participation in c. 50

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)

***Main publications***\_(in a full list of c. 100 items)

### Books

*Az állam rejtelvei. 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)

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

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

### Edited volumes

*Central Europe, Ten Years After*, special issue of *European Review of History*, 6/1 (1999)

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

- (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)
- (with Antonella Romano, Silvia Sebastiani and Zsuzsanna Borbála Török), *Negotiating Knowledge in Early Modern Empires: A Decentered View* (Basingstoke: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2014)
- (with Mark Somos), *Trust and Happiness in the History of European Political Thought* (Leiden: Brill, 2017)

Text editions

(several volumes of annotated editions, with scholarly introductions, of Hungarian translations of texts by John Locke, Edmund Burke, David Hume, and classics of conservative thought)

Selected refereed articles in journals; book chapters

- “William Robertson’s history of manners in German 1770-1795”, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 1997/1, 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* LXXX (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 Kopecek (eds.), *Discourses of Collective Identity in Central and Southeast Europe (1770-1945). I: Late Enlightenment – Emergence of the Modern National Idea* (Budapest: 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.
- “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), 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.