

# DIÁNA VONNÁK

## PROFILE

I am an anthropologist of heritage, cultural politics and urban change in Eastern Europe, with field research experience in Ukraine, Hungary and the Indian Himalayas. While finishing my PhD at Durham University, I worked as an applied researcher and research consultant for 3 years. I have led multi-stakeholder consortia, contributed to collaborative academic and policy papers, wrote successful grant applications as a member of teams.

I am a published author and translator, recipient of the Zsigmond Móricz Scholarship, the highest recognition for emerging writers in Hungary. I have worked as a literary editor in English and Hungarian. Both as an anthropologist and in my artistic practice, I have participated in and organised workshops, peer-led learning events and roundtable discussions. I believe in the importance of working across disciplinary and institutional boundaries in both spheres of my professional life.

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## EDUCATION

2020 PHD SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY (viva passed in May 2020)  
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

**Supervisor:** Dr. Tom Yarrow

**Examiners:** Prof. Catherine Alexander (Durham), Dr. Dace  
Dzenovska (Oxford)

**Dissertation:** 'Heritage Preservation and the Transforming State in Lviv, Ukraine.' Building on 14 months of ethnographic fieldwork in Lviv, the dissertation drew a portrait of the professional field of heritage preservation in a UNESCO World Heritage site. I examined the transformation of the expertise and careers of Lviv's heritage professionals, and how organisational hierarchies, collaborations, and funding structures were disrupted and reconfigured by Ukraine's 'transition' from state socialism to neoliberal democracy.

2013 MA SOCIO-CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY (Distinction, 74.75%)  
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

**Supervisor:** Dr. Ben Campbell

**Dissertation:** Solar Energy Use in Transforming Women's Communities in Ladakh. I conducted 2 months of fieldwork in a Tibetan Buddhist nunnery, looking at the niche of heritage, monastic practice and renewable energy, and their potential for Buddhist women's empowerment.

2012 BA CLASSICS (First), UNIVERSITY OF SZEGED, Hungary

2012 BA LIBERAL ARTS — PHILOSOPHY (First), EÖTVÖS LORÁND  
UNIVERSITY, Budapest, Hungary

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2022 POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE  
UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS, UK
- Providing research support for the Donbas in Focus project lead by Dr. Victoria Donovan, setting up and supporting artist collaborations and museum exhibitions
  - Developing a novel module to teach empire and imperialism through heritage and museum collections, focusing on the post-Soviet space
- 2020/21 TEACHING FELLOW, PUBLIC ANTHROPOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON, UK
- Redesigned, taught and assessed a PGT Applied Ethnography course, and a Social Theory course. Designed and co-taught the module Collaborative Enterprise. Class size: 60, seminars delivered in groups of 15
  - Mentored 12 PGT dissertations, supported student projects, wrote mentor assessments of each.
  - Mentored 25 students throughout the academic year, acting as a first point of contact, providing mental health support.
- 2019/20 MODULE LEADER, MA COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA  
TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF BUDAPEST, Hungary
- Developed and delivered practice-based module in Ethnographic Research that included collaborative fieldwork in small groups.
  - Supported coursework, assessed and graded essays, gave feedback. Course size: 20 people.
- 2018/19 GUEST LECTURER, BA CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS, Hungary
- Developed and delivered a Year 2 UG course 'Political Anthropology and the Anthropology of the State', with weekly lectures and seminars.
  - Supported coursework, held weekly staff hours, graded essays and gave feedback. Course size: 15 people.
- Oct 2014 - Feb 2018 JUNIOR (PHD) RESEARCHER, MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY, Halle, Germany
- Designed and conducted a research project about conflicts in cultural- and memory politics and heritage in Ukraine. Methods: participant observation, interviews, legal & media analysis, archival research. 14 months field research in Lviv, Ukraine. Published academic papers, presented at conferences. Supervised two research assistants.
- 2013 RESEARCH INTERN, DURHAM ENERGY INSTITUTE
- Researched the social aspects of sustainable energy use in the Himalayas, mapping off-grid solar devices in the capital city.

