



CSENGE VIRÁG ZALKA

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in American Culture Studies – May 2017

Bowling Green State University, OH

Dissertation: *Collaborative Storytelling 2.0: A framework for studying forum-based role-playing games*

Master of Arts in Reading (Storytelling) – August, 2012

East Tennessee State University, TN

Thesis: *Adventures in the Classroom: Creating role-playing games based on traditional stories for the high school curriculum*

Master of Arts in Archaeology – July, 2010

Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

Thesis: *Roman era way-stations along the Amber Road*

Kellner Scholarship

Study Abroad program

Trinity College, Hartford, CT, 2007/2008

INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING PERFORMANCES

MythOff Athens, Athens, Greece (March 2019)
Cape Clear International Storytelling Festival, Ireland (August 2018)
Holnemvolt Székely Storytelling Festival, Romania (September 2017, 2018)
MythOff London, London, UK (March 2018)
World Storytelling Day, Ireland (March 2018)
SPEAK Story Series, Shepherdstown, WV, USA (May 2017)
Scary Story Festival, Howell, MI, USA (October 2016)
TEDxYouth @ Sziget Festival, Budapest (August 2016)
Festival Internacional del Cuento de Los Silos, Tenerife, Spain (December 2014)
EthnoSur Festival, Alcalá la Real, Spain (July 2013)
Maratón de Cuentos, Guadalajara, Spain (June 2012)
Connecticut Storytelling Festival, New London, USA (April 2012)
The Ark Storytelling Festival, Ann Arbor, USA (February 2012)
Brunnenpassage, Vienna, Austria (November 2010)
Kids Euro Festival, Washington DC (October 2009)
Raccontamiunastoria International Festival, Rome, Italy (September 2009)
Les 7 Langues du Dragon International Festival, Lausanne, Switzerland (August 2009)

PUBLICATIONS

Zalka, Cs. V. (upcoming in 2019). [Feminist Hungarian Folktales]. Budapest, Hungary: Móra Ferenc Könyvkiadó.

Zalka, Cs. V. (upcoming in 2019). *Forum-based role-playing games as digital storytelling*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland Publishing.

Zalka, Cs. V. (upcoming in 2019). *Hősök és pimaszok: Mesemondás kamaszoknak* [Heroes and Tricksters: Storytelling for teenagers]. Budapest, Hungary: Pont Kiadó.

Zalka, Cs. V. (2018). *Dancing on Blades: Rare and exquisite folktales from the Carpathian Mountains*. Marion, MI: Parkhurst Brothers.

(Storytelling World Resource Award winner, 2019.)

- Zalka, Cs. V. (2013). *Tales of superhuman powers: 55 traditional stories from around the world*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland Publishing.
- Zalka, Cs. V. (2018). Adventures in the Classroom: Creating Traditional Story-Based Role-Playing Games for the High School Curriculum. *Storytelling, Self, Society*, 12/2.
- Sobol, J., & Zalka, Cs.V. (2018). Fairy tales in contemporary American and European Storytelling Performance. In Greenhill, P. et al. (Ed.), *Routledge Companion to Fairy-Tale Cultures and Media*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Zalka, Cs. V. (2016). *Mesemondók Márpedig Vannak: Bevezetés a nemzetközi mesemondás világába* [Storytellers Do Exist: Introduction to the world of international storytelling]. Budapest, Hungary: Pont Kiadó.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

- “World built from words: Forum-based role-playing games as digital storytelling.” Presented at the conference entitled “Von Homer mit *Assassin’s Creed* – Spielarten (mit) der Odyssee.” Cologne, Germany, March 14, 2019.
- “Singing contests to MythOffs: Competition in storytelling traditions in the past and today.” Presented at the Hungarian Heritage House conference entitled “Storytelling competitions: How to? How not to?” December 1, 2018, Budapest, Hungary.
- “Tales of all shapes and sizes: The community-building power of storytelling.” TEDx talk presented at TEDxYouth @SzigetFestival, August 13, 2016, Budapest.
- “Tales of many shapes and colors: Representation, inclusion, and diversity in storytelling.” Intensive workshop presented at the Northlands Storytelling Conference, April 29 – May 1, 2016, Lake Geneva, WI.
- “The Power of Heroes: Stories, popular culture and activities for the 2015 Summer Reading Program.” Workshop presented at the Northlands Storytelling Conference, April 24-25, 2015, Lake Geneva, WI.
- “StorySpotting – Building a Bridge between Folktales and Popular Media.” Workshop presented at the Kentucky Storytelling Conference, November 7-8, 2014, Bowling Green, KY.
- “Down the rabbit hole: Intensive research for storytellers.” Workshop presented at the Northlands Storytelling Network Conference, April 24-26, 2014, Lake Geneva, WI.

“Adventures in the classroom: Role-playing and storytelling in high school and beyond.”

Workshop presented at the National Storytelling Network Conference entitled “Story: Seed of Creativity.” July 31 – August 4, 2013, Richmond, VA.

“Dungeons, Dragons & Storytellers: Role-playing as a new form of storytelling game.”

Workshop presented at the Northlands Storytelling Network Conference, April 26-28, 2013, Lake Geneva, WI.

“Designing role-playing games based on traditional narratives for high school education.”

Presented at the American Folklore Society Annual Meeting entitled “The Continuity and Creativity of Culture.” October 24-27, 2012, New Orleans, LA.

“Mysteries of Hungary.” Presented at the *Seminario Misterios de Europa* storytelling conference, June 14-16, 2012, Guadalajara, Spain.

“A mesék útja [The road of stories].” TED talk presented at TEDxYouth@Budapest, themed “You inspire the world.” November 20, 2010, Budapest, Hungary.

EMPLOYMENT

Storyteller (2017-present)

Világ szép Foundation for Children in State Care, Budapest, Hungary

Cultural Programmer / Storyteller-in-residence (2012-2013)

Johnson City Parks & Recreation, Memorial Park Community Center, Johnson City, TN

Screenwriter – Nadirim MMORPG project (2011)

Twisted Tribe Ltd., Budapest, Hungary

TEACHING POSITIONS

Instructor of Record

University of Theatre and Film Arts, Budapest, 2019-present

Instructor of Record

Bowling Green State University, American Culture Studies Program, 2013-present

Co-Instructor

East Tennessee State University, Storytelling Program (with Dr. Joseph Sobol)

HONORS AND AWARDS

Fulbright Foreign Student Scholarship, 2011/2012. (East Tennessee State University)
J. J. Reneaux Mentorship Grant, National Storytelling Network, 2015. (Mentor: Cathryn Fairlee)
Alma Payne Summer Scholarship, Bowling Green State University, 2014.
A.V. Davis Summer Research Fellowship, Trinity College, 2008.
Kellner Foundation's Scholarship, 2007/2008. (Trinity College, Hartford, CT)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Executive Committee, Federation for European Storytelling (2015-2018)
Board of Trustees, Holnemvolt Storytelling Foundation (2014-present)
Organizer, Holnemvolt International Storytelling Festival, Budapest (2011-2012)
Storytelling Magazine Guest Editor – *Academic Research for Storytellers* (Fall 2017)

MEMBERSHIPS

Federation for European Storytelling (2015-present)
National Storytelling Network (2008-present)

LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES

Hungarian (native)
English (fluent)
Spanish (fluent)