

## 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:* “The politics of the personal: negotiating 'family values' in imperial Greece and Asia Minor.”
- “New ostraca from Gigthi,” with R. Ast and R.S. Bagnall.
- “God(s) and (wo)men,” *Blackwell Companion to the Archaeology of Religion in the Ancient World*. Edited by J. Rüpke.
- Forthcoming:* “Health-care and self-care: religious aspects of health and illness among the imperial elite,” in: *Religious Dimensions of the Self in the Second Century CE*. Edited by J. Rüpke and G. Woolf.
- “Les ostraca de l’Antiquité tardive de l’Afrique du Nord: contextes d’interprétation,” *Africa*

## ARTICLES (CTD.)

- 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: “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.
- 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 stalias: görög írásbeliség a korabeli feliratok tükrében*” [Greek literacy in the mirror of contemporary inscriptions], *Antik Tanulmányok* 40, 1-9. (in Hungarian)

## ARTICLES (CTD.)

- 1993: "A görögök és a korai írásbeliség" [The Greeks and early literacy], *Sic itur ad astra*, 17-40. (in Hungarian)

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## OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND BOOK REVIEWS

- In press:* "Priests and priestesses, Roman," "Flamines," "Quindecimviri sacris faciundis," "Septemviri epulones," "Sodales," Entries, Wiley-Blackwell's Encyclopedia of Ancient History
- 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.
- 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.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND BOOK REVIEWS (CTD.)

- 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*
- 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 Dept. of Classical Studies)
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## PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS

- September 2012: "The meetings of priests: their religious, social and cultural significance," Convention entitled "Sacerdos" by the Fondazione Niccolo Canussio, Castello Canussio, Italy (invited)
- 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

## PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS (CTD.)

- 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
- 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

## PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS (CTD.)

- 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." 7<sup>th</sup> 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
- September 2002: "*Salus senatorum: pro salute* inscriptions in the Roman Empire." (poster) 12<sup>th</sup> 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

## PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS (CTD.)

- 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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## 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

*Seminars (undergraduate)*

Intermediate Latin  
Readings in Latin prose: Cicero's *Somnium Scipionis* and Pliny's *Letters*  
Latin seminar: Seneca's *Moral Epistles* and *On Clemency*  
Latin seminar: Tacitus  
Latin seminar: Petronius' *Satyrice*  
Advanced Latin seminar: Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*  
Advanced Latin seminar: Suetonius' *Lives of emperors*

*Seminars (graduate)*

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



## COURSES TAUGHT (CTD.)

### *Pro-seminar presentations (graduate)*

Early Greek literacy  
Latin epigraphy  
Tacitus  
The scholarly publication process

*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

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## AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2011: “Psychology for Ancient and Mediaeval Historians” workshop funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Center for the Ancient Mediterranean at Columbia 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.
- 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

## 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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## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

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## 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: *Histories, memories and a few videotapes* in  
*Immediacy* (On-line journal of the New School's Media Studies  
Program) <http://people.bu.edu/varhelyi/immediacy.htm>  
-Video: *Creating a past* (Shot at the American Academy in Rome,  
during the 1998 Summer Program in Archaeology)

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## LANGUAGES

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