RESUMÉ

Name: Zoltán Szombathy
Place and date of birth: Bácsalmás, 19th July 1972
Education:

1996-2001: Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities, Dept. of Semitic Philology and Arabic. Doctoral studies in Arabic. Conferral of the PhD degree: 2001.

1998-1999: Balliol College, University of Oxford. One-year postgraduate research.

1993-1994: Institut Bourguiba des Langues Vivantes, Tunis. Language training course in Arabic.

1989-1996: Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities, Dept. of Semitic Philology and Arabic. BA- and MA-level studies in Arabic (with additional courses taken in English and Ethnography). Degree obtained in 1996.

Higher academic degrees: 2022: Doctor of Science (DSc); 2011: Habilitation; 2001: PhD
Language skills: reading, writing and speaking: English, Arabic, Swahili, Indonesian, Spanish; reading only: French, German, Russian, Romanian, Dutch

Participation in and presentations at conferences:

7th Annual International Workshop for Young Scholars in Middle Eastern, Arabic and Islamic Studies, Acre, February 2026.

Dynamics between Power and Society in Islam: 31st Congress of the Union Européenne des Arabisants et Islamisants, Granada, September 2024.

Texts, Interpretations, and Entanglements in the Study of Islamicate History, Yerevan State University, August 2024.

The Current Situation of Christians in the Middle East [in Hungarian], Piliscsaba (Hungary), Avicenna Institute of Middle Eastern Studies, November 2023.

Communauté, communautarisme et bien commun, Piliscsaba (Hungary), Avicenna Institute of Middle Eastern Studies and CISA (Christianismes, Islams et Sociétés Arabes, Toulouse), September 2022.

Forms and Functions of Legal Discourse Intertextuality in Works of Jewish and Islamic Law and Literature, Münster, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, June 2022.

The city's finest: exploring notions of "urbanity" between East and West, from Antiquity to the Middle Ages, Geneva, Université de Genève – Fondation Hardt, June 2022.

Commemorating Ignaz Goldziher: Among the Foremost Scholars of Islam, Jerusalem, Israel Academy of the Sciences and Humanities, April 2022.

Reward and Punishment in Muslim Societies, Budapest, Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Avicenna Institute of Middle Eastern Studies, November 2021.

The Religious Factor in Shaping Politics III: Constitution, Law, State, Religion [in Hungarian], Budapest, National University of Public Service, May 2021.

Nation, State, Tribe, Ummah: The Diverse Forms of Communal Organisation in Europe and Beyond [in Hungarian]. Budapest, National University of Public Service, June 2019.

29th Conference of the Union Européenne des Arabisants et Islamisants, Münster, September 2018.

Reformationes: Colloquium of the Religious Studies Programme at Eötvös Loránd University [in Hungarian], Budapest, May 2018.

Purum et Immundum: Colloquium of the Religious Studies Programme at Eötvös Loránd University [in Hungarian], Budapest, October 2016.

28th Congress of the Union Européenne des Arabisants et Islamisants, Palermo, September 2016.

Workshop on Preparing the Edition of the Catalogue of the Library of Sultan Bayezit II [in Hungarian]. Avicenna Institute of Middle Eastern Studies, Piliscsaba, August 2016.

From Jāhiliyya to Islam (13th International Colloquium). The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Jerusalem, July 2016.

Curse Words: Obscenity and Magic in Medieval Arabic and Classical Literature, University of Exeter, May 2016.

Migration [in Hungarian]. Avicenna Institute of Middle Eastern Studies, Piliscsaba, December 2015.

Freedom of Speech and Blasphemy: Red Lines in the Different Cultures [in Hungarian], Institut Françaism Budapest, October 2015.

Workshop of the Researchers of the Avicenna Institute of Middle Eastern Studies [in Hungarian], Mátraháza (Hungary), August 2015.

Plagiarism: Juridical and Other Approaches [in Hungarian], Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, May 2015.

27th Congress of the Union Européenne des Arabisants et Islamisants, Helsinki, June 2014.

Strategies of Preservation and Guardianship of the Authorial Composition in Medieval Arabic and Persian Literature. International Research Workshop of the Israel Science Foundation. The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, March 2014.

Religio(nes): Colloquium of the Religious Studies Programme at Eötvös Loránd University. [in Hungarian], Budapest, November 2013.

The Arab East and the Bedouin Component: Features and Tensions from Late Antiquity to the Present. International Conference, Cairo, November–December 2012.

Convivium: Colloquium of the Religious Studies Programme at Eötvös Loránd University [in Hungarian], Budapest, November 2012.

Concepts of Authorship in Premodern Arabic Texts. International Workshop, Bamberg, May 2012.

