

Department of Chinese Studies and ELTE Confucius Institute

Imre Hamar elected as a Corresponding Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

On May 7, 2025, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences held its 199th General Assembly, during which the Assembly of Academicians elected the Academy's new full, corresponding, external, and honorary members from among 136 researchers included on the joint list of academic nominees. Based on the Assembly's decision, Professor Imre Hamar, Head of Department and Professor at the Institute of East Asian Studies, Director of the ELTE Confucius Institute, was elected as a Corresponding Member of the Academy's Section of Linguistics and Literary Studies.



On October 13, 2025, Professor Hamar delivered his inaugural lecture at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The ceremonial event took place in the Academy's Reading Room. The chair of the session was Professor Dr. Balázs Borsos, anthropologist and member of the Academy's public body, who, after welcoming the audience, read the laudation written by Professor Dr. István Vásáry, turkologist and full member of the Academy.



The 12th Training Program of the ELTE Central and Eastern European Regional Teacher Training Center Successfully Concluded May 8–12, 2025



Between May 8 and 12, the ELTE Central and Eastern European Regional Teacher Training Center held its 12th training program. A total of 80 Chinese language teachers participated in the event, coming from ten countries in the Central and Eastern European region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Serbia, Ukraine), as well as from Denmark and the United States.



Professor Imre Hamar Honoured Among ELTE Award Recipients

At the opening ceremony of the academic year on September 5, 2025, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) presented its annual distinctions. Professor Imre Hamar, outgoing Vice-Rector for International Affairs of ELTE and Director of the ELTE Confucius Institute, was awarded the Pro Universitate Medal of Merit, Gold Grade, by Rector Dr. Lénárd Darázs.



Department of Japanese Studies

Guest lecturers at the Department

On 27 March 2025, two guest lecturers visited the Department. Stella Zhivkova from the University of Sofia, Bulgaria, held a lecture titled ‘Ukiyo-e woodblock prints as an aesthetic phenomenon and a channel of Japanese soft power’, while Irena Srdanovic from the University of Pula, Croatia talked about ‘How new technologies engage with languages: from language corpora to AI advances’.

Head of Department Balázs Szabó guest lecturer at Kyoto University

Head of Department Balázs Szabó lectured on the understanding of Nishida Kitarō’s philosophy in Hungary between 12–20 May 2025 as a guest lecturer at Kyoto University, Japan.



Department of Korean Studies

Korea Day 2025

The ELTE Department of Korean Studies held its Korea Day on 24 April 2025, featuring the department's 7th Student Conference. The event was organized mainly by the first-year MA students, who—together with other presenters—introduced a wide range of topics on Korean history, society, traditional culture, and modern developments. In the afternoon, the ELTE Sejong Institute offered additional cultural activities, such as hanbok trying, traditional games, food tasting, and craft workshops. The day ended with a lecture by Professor Ágnes Birtalan on Korean shamanism and its appearance in contemporary popular culture.



Head of Department Beatrix Mecsi Invited to Lecture at Korea University, Seoul

Beatrix Mecsi, Head of the Department, was invited by the Research Institute of Korean Studies (RIKS) at Korea University, Seoul, to deliver a lecture on 31 October 2025. She presented a talk titled 'Korean Art in Hungary' at the event 'The Current State of Korean Art History Studies in Europe'.



Department of Mongolian and Inner Asian Studies

Visit of Khamba Nomun Khan D. Javzandorj, the Abbot of the Gandantegchenlin Monastery in Ulaanbaatar

On 17 January 2025, the head of the central institution of Mongolian Buddhism, the Abbot of the Gandantegchenlin Monastery in Ulaanbaatar, Khamba Nomun Khan D. Javzandorj, visited the Department of Mongolian and Inner Asian Studies, ELTE Eötvös Loránd University. Abbot D. Javzandorj and the delegation were received by the head of the department, Ágnes Birtalan, the staff and doctoral students of the department, as well as Mongolian students studying in Hungary.



Invitation

We cordially invite the Mongolian students studying in Hungary to meet the abbot of the Gandantegchenlin Monastery, Khamba nomun khan, Geshe Lharampa D. Javzandorj

The meeting will be held on 17 January, 2025 (Friday), 10:00
at ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities,
1088 Budapest, Múzeum körút 4, Building D, Eötvös hall

All interested are welcome to attend the public meeting



ELTE

FACULTY OF
HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF MONGOLIAN
AND INNER ASIAN STUDIES



5th International Conference on the Aspects of Mongolian Buddhism

The Department of Mongolian and Inner Asian Studies, ELTE in cooperation with the Institute of East Asian Studies, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary and other partner institutions organized the 5th International Conference on the Aspects of Mongolian Buddhism – Textual Tradition of Mongolian Buddhism: Written and Oral Traditions on 08–09 April 2025. The conference was dedicated to the 90th anniversary of Professor György Kara's (1935-2022) birth and the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Hungarian–Mongolian diplomatic relations. The conference was attended by participants from 13 countries who delivered more than 70 presentations.



