

## Curriculum Vitae

**NAME:** PÉTER, Róbert  
**PERSONAL:** Born: July 18, 1975, Hatvan, Hungary  
Marital status: Married, two children  
Office address: Angol-Amerikai Intézet / Institute of English and American Studies  
Angol Tanszék / Department of English Studies  
Szegedi Tudományegyetem / University of Szeged  
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### ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

2008 June- Senior Assistance Professor, Institute of English and American Studies, University of Szeged  
2006 Jan- Assistant Professor, Institute of English and American Studies, University of Szeged  
2003 Sept- Assistant lecturer, Institute of English and American Studies, University of Szeged  
2005 Dec.

### EDUCATION:

2006 16 Nov. Defence of **Ph.D.** thesis: "The Mysteries of English Freemasonry. Janus-faced Masonic Ideology and Practice between 1696-1815" (*summa cum laude*). Supervisor: Prof. Dr. György E. Szőnyi. Opponents: Prof. Dr. Andrew Prescott (U of Sheffield), Dr. Péter Török, SOTE, Budapest  
2005 Jan-July Fulbright visiting researcher, Department of Religion, Florida State University, Tallahassee  
2002/2003 Predoctoral fellow of the University of Szeged, Institute of English and American Studies  
2002.March 18-20 "Current Theories in Sociology of Religion" master course by Prof. Roger O'Toole (University of Toronto) held at the Department for the Study of Religions, Szeged  
1999-2002 Ph.D. student. Doctoral School of English and American Cultures and Literatures, University of Szeged, Thesis supervisor: Prof. György E. Szőnyi  
2000. Sept-Dec. Individual study and research. University of London, British Library  
2000-2003 Master course in *theology* (interrupted). Theological College, Szeged  
1994-2000 **MSc** in *Mathematics*. University of Szeged  
1994-1999 **MA** in *English language and literature*, József Attila University, Szeged  
1997/1998 Graduate Studies at the University of Oxford. MA thesis "Freemasonry and Natural Religion" produced for the University of Szeged. Supervisors: Prof. Robert J. Evans (Modern history) and Prof. Alister E. McGrath (theology).  
1989-1993 Bajza József Grammar School, Hatvan. Graduated in a special English and Mathematics class.

## **COURSES TAUGHT:**

### **Seminars:**

The Philosophy of Enlightenment, British history, 1688-1832, Religious History of Britain from the Reformation to the Oxford Movement (1530s-1830s), The Age of Reason? (on the British Counter-Enlightenment), Approaches to the Study of Culture and Religion, Freemasonry in the Anglo-Saxon World, Introduction to Literature and Culture, Introduction to Poetry, Introduction to Drama, Academic Writing

### **Lectures:**

British history, 1688 to present, 5 times since 2002, Institute of English and American Studies, Szeged  
Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Religions, Lecture with András Máte-Tóth, Department for the Study of Religions, Szeged, Fall, 2002

A szabadszobrász a modern politika és egyháztörténelemben [Freemasonry in modern political and church history, Institute of History, Szeged, Spring, 2002

Szabadszobrász eredete és tevékenysége Európában [The Origins of Freemasonry and its Role in Europe], Institute of History, Spring, 2001

## **RESEARCH AREAS:**

Religious history of the Enlightenment, Philosophy of the English enlighteners, Counter-Enlightenment, theories of religion and culture and those of secularization, esoteric and hermetic currents in Britain and Central and Eastern Europe, history of freemasonry

## **LONGER RESEARCH TRIPS:**

2008 April	British Library, Library of Freemasons' Hall, London, Bodleian Library
2001 Aug.	Bodleian Library, Oxford
2000 Sept.-Dec.	British Library, Library of Freemasons' Hall, London
1999 July	Bodleian Library, Oxford

## **EUROPEAN UNION RESEARCH PROJECT:**

2007 April-	coordinator of one of the three-year research projects ("Societal Relevance of Esoteric and Neopagan Worldviews in Central and Eastern Europe") within the "Religions and Values: Central and Eastern European Research Network" project (supported by the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Commission)
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## **ACADEMIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE:**

2007 Sept-	Member of the Institute Council (representative of the English Department)
2007 Sept-	Student adviser for the BA minor in English studies
2007 Sept-	IT representative of the English Department
2007-	Providing opportunities for talented IEAS students to carry out long-term research in Oxford and do charitable work at the same time
2004-2005	Assistance in establishing a student and teacher exchange programme between the West Virginia University, Morgantown and the University of Szeged
2003/2004	Second Institute officer, ETR coordinator
2002 Spring	Member of Institute Council (representative of PhD students)

## INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL EDITION

2008-           Reviews editor of *Journal for Research into Freemasonry and Fraternalism*  
2004-           Reviews editor of *Religion and Society in Central and Eastern Europe*

## PUBLICATIONS:

### BOOK

*The Mysteries of English Freemasonry. Janus-faced Masonic Ideology and Practice Between 1696-1815* in progress.