Takfīr: A Diachronic Perspective. International Conference, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid, October 2011.

The Second LIVIT Conference: Legitimate and Illegitimate Violence in Early Islamic Thought, Exeter, September 2011.

Conversio: Colloquium of the Religious Studies Programme at Eötvös Loránd University [in Hungarian], Budapest, September 2011.

Sándor Kégl Memorial Conference [in Hungarian]. Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, December 2010.

International Seminar on Religious and Political Uses of Genealogies in Islamic Societies, Alcalá de Henares, November 2008.

International Seminar on Problems of Political Terminology in Arabic, Mátraháza (Hungary), September 2008.

American Academy of Religion / Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2007.

Colloque International sur les manuscrits africains comme sources historiques, Université Abdou Moumouni, Niamey, January–February 2007.

Conference of Hungarian Africanists, Budapest, December 2006.

23rd Congress of the Union Européenne des Arabisants et Islamisants (Centre and Periphery Within the Borders of Islam), Sassari, September-October 2006.

The Public Display of Violence in Islamic Societies (Seventh-Eighteenth Centuries), Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid, June 2006.

22nd Congress of the Union Européenne des Arabisants et Islamisants, Cracow, September–October 2004.

Moderation and Extremism in Islam: Religion and Society in the Contemporary Muslim World [in Hungarian], Piliscsaba (Hungary), February 2003.

21st Congress of the Union Européenne des Arabisants et Islamisants, Palermo, September 2002.

Colloquium on Paradise and Hell in Islam, Keszthely (Hungary), July 2002.

Identidades Marginales en la Cultura Islámica Medieval, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid, October 2001.

1st National Colloquium of Young Orientalists [in Hungarian], Budapest, December 2000.

20th Congress of the Union Européenne des Arabisants et Islamisants, Budapest, September 2000.

Ignaz Goldziher Memorial Conference, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, June 2000.

Africa, Islam and Development, Annual International Conference, Edinburgh, May 1999.

35th International Congress of Asian and North African Studies (ICANAS), Budapest, July 1997.

Scholarships:

Serial number	**Research project**					**Role of applicant (principal investigator, participant, etc.)**
	Source of funding (with registration no. if applicable)	**Title**	**Year**		**Amount of grant (Ft/EUR)**	
			Beginning	**End**		
1.	Soros Foundation/Foreign and Commonwealth Office UK	Research Scholarship (Oxford)	**1998**	**1999**		principal investigator
2.	Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA)	Junior Grants	**1999**	**2001**		principal investigator
3.	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	Postdoctoral Fellowship (Madrid)	**2001**	**2001**	15000 USD	principal investigator
4.	Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA)	Postdoctoral Grants	**2001**	**2004**		principal investigator

5.	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	Postdoctoral Fellowship (Edinburgh)	**2004**	**2004**	15000 USD	principal investigator
6.	Hungarian Academy of Sciences	Bolyai Scholarship	**2005**	**2007**		principal investigator
7.	Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton)	Research fellowship	**2008**	**2009**	65000 USD	principal investigator
8.	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	Research Fellowship (Madrid)	**2011**	**2011**	15000 USD	principal investigator
9.	Israel Institute for Advanced Studies	Research fellowship	**2025**	**2026**	36000 USD	research group member

Previous academic positions and research projects:

Jerusalem: member of the research group "Nonverbal Communication and Performance in Medieval and Early Modern Islamic Societies" [2025–2026].

Banggai District, Indonesia: anthropological fieldwork [2017, 2018].

Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton: one-year membership [2008-2009].

Eötvös Loránd University, Department of Semitic Philology and Arabic: since 2007 [currently head of department, and full professor since 1st September 2023].

Avicenna Institute of Middle Eastern Studies: since 2008 [researcher, supervisor of the Arabic Studies programme]

Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Department of Arabic: assistant lecturer, and later senior lecturer [2002-2007].

Eötvös Loránd University, Department of Cultural Anthropology: external lecturer [various courses on the anthropology of the Islamic world, 2002-2008].

Eötvös Loránd University, African Studies Programme: external lecturer [various courses on Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa, 2001-2008].

Eötvös Loránd University, Department of Semitic Philology and Arabic: research fellow [2001-2004].