ASPECTS OF MONGOLIAN BUDDHISM

Textual Tradition of Mongolian Buddhism: Written and Oral Traditions

International conference dedicated to the 90th anniversary of Professor György Kara's birth (1935–2022)
and the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Hungarian-Mongolian diplomatic relations

8–9 April, 2025, Budapest

Venue April 8 – 1088 Budapest, Múzeum körút 4 (ELTE, Trefort Campus)

April 9 – 1088 Budapest, Múzeum utca 17 (KRE, Károlyi-Csekonics Palace)

The conference is organized by

ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities
Department of Mongolian and Inner Asian Studies
Research Centre for Mongolian Studies

Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary
Institute of East Asian Studies

Partner institutions

Hungary

Budapest Centre for Buddhist Studies, ELTE Eötvös Loránd University
Dharma Gate Buddhist Church
Institute of Ethnology, HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities
Oriental Collection, Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Mongolia

Embassy of Mongolia in Budapest
Gandantegchenling Monastery, the Centre of Mongolian Buddhists
Öndör Gegeen Zanabazar Buddhist University of Mongolia
Institute for Mongolian Studies, National University of Mongolia
International Association for Mongol Studies
Institute for Mongolian Studies, Mongolian National University of Education
Institute of Language and Literature, Mongolian Academy of Sciences
Buddha Dharma Research Institute of Religion and Cultural Heritage NGO



Website



Program



Visit of the delegation of the Mongolian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In connection with the visit of the Mongolian Foreign Minister, B. Battsetseg, to Hungary, a delegation from the Mongolian Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited the Department of Mongolian and Inner Asian Studies on 26 April 2025. The delegation included Ambassador at Large D. Mönkhtör, Ambassador of Mongolia to Budapest S. Baatarjav, and L. Dashnyam, President of the National Language Policy Council of Mongolia.



Visit of the delegation of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

On 26 May 2025, a delegation from the Institute of Chinese Borderland Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences visited the Department of Mongolian and Inner Asian Studies, ELTE Eötvös Loránd University. Liu Hiuchun, Deputy Head of the Institute, Qi Huijun, Head of the Department of Northern Borderland Studies, and researcher Altanochir were welcomed by the staff and doctoral students of the department. During the meeting, the Chinese delegation presented the work of their institute, and the members of the Department of Mongolian and Inner Asian Studies also introduced their research, and activities.



Delegation of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

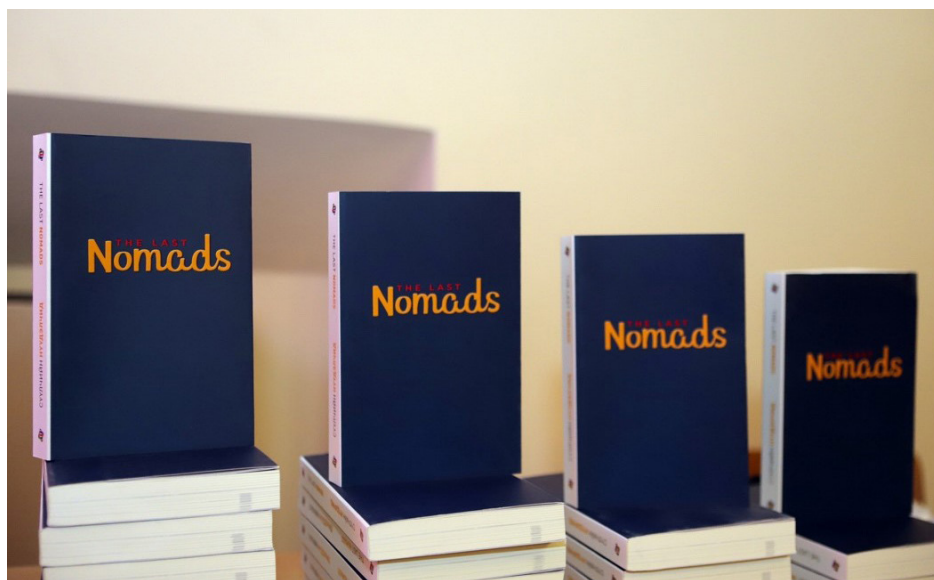
Visit of the delegation of the Inner Mongolian University (China)

On 15 September 2025, a delegation of the School of Mongolian Studies, Inner Mongolia University (China) visited the Department of Mongolian and Inner Asian Studies, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE). In the framework of a round-table discussion, the members of the delegation, Professor Chagaansar (Zhengyue), Uyanga (Wuyingga), and Chen Lijuan reviewed the problems of standardizing the Latin transcription of texts written in Mongolian script and other writing systems.