- Developed presentations for interdisciplinary academic audience about the architectural aspects of climate change adaptation from a feminist social justice perspective.

## **APPLIED RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT**

- Feb 2019 - PROJECT MANAGER (EU GRANTS)  
Sep 2020 EUROPEAN JEWISH CEMETERIES INITIATIVE, Frankfurt/Kyiv
- Led an EC-funded project that surveys vulnerable Jewish heritage sites in 5 European countries, in order to build an open-access database of historical and GIS information, train teachers about local Jewish history, and document best practices of heritage preservation.
  - Managed an international team of 15, led grant writing and compliance, contributed to policy papers and grant deliverables, represented the organisation in the European Parliament, ministries and cultural organisations across the EU.
  - Secured 1.2M EUR in grant funding from the European Commission and 750k USD from private donors in New York City.
- Dec 2018 - SENIOR CONSULTANT  
Feb 2019 MILESTONE — SOLUTIONS LAB, Budapest
- Led a team of 5 researchers, designed and conducted a research project and co-authored a report to advise British Council on key interventions to increase social cohesion in North-East Hungary.
- Feb - Dec 2018 ASSOCIATE RESEARCHER, METROPOLITAN RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE, Budapest
- Participated in applied research projects on adaptive heritage reuse, housing, and urban development, contracted by municipalities, ministries, the EU and international research consortia. Projects included H2020 and Urban Innovative Action grants.
  - Organised conferences and a peer-to-peer learning event with delegates of the Latvian Ministry of Internal Affairs. Contributed to grant applications, including a winning H2020 project that brought 4M euros for a consortium of 16 organisations.
  - Designed and conducted field research (interviews, focus groups, surveys), published collaboratively authored academic and policy papers.

## **CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**

2020 Acquisition Editor, Park Publishing, Hungary

— ongoing I acquire, purchase trade non-fiction books, commission translators and designers, work with the marketing team to see through the books to print. I liaise with agents and scouts.

June 2019

— ongoing POETRY EDITOR, VERSUM ONLINE TRANSLATORS' COLLECTIVE, Hungary

As a member of a non-hierarchical translators' collective, I translate and edit poetry in Hungarian translation. We mentor emerging translators through a collective, democratic editing process, and organise an annual Festival of World Poetry. I contribute to planning, fundraising, and programme development. A collection of ecopoetry, produced by Versum is due to be published in winter 2020.

2021 MODULE LEADER (CREATIVE WRITING IN ENGLISH)  
MILESTONE INSTITUTE, Hungary

Designed and delivered a practice-driven 8-week seminar on creative writing for a group of students (14-16 yrs), leading them through genres, forms, narrative strategies. Gave feedback, facilitated peer-to-peer learning

2017-2018 EDITOR-AT-LARGE, ASYMPTOTE JOURNAL, remote

At Asymptote, a quarterly English-language magazine of world literature, I pitched, commissioned and edited translations of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry from Ukrainian and Hungarian into English, wrote book reviews and regular updates on the state of the Hungarian literary scene. I collaborated with translators, editors, and authors. Contributing to the magazine's publicity strategy, I sought out potential supporters and advocated for world literature in translation to give visibility to minority and indigenous voices.

2015-2016 EXHIBITION CONTRIBUTOR, CENTER FOR THE URBAN HISTORY OF EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE, Lviv, Ukraine

During my PhD fieldwork in Lviv, I participated in the weekly brainstorming meetings of a curatorial team, contributing ideas, translations and draft texts to an exhibition on Jewish architectural heritage in Lviv. I led an ethnographic walking tour for architecture students, and contributed to the opening of a large public memorial space the design of which the Center coordinated.