### ARTICLES

- “Szabadkőművesség és természetes vallás” [Freemasonry and Natural Religion] *Valóság* 42 (1999): 18-36
- “The Ways to Salvation” *Kollégiumi Füzetek*, 5 (1998): 97-107
- “Freemasonry and Natural Religion” *Freemasonry Today* 12 (2000): 40-43
- “What is Postmodernism?” *Kollégiumi Füzetek* 6 (1999): 35-43
- “Matthew’s Viewpoint” *Kollégiumi Füzetek*, 7 (2001): 129-134
- “Does it matter whether Jesus was God? Arius or Athanasius?” *Kollégiumi Füzetek* 7 (2001): 105-112
- “The Influence of Hermeticism on English Freemasonry?” in Tamás Bényei, Donald E. Morse, Péter Szaffkó and Zsolt Virágos (eds) *HUSSE Papers 2003 (Literature and Culture): Proceedings of the 6th Biennial Conference of the Hungarian Society for the Study of English* (Debrecen, 2004), 92-100
- “A 18. századi szabadkőművesség és a brit nemzeti identitás kialakulásának problematikája” [The Problem of Eighteenth-century Freemasonry and the Evolution of British National Identity] *Aetas* 19.3-4 (2004): 134-147.
- “Unio Mystica in the Dramatic Revelation of Masonic Secrecy?” in Kathleen E. Dubs ed. *Now You See It, Now You Don’t: Hiding and Revealing In Text And Performance* (Piliscsaba: Péter Pázmány Catholic University, 2006), 166-178.
- “Masonic Religious Rhetoric in England during the Long Eighteenth Century” in Trevor Stewart ed. *Freemasonry and Religion: Many faiths – One Brotherhood. Canonbury Papers* Vol. III. (London: Canonbury Masonic Research Centre, 2006), 167-204.
- “Secular British Masonic Rituals?” in Frederick C. Schneid and Susan Conner ed. *The Consortium on Revolutionary Europe, 1750-1850: Selected Papers, 2005* (High Point: High Point University, 2007), 13-24.
- “The Gendered Constructions of English Masonic Ideology and Practice in the Eighteenth Century” in György E. Szőnyi and Attila Kiss (eds.) *The Iconography of Gender: Gender Representations in Cultural Practices* (Szeged: JATEPress, 2008), 91-102
- “Hermetizmus, exaltatio és szabadkőművesség” [Hermeticism, exaltation and freemasonry] in Zoltán Vajda ed. *Bölcsészeműhely, 2007* (Szeged: JATEPress, 2008), 141-150.
- “The Enlightenment and the myth of secularization” in Tibor Porció and András Máté-Tóth, *Religion and Society in the Modern World* (Szeged: JATEPress, 2009) *forthcoming*
- Review of Giovanna Summerfield, *Credere Aude: Mystifying Enlightenment. Etudes Littéraires Françaises* (Tübingen: Narr, 2008) *Journal for Research for Freemasonry and Fraternalism* 1.1 (May 2009) *forthcoming*
- “Seven Dimensions of Masonic Religiosity in the Age of Reason” *in progress*
- “Metanarratives of the Relationship Between the Enlightenment(s) and Christianities” *in progress*
- “Freemasonry and religion in Britain” [review essay] *in progress*
- [co-author] “Societal Relevance of Esoteric and Neopagan Worldviews in Central and Eastern Europe” *in progress*

