

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**Csaba Dezső**

**Date of Birth:** 19 June 1973

**Academic degree:** DPhil (Oxon), 2004  
Habilitation (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, 2016)

**Present Appointment:** Associate Professor in Sanskrit, Department of Indology,  
Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest

**Field of Research:** Sanskrit philology

**University Studies:**

1998-2004: DPhil studies, Balliol College, University of Oxford  
supervisor: Prof. Alexis Sanderson (All Souls College);  
title of DPhil Thesis:  
*'Much Ado About Religion.'* A critical edition and annotated translation  
of the *Āgamaḍambara*, a satirical play by the 9<sup>th</sup> century Kashmirian  
philosopher, *Bhaṭṭa Jayanta*.

1991-1998 MA in Indology, MA in Latin Philology (Eötvös Loránd University,  
Budapest)

**University Teaching:**

2012 and 2014: giving courses at the Leiden Summer School in Languages and  
Linguistics

2012: teaching at the Abteilung für Kultur und Geschichte Indiens und Tibets,  
Universität Hamburg (Erasmus Exchange Program, reading selections from the  
*Harṣacarita*)

since 2010: supervising PhD students in the Doctoral Program of Classical Studies,  
Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest

January – June 2010: Departmental Lecturer in Sanskrit, Oriental Institute, University  
of Oxford

2005, 2007, 2013: teaching at the Institut für Südasien-, Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde,  
Universität Wien (Erasmus Exchange Program) (reading selections from  
the *Rājatarāṅgiṇī* and the *Kuṭṭanīmata*, giving a course on "Portraits of  
Holy Men in Classical Indian Literature")

- 2004: tutorial work at the Erasmus College (Budapest)
- since 2002: teaching Sanskrit language and literature and classical Indian culture to BA and MA students of Indology at the Department of Indo-European Studies, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest (12–15 hours per week, texts read: Bhagavadgītā, Kumārasambhava, Raghuvamśa, Ratnāvalī, Svapnavāsavadatta, Mattavilāsaprahasana, Kiraṇatantra, Śābarabhāṣya, Tarkabhāṣā, Yājñavalkyasmṛti, Harṣacarita, etc. etc.; lectures given on the history of classical Indian literature, introduction to philology, introduction to the cultural history of India, etc. etc.)
- 1999-2000 Reading class on Jayanta Bhaṭṭa's Āgamaḍambara, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Oxford University

### **Research work:**

Since 2019: Research Affiliate in the European Research Council (ERC) Synergy Project “DHARMA. The Domestication of ‘Hindu’ Asceticism and the Religious Making of South and Southeast Asia”

In the academic year 2017–2018: researcher at the Institute for Area Studies, Leiden University.

2014–2020: Research Affiliate in the ERC Synergy Project “Asia Beyond Boundaries: Religion, Region, and the State”

Since 2012: Kālidāsa’s oeuvre (critical edition of Vallabhadeva’s commentary on the Raghuvamśa, the intertextuality of Kālidāsa’s works, the structure of the Raghuvamśa, etc.)

2009-2012: research project supported by the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund, entitled “Fabulous Creatures in Early Mediaeval Indian Literature”

2003–2012: working on a critical edition and annotated translation of Dāmodaragupta’s Kuṭṭanīmata, in collaboration with Dr. Dominic Goodall.

2002–2010: participating in the work of the Clay Sanskrit Library, editing and translating Sanskrit literary works.

2002-2006: participating in the project supported by the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund, entitled “Critical Edition of Sanskrit and Hindi Texts”

### **Conferences, Workshops, Talks:**

4 March, 2022: “Antiquarian Interests in Early Mediaeval India” at the ERC DHARMA Workshop, Humboldt University, Berlin

27 January – 7 February, 2020: participation at the Śivadharmā ERC Project’s Workshop at the École française d’Extrême-Orient, Pondicherry, India.