## PRIZES AND AWARDS

2019 ZSIGMOND MÓRICZ SCHOLARSHIP 5300 GBP

2016-2019 UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA'S EXTERNAL RESEARCH AFFILIATE GRANT 7500 EUR

2014-2018	<b>MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY</b>	FULL
	JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP 74.000 EUR	
2013	<b>DURHAM ENERGY INSTITUTE INTERNSHIP AWARD</b>	4500 GBP
2013	<b>DURHAM ENERGY INSTITUTE—BP TRAVEL BURSARY</b>	1500GBP
2011-2012	<b>REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY DISTINGUISHED STUDENT AWARD</b>	1200 GBP

## PUBLICATIONS

### PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- Vonnák (forthcoming) Unlikely alliances: Orthodox Jews against a Holocaust Memorial in Lviv, Ukraine. *History and Anthropology*
- Csizmady – Hegedüs – Vonnák (2019a): A Housing Regime Unchanged: The Rise and Fall of Foreign-Currency Loans in Hungary. *Corvinus Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 10 (2). pp. 3-33. DOI <https://doi.org/10.14267/CJSSP.2019.2.1>
- Csizmady — Hegedüs — Vonnák (2019b): Lakásrezsim és devizahitel válság. Intézményi és egyéni stratégiák. *Szociológiai Szemle* 2019/1.

### REVIEWS

- Review of Lafrenz Samuels, Kathryn & Trinidad Rico (eds). *Heritage keywords: rhetoric and redescription in cultural heritage*. xx, 309 pp., Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2015. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 23 (1): 634-635.
- Review of Schofield, J. (ed.) 2014. *Who Needs Experts? Counter-Mapping Cultural Heritage*. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 22 (2): 442-444.

### SELECTED POLICY PAPERS, REPORTS, PUBLIC WRITING

- Carmel et al. (2020): [Jewish Cemeteries and Sustainable Protection. The ESJF Handbook of Sustainable Heritage Tourism](#). ISBN 978-3-9822085-5-8
- Vonnák, D. (2019): [Heritage is a hot commodity in Lviv – but it’s time the public had a share in the past again](#). *The Conversation*, 20 August 2019.
- Gerőházi et al. (2018): [Addressing the Metropolitan Challenge. Lessons from five European metropolitan areas: Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Greater Manchester, Stuttgart and Zürich](#). Policy paper for the Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona, June 2018.

## COURSES AND FELLOWSHIPS

2019 **BRITISH COUNCIL UK-RUSSIA RESEARCHER LINKS WORKSHOP**, Archaeology and Cultural Geography of Arctic and Subarctic Coastal Region

2016 -9 **VIENNA UNIVERSITY, DOKTORATSKOLLEG GALIZIEN**  
External affiliate: “Austrian Galicia and its Multicultural Heritage”

2015 -6 **CENTER FOR THE URBAN HISTORY OF EASTCENTRAL EUROPE** Guest  
researcher: Urban heritage conflicts at Lviv’s UNESCO heritage site

## SELECTED CONFERENCES AND TALKS

- Ukraine’s new Lenins: Art and a decommunising state.  
RAI Conference — Art, Materiality, and Representation, London, 1-3.06.2018

- Unlikely Alliances: Orthodox Jews and Ukrainian Nationalism against a Holocaust Memorial in Lviv, Danyliw Seminar, Ottawa, 16-18. 11. 2017
- Changing Functions and the Politics of Representation in the Lviv Museum of the History of Religion and Culture. ASEEES-MAG Summer Convention. Lviv, Ukraine 27.07.2016
- Altar and archaeology: the peculiar memory culture of a museum/church in Lviv International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF), Utopias, Realities, Heritages 12th Annual Congress. Zagreb, Croatia 22.06. 2015.
- Beyond Truth and Fiction: The Status of Normative Narratives of Heritage in Lviv, Ukraine. CEELBAS—Oxford University Approaches to Narrative in the Russian and East European Context: Theory, Practice, Method. Oxford, UK 06. 02. 2015.
- Traditional Architecture and Renewable Energy in Ladakh. Durham Energy Institute, Durham, UK. 19.02.2014
- Virtual maps, actual scenes in Leh city. Royal Anthropological Institute Annual Postgraduate Conference, Aberdeen, UK. 28.10.2013

## **LANGUAGES**

Hungarian (native)  
 English (fluent)  
 Ukrainian (B2)  
 Russian (B2)  
 Latin (B2)  
 Ancient Greek (B1)