## CONFERENCE PAPERS:

- “The Ignorance versus Significance of the Study of Freemasonry” presented at the *V. Conference of the Hungarian Society for the Study of English*. Eger, January 25-27, 2001
- “The Relationship Between Freemasonry and the British Protestant Churches in the Light of Sources of Freemasons’ Hall, London” presented at *Le rôle des religions et des églises dans la formation des sociétés de l’Europe et du Nouveau Monde* [The Role of Religions and Churches in the Formation of Societies in Europe and the New World]. University of Szeged, April 8-10, 2002
- “Religious Rivalries in British Freemasonry” presented at the *British Society for Eighteenth Century Studies 32rd Annual Conference*. St Hugh’s College, University of Oxford, 3-5 January, 2003
- “The Influence of Hermeticism on English Freemasonry?” presented at the *VI. Conference of the Hungarian Society for the Study of English*. Debrecen, 28-31 January, 2003
- “The Gendered Constructions of Masonic Iconography and Rituals” presented at *Iconography of Gender Conference*. Szeged, 15-17 July, 2003
- “Unio Mystica in the Dramatic Revelation of Masonic Secrecy?” presented at *HUSSDE/2 Conference* Piliscsaba, 28-30 May, 2004
- “Controversial Attitudes to Christianity in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Freemasonry” presented at the sixth International Conference on the study of Freemasonry entitled “Freemasonry and Religion: many faiths – one brotherhood” London, 6-8 November, 2004 (invited lecturer)
- “Living the Counter-Enlightenment. Freemasons and Religion in Eighteenth-century Britain” presented at the Consortium on Revolutionary Europe, 17-19 February, 2005 (Lakeland, FL)
- “Secular and Radical Freemasonry?” presented at *British Society for Eighteenth Century Studies 35th Annual Conference*. St Hugh’s College, University of Oxford, Oxford, 4-6 January 2006
- “Inconsistencies Between English Masonic Rhetoric and Practice” presented at *British Society for Eighteenth Century Studies 36th Annual Conference*. St Hugh’s College, University of Oxford, Oxford, 3-5 January 2007.
- “Metanarratives of the Relationship Between the Enlightenment(s) and Religion” presented at *VIII. Conference of the Hungarian Society for the Study of English*. Szeged, 27-30 January, 2007.
- “Seven Dimensions of Masonic Religiosity in the Age of Reason” presented at *First International Conference on the History of Freemasonry*, Edinburgh, 25-27 May 2007.
- “Hermetizmus, exaltatio és szabadkőművesség” presented at *Bölcsészeti tudományos nap*, Szeged, 18 April 2007
- “The (Re-)Christianization of English Freemasonry (1740-1815)?” presented at *12. Congress of the International Society for Eighteenth Century Studies*, Montpellier, 8-15 July, 2007.
- “Thomas Dunckerley: an ignored animator of English freemasonry” presented at *British Society for Eighteenth Century Studies 37th Annual Conference*. St Hugh’s College, University of Oxford, Oxford, 3-5 January 2008
- “Twenty years of Scholarship on British Freemasonry” presented at *Twenty Years and More: Research into Minority Religions, New Religious Movements and ‘the New Spirituality’*, London School of Economics, London April 16-19, 2008.
- “Gendering English Masonic Ideology and Practice in the 18<sup>th</sup> century” to be presented at *British Society for Eighteenth Century Studies 38th Annual Conference*. St Hugh’s College, University of Oxford, Oxford, 6-8 January 2009.
- “Religion and Enlightenment in Thomas Dunckerley’s Neglected Writings” to be presented at *Second International Conference on the History of Freemasonry*, Edinburgh, 29-31 May 2009

## ACCEPTED BUT NOT PRESENTED CONFERENCE PAPERS:

- “Freemasons of the Enlightenment: Saints or Sinners? Saints or Sinners: Subversion and Submission in the 18<sup>th</sup> century” Organized by the Southeastern American Society for 18<sup>th</sup> Century Studies (Columbia, SC, 18-21 February, 2003)
- “The Signs of Counter-Enlightenment in Freemasonry” to be presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Quadrennial Congress (Los Angeles, 3-9 August, 2003)

- “Ecumenical Masonic Teachings for the Elite?” to be presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Quadrennial Congress (Los Angeles, 3-9 August, 2003)
- “Freemasonry and the Natural Religion of the Enlightenment?” to be presented at the “Freemasonry and Religions” roundtable session at the 11<sup>th</sup> International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Quadrennial Congress (Los Angeles, 3-9 August, 2003)
- “The Role of Freemasonry in the Development of British Identity” to be presented at the ENBAS Conference (Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem and Central European University, Budapest, 7-9 November, 2003)

#### **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION:**

- The first International Conference on the study of Freemasonry entitled “The Historiography and the Methodology in the Study of Freemasonry”, London, November 6-7, 1999.
- The second International Conference on the study of Freemasonry entitled “The Social Impact of Freemasonry on the Modern Western World”, London, November 4-5, 2000.
- The third International Conference on the study of Freemasonry entitled “Freemasonry in the arts”, London, November 3-4, 2001.
- The fourth International Conference on the study of Freemasonry entitled “Freemasonry Beyond the Craft: From Enlightenment to Illuminism”, London, November 2-3, 2002.
- The fifth International Conference on the study of Freemasonry entitled “Freemasonry in Literature and Music”, London, November 2-3, 2003.