Book-launch of The Last Nomads

On 12 November 2025, the Department of Mongolian and Inner Asian Studies, ELTE Eötvös Loránd University in cooperation with the Institute of Ethnology, Research Centre for the Humanities organized a book-launch event of E. Khurelbaatar's new book, *The Last Nomads* (Сүүлчийн нүүдэлчид), published in English and Mongolian. In this publication, the 11 contributors introduced various aspects of the simple yet extraordinary life of the Mongolian nomads through 32 stories. The stories describe the compassion, courage, endurance, patience and love of the humble and proud people of the grasslands, and the significance of the deep bond between nature and humans.



Department of Buddhology and Tibetology

Visit of the China Tibetology Research Center

Between April 7 and 11, the Department was honoured to receive a delegation from the China Tibetology Research Center led by Wenjuan Huang (Deputy Director at the Administrative Office of Scientific Research) and Qiu Yihua (Deputy Director, Research Librarian), accompanied by four scholars of the Center, Jurong Wang (Research Librarian), Xiaochun Yang (Researcher), Lumucao (Associate Researcher), and Sanmudan (Assistant Researcher). In a dynamic one-day workshop, the guests and the Department's colleagues delivered presentations on a rich variety of topics, laying the groundwork for promising new avenues of future cooperation.¹



‘Philology in the Service of Intellectual History’

On October 2, the Department hosted an interdisciplinary conference titled ‘Philology in the Service of Intellectual History’. The purpose of the event was to provide an opportunity for promising young scholars to present their text-based research from a wide range of fields, and also to foster exchange between disciplines.²

¹ CTCRC colleague of the Department Sanmudan has prepared a longer presentation here: http://www.tibetology.ac.cn/2025-08/25/content_43210892.htm

² A detailed account (in Hungarian) is available here: <https://buddh-tib.elte.hu/content/beszamolo-filologia-az-eszmetortenet-szolgalataban-hallgatoi-konferencia.t.49945>

Head of Department Péter Dániel Szántó visiting professor at École Pratique des Hautes Études

In May, the head of the Department, Péter Dániel Szántó, was visiting professor (directeur d'études invité) at the École Pratique des Hautes Études (Sciences religieuses), PSL Paris, where he held a series of seminars on Indian Buddhist epistolary and homiletical literature.



Buddhist Homiletics: Forays into a Neglected Tradition
 lecture series by Prof. Peter-Dániel Szántó (ELTE, Budapest)
 invited by Vincent Eltschinger and Judit Törzsök

This seminar series explores the largely overlooked tradition of Buddhist homiletics, focusing on the relationship between Late Antique Indian (monastic) Buddhism and the laity through the medium of preaching. Discussions will center on excerpts from three key texts:

- The *Suhṛtlekha* ("Letter to a Friend") and the *Ratnāvali Rājaparīkathā* ("Jewel Garland, a Royal Sermon), traditionally attributed to Nāgārjuna. According to legend, both these texts were composed to instruct a king; their complete, original Sanskrit witnesses have only recently resurfaced.
- The **Saddharmaparīkathā* ("Sermons on the True Law"), an anonymous work that survives in a single manuscript and remains for the most part unedited.

In addition to examining these texts through the lens of detailed textual criticism, the seminar will investigate the rhetorical strategies employed by Buddhist preachers and consider their potential impact on lay audiences.

Seminar titles, dates and venues:

1. Buddhism for Beginners: Edifying Literature for the Laity in the Early First Millennium and Beyond. 28th April, 2025, 13h. EPHE Sorbonne, salle Gaston Paris.
2. The Epistolary Literature Attributed to Nāgārjuna: Two Letters to Kings and Their Recently Recovered Sanskrit Witnesses. 30th April, 2025, 17h. EPHE 54 Blvd Raspail, salle 26.
3. Preaching to the Laity: The **Saddharmaparīkathā* as a Guidebook for Buddhist Homiletics. 19th May, 2025, 13h. EPHE Sorbonne, salle Gaston Paris.
4. Buddhist Homiletics Against Vices: Sermons against the Vices of Gambling, Drinking, and Fornication. 22nd May, 2025, 14h. EPHE 54 Blvd Raspail, salle 17.