Participation in evaluation committees (PhD and Habilitation procedures):

a) as reviewer:

Orsolya Severino-Varsányi, "Layers of 9th-Century Arab Christian Apologetics: Studies in Aspects Amenable to a Terminology-Based Approach" [Habilitation thesis, in Hungarian], 2025, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Humanities

Máté Lakatos, "Believing and Acting: The Relationship of Belief and Action and Its Background in Religious Doctrine in Sayyid Quṭb's Works, as Exemplified by an Analysis of the Term Jāhiliyya" [in Hungarian], 2022, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Humanities

András Barati, "Royal Decrees of the Nadirids, Durranis and Zands from the Astān-i Quds-i Razawi of Mashhad", 2021, Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities

Sona Grigoryan, "The Poetics of Ambivalence: al-Maʿarrī's Luzūmiyyāt and the Question of Freethinking", 2018, CEU

Edina Földessy, "Ritual and Language: The Marriage Customs of a Community on Djerba" [in Hungarian], 2016, Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities

Marianna Kármán, "Tradition – Rituals – Memory: The Reflection of Yoruba Folk Traditions in the Oeuvre of Wole Soyinka, or: A Chance Meeting of Ogun, Egungun and Saara on the Writing Table" [in Hungarian], 2012, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Humanities

Omayra Herrero Soto, "El perdón del gobernante (al-Andalus, ss. II/VIII-V/XI): Una aproximación a los valores político-religiosos de una sociedad islámica pre-moderna", 2012, Universidad de Salamanca

Ibolya Tomory, "The Specificities of African Educational Systems from a Pedagogical-Anthropological Perspective: Applied Cultural Anthropology and Lessons Drawn from Fieldwork in East Africa" [in Hungarian], 2011, Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Education and Psychology

Attila Horváth, "The Wangwana: History of a Mercantile Group" [in Hungarian], 2009, Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities

Zsuzsanna Kutasi, "The Equine Nomenclature in Mediaeval Arabic Literature" [in Hungarian], 2008, Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities

Nouar Fath Allah, "al-Aqalliyyāt al-muslima fī Urūbā wa-mushkilat al-islām al-mughtarib", 2003, Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities

b) as committee member:

Orsolya Sarac, "Dîvâne Meşreb. Şâh Meşreb Menâkıbnâmesi'nin Tahkik ve Tahlili", 2025, Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities (acting as chairman of the defence committee)

Levente Teklovics, "Classical juristic opinions in service of contemporary family law reform in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan", 2025, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Humanities

Márton Székely, "The Text of the Dīvān of Manūchihrī in Historical Context: A Case Study in the Transmission of the Manuscripts of Early Classical Persian Poetry", 2025, Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities (acting as chairman of the defence committee)

Gyöngyi Oroszi, "The Interpretation of Literary Works in Pre-Modern Arabic Literature: Theoretical Framework for Interpretation and Critical Analyses of the Short Narratives of The Thousand and One Nights", 2023, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Humanities (acting as chairman of the defence committee)

András Mércz, "The Syriac Correspondence of Andreas Masius and Moses of Mardin", 2022, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Humanities

László Pálfi, "The History of German-Namibian Relations" [in Hungarian], 2022, Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities

István Lánczky, "Individuation of Material Substances in Avicenna's Philosophy", 2021, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Humanities

Melinda Erdélyi, "Turkish Nation, Theatre and Identity: The Beginnings of Turkish Drama and Vernacular Theatre in the Light of Ahmet Vefik Pasha's Adaptations of Molière" [in Hungarian], 2021, Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities

András Czentnár, "The Eastern Turkic Grammar and Conversation Guide of ʿAsur-beg" [in Hungarian], 2018, Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities

Habilitation procedure of János Besenyő, 2017, Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities

Habilitation procedure of Iván Szántó, 2014, Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities

Orsolya Varsányi, "Ninth-Century Arabic Christian Apologetics and Polemics: A Terminological Analysis of ʿAmmār al-Basrī's Kitāb al-masā'il wal-ajwiba" [in Hungarian], 2013, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Humanities

Munif Abdul-Fattah, "A Lexicographical Analysis of the Quran in the Light of Ibn Qutaybah's Exegesis" [in Hungarian], 2012, Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities

Károly Dobos, "Golden Apple in a Silver Casing: An Analysis of the Arabic Terminology of Maimonides, with Particular Emphasis on Its Continuity in the Writings of Abraham Maimonides" [in Hungarian], 2007, Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities

Reviewing and Evaluating Activities:

a) For academic journals and publishing houses:
Brill Academic Publishers, Journal of Arabic Literature, Acta Orientalia, Keletkutatás, Argumentum (Debrecen), Qudus International Journal of Islamic Studies (Kudus, Indonesia), Intersections: East European Journal of Society and Politics (Budapest), Kultúra és Közösség (Budapest)

b) as member of evaluating committees:
European Research Council (2021, 2023, 2025; Starting Grants, Social Sciences and Humanities SH-6 panel), OTKA (NKFIH, Hungary), Bolyai Scholarship Evaluating Panel (Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

8th March 2026