#### **OTHER LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS:**

- The Origins of Freemasonry*. Presented in the Institute of History, University of Szeged, April 12, 2000.
- Freemasons and the Mystical Enlightenment*. Presented in the Institute of History, University of Sheffield, April 9, 2003
- “Freemasonry and National Identities in Europe: Levels of Construction“ Workshop, Brussels, 27-30 September, 2006.
- "Morality and Expediency in Politics" *Liberty Fund Conference*, Budapest, 8-11 November, 2007
- “A szabadkőművesség eredete: tények és fikciók” Titkos Társaságok Nyomában sorozat, Móra Ferenc Kollégium, 25 April 2007
- “The Pragmatics of Defining Religion: the Case of Freemasonry” presented at the *Third International Summer Intensive Programme in the Study of Religions* (European Union Erasmus Lifelong Learning Programme) 18th August – 30th August 2008, Szeged

#### **CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION:**

- English-American Study Days, University of Szeged, 16-17 November, 2006
- VIII. Biannual Conference of the Hungarian Society for the Study of English, University of Szeged, 25-27, January, 2007

#### **PUBLISHED TRANSLATIONS AND LANGUAGE EXAMINER:**

- Neiryneck, Frans. “Synoptic Problem” in R. E. Brown, J. A. Fitzmyer, R. E. Murphy ed. *New Jerusalem Bible Commentary* [English into Hungarian translation] in [Hungarian ed.: Attila Thorday] *Jeromos Bibliakommentár* (Budapest: Szent Jeromos Biblia Társulat, 2003), 29-41
- Translation of entries from *The Oxford Dictionary of World Religions* (Oxford: OUP, 1997) [English into Hungarian] to be published by Akadémiai Kiadó in 2009
- Accredited Theolingu language examiner, November 2008-

## **TEACHING MATERIALS PRODUCED:**

*The Philosophy of Enlightenment* Reader (pp 224). For use in seminar

*British History, 1688-1832*. Reader (pp 251). For use in seminar.

*Freemasonry in the Anglo-Saxon World*. Reader (pp. 236). For use in seminar.

*Religious History of Britain from the Reformation to the Oxford Movement* (p. 285) For use in seminar.

*The Age of Reason?* (p. 251) For use in seminar.

*Approaches to the Study of Culture and Religion* (p. 340) For use in seminar.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS:**

International Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (ISECS) grant for presenting a paper at the 12. Quadrennial Congress of the ISECS in Montpellier, 8-15 July, 2007

British Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (BSECS) bursary for presenting a paper at the BSECS annual conference at the University of Oxford (January, 2007)

Fulbright visiting researcher scholarship, Department of Religion, Florida State University, Tallahassee, 5 January-5 July, 2005

OTKA grant to participate in the fifth international conference on “Freemasonry in Music and Literature”, held in London, 31 Oct-3 Nov, 2003 [originally given for presenting two papers and leading a roundtable discussion at the 11th International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Quadrennial Congress. Los Angeles, 3-9 August, 2003]

Predocctoral scholarship at the University of Szeged, Sept, 2002 – Sept, 2003

State scholarship for doctoral studies at the University of Szeged., 1999-2002

Study and research at the University of London, British Library and Library of Freemasons’ Hall, September-December, 2000; *Grants*: British Council, The Bishopsdown Trust, Faludi Ferenc Akadémia, Prudentia Alapítvány.

Student Nationwide Scholarly Competition (OTDK). Section: History and Theory of Religion. Second Prize for the paper “Freemasonry and Natural Religion” (Székesfehérvár, 1999)

Study at the Oxford University (modern history and theology), 1997/98. *Grants*: The Bishopsdown Trust; The Keston Institute; The Harold Buxton Trust, The Fellowship of St Alban and St Sergius, Wycliffe Hall, Prudentia Alapítvány

TIT National Mathematical Competition. Sixth Place. Budapest, 1988.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIPS**

British Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, 2004-

Hungarian Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, 2002-

Hungarian Society for the Study of English, 2002-

Religious and Ecclesiastical History of Europe and the Mediterranean Research Group, University of Szeged, 2000-2005