21 July – 3 August 2019: participation of the Fifth International Intensive Course in Old Javanese, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

3–16 January, 2019: reading Canto XII of the Raghuvamśa at the Tenth International Intensive Sanskrit Retreat, Angkor, Cambodia

27 August, 2018: “Royal Succession in Gupta Period Poetry and Inscriptions”, Asia Beyond Boundaries Conference: Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Primary Sources from the Premodern World, Leiden

9 July, 2018: “Commentaries on the Raghuvamśa”, World Sanskrit Conference, Vancouver

14 July – 25 July 2017: participation of the Third International Intensive Course in Old Javanese, Trawas, Indonesia.

8 March, 2016: “The Ethos of Royalty in Gupta-period Literature”, Asia Beyond Boundaries Workshop, London

7–15 August, 2014: reading canto XIII of the Raghuvamśa at the Ninth International Intensive Sanskrit Retreat, Hokkaidō

15–16 April, 2013: “Vallabhadeva’s Commentary on the Raghuvamśa: ‘We do not fully understand the poet’s intention in not composing a twentieth canto’” at the ‘Empires of Faith’ Workshop, CERES, Ruhr-Universität, Bochum

4–13 January, 2013: reading Canto XIX of the Raghuvamśa at the Eight International Intensive Sanskrit Retreat, Angkor, Cambodia

July 2010: attending in the Third International Workshop on Early Tantra (Hamburg)

July-August 2009: attending in the Second International Workshop on Early Tantra (EFEO, Pondicherry) and participating in the Classical Tamil Summer Seminar (EFEO, Pondicherry)

April 2008: talk on the Kuṭṭanīmata of Dāmodara Gupta given at Columbia University, New York

16 November 2007: “Why Did Rāma Forsake Sītā? The Story of the Uttarakāṇḍa in Classical Indian Dramas” at the Institut für Südasien-, Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde, Vienna University

24 September 2005: talk given at the conference “Foreigners and Community” (EMTE University, Csíkszereda, Romania)

6 March 2004: talk given at the international conference “The South Asian Legacy of Sir Aurel Stein” (Leicester, UK)

2003: talk given at the Day of Orientalists (Budapest)

2002: talk given at the Society for the Study of the Ancient World (Budapest)

2 June 2001: ‘The Transmission of the Vedas’. Talk given at a Colloquium on the Transmission of Religious Traditions, University College, Oxford University.

Since 1995 I have given several talks in the lecture-series organised at the Indian Embassy, Budapest.

### **Study Tours:**

2005, 2006: research work and study tour in Pondicherry (EFEO) and Tamil Nadu (India)

Between 2002 and 2019 I organized and attended ten International Intensive Sanskrit Reading Retreats (Csíkszereda, Murzasichle, Pondicherry, Kőszeg, Angkor, etc.)

2001: collecting copies of Sanskrit manuscripts with the support of the Max Müller Fund, Oxford in Pondicherry, Tanjavur, Mysore; purchasing scholarly publications for the Department of Indo-European Studies, Budapest with the support of the ICCR

2000: collecting copies of Sanskrit manuscripts in the National Archives, Kathmandu, Nepal (with the support of the Max Müller Fund, Oxford)

1999: collecting copies of Sanskrit manuscripts in Gujarat and Pune (with the support of the Max Müller Fund, Oxford)

### **Scholarships:**

2012–2015: Bolyai Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences  
October-December 2001: research grant of the Boden Fund, Oxford University  
1999, 2000, 2001: reserach grant of the Max Müller Fund, Oxford University  
1998-2001: Scatcherd European Scholarship, Oxford University  
1998-2000: Soros Scholarship  
1995-1996: Scholarship of the Hungarian Republic  
1994-1995: Research Scholarship of the Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest

### **List of Publications**

#### **Books**

*Dāmodaraguptaviracitaṃ Kuṭṭanīmatam, The Bawd's Counsel*, ed. and transl. Csaba Dezső & Dominic Goodall, Groningen Oriental Series XXIII, Egbert Forsten Publishing, Groningen, 2012.

*The Quartet of Causeries by Shyāmilaka, Vararuchi, Shúdraka & Íshvaradatta*, ed. and transl. Csaba Dezső & Somadeva Vasudeva, Clay Sanskrit Library, New York University Press & JJC Foundation, 2009.

*Jayanta Bhaṭṭa: Much Ado About Religion*, ed. and transl. Csaba Dezső, Clay Sanskrit Library, New York University Press & JJC Foundation, 2005.

#### **Edited volume**

*Indian Languages and Texts Through the Ages. Essays of Hungarian Indologists in Honour of Prof. Csaba Tóttösy*, ed. Csaba Dezső, Manohar, New Delhi 2007.

#### **Selected Articles**

“Householders and Housewives in Early Kāvya Literature” in: Patrick Olivelle (ed.), *Gṛhastha. The Householder in Ancient Indian Religious Culture*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.

“ ‘We do not fully understand the learned poet’s intention in not composing a twentieth canto’: Addiction as a Structuring Theme in the Raghuvamśa” in *South Asian Studies* 30/2 (2014) 159–172.

“Inspired Poetry. Śāntākaragupta’s Play About the Legend of Prince Sudhana and the Kinnarī” in *Indo-Iranian Journal* 57 (2014) 73–104.

“The Apocryphal Conclusion of the Kuttanimata” in *Journal of the Nepal Research Centre* XIV (2012), pp. 27-35.

“The Story of the Irascible Yakṣa and the King Who Nearly Beheaded Himself in Dhanapāla’s Tilakamañjarī” in *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, Series 3*, 22, 1 (2012), pp. 73–91.

„Encounters with Vetālas: Studies on Fabulous Creatures I” in *Acta Orientalia Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* 63:4 (2010), pp. 391-426.

„A Curious Play (kim api rūpakam): Bhaṭṭa Jayanta’s Āgamaḍambara in the Light of Classical Indian Dramaturgy” in *Indian Languages and Texts Through the Ages. Essays of Hungarian Indologists in Honour of Prof. Csaba Tóttóssy*, ed. Csaba Dezső, Manohar, New Delhi 2007.

„Parallel Edition of the Nepalese and South Indian Recensions of the First Act of the Kundamālā” Part I in: *Newsletter of the NGMCP* 3 (January-February 2007), Part II in *Newsletter of the NGMCP* 4 (May-June 2007)

„Sundarasena: Critical Edition of a Sanskrit Play Preserved in a Fourteenth-Century Nepalese Manuscript” in *Acta Ant. Hung.* 45, 2005.

„A Kuṭṭanīmata kritikai kiadásának szükségessége és lehetősége” [The Necessity and Feasibility of a Critical Edition of the Kuṭṭanīmata] in: *Abhivādana. Tanulmányok a hatvanéves Wojtilla Gyula tiszteletére*, szerk. Felföldi Szabolcs, Szeged, 2005, pp. 125-130.

„Az ókori India” in: *Szemelvények az ókori kelet jogforrásaiból. Válogatás az ókori Irán, India és Kína jogemlékeiből*. Szerk. Jany János, Pázmány Péter Katolikus Egyetem, Bölcsészettudományi Kar, Piliscsaba, 2003, pp. 51-98. [Hungarian translation of Manusmṛti, book 9 and portions of books 8 and 10]

„Vallási tolerancia Kasmírban a 10. század fordulóján” [Religious Tolerance in Kashmir at the Turn of the Tenth Century] in: *Orientalista Nap 2003*. Szerk. Birtalan Ágnes és Yamaji Masanori, MTA Orientalisztikai Bizottság, ELTE Orientalisztikai Intézet, Budapest, 2003, pp. 23-33.

## Reviews

Yigal Bronner, David Shulman, Gary Tubb, *Innovations and Turning Points. Towards a History of Kāvya Literature*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2014, in: *Indo-Iranian Journal* 60/2, 2017.

Dr. Zhu Xintian, *Les êtres fantastiques de l’Inde ancienne, Vol. I, de 2500 av. J.-C. au VI<sup>ème</sup> siècle*, Mumbai, Edition Franco-Indian Research, 2012, in: *Bulletin de l’École française d’Extrême-Orient* 99, 2014.

Gyula Wojtilla, *History of Kṛṣiśāstra. A History of Indian Literature on Traditional Agriculture*. Beiträge zur Kenntnis südasiatischer Sprachen und Literaturen 14, Wiesbaden, 2006, in: *Acta Orient. Hung.* 60, 2007.

Brian Black, *The Character of the Self in Ancient India: Priests, Kings, and Women in the Early Upaniṣads*. SUNY Press 2007, in: *Acta Orient. Hung.* 62, 2009.

I have also published Hungarian translations of various Hindi and Urdu short stories.

