

ATTILA NÉMETH
FELLOW IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

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❖ EDUCATION

- 2006 – 2010 Royal Holloway University of London, PhD in Classics.
2004 – 2006 Central European University, Budapest, PhD candidate in Philosophy.
1996 – 2001 Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest MA candidate in Classics.
1998 – 1999 Affiliate student at the Departments of Philosophy and Classics,
University College London.
1995 – 2001 Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, MA in Philosophy.

❖ ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2020 – Currently Fellow in Ancient Philosophy, Institute of Philosophy, Research Center for
The Humanities, Budapest.
2019 – 2020 Fellow in Ancient Philosophy at the Center for Hellenic Studies (CHS),
Harvard University.
2018 – 2021 Research Fellow at the Department of Philosophy, Eötvös Loránd University
(ELTE), Budapest – on a Research Scholarship.
2018 – 2019 Visiting Fellow at the Center for Hellenic Studies (CHS), Harvard University.
2010 – 2016 Research Fellow at the Department of Philosophy, Eötvös Loránd University,
(ELTE) Budapest – on various Research Grants, see below.

❖ TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 04/2019 Center for Hellenic Studies, Harvard University: *Textual Transmission of Ancient
Philosophy*, 1-3.
07/2018 ELTE Summer University workshop on Cicero's *De Finibus* III.
2017/18 International seminar in the Erasmus program (partially online): *Presocratic
Philosophy*, Department of Philosophy, ELTE, Budapest.
07/2017 ELTE Summer University workshop on Seneca's *Medea*.

- 07/2016 ELTE Summer University workshop on Seneca's *Letters to Lucillius*.
- 07/2015 ELTE Summer University workshop on Lucretius' *DRNIV* 1037-1287.
- 2014/15 ELTE, Department of Philosophy: *Emotions in Ancient Philosophy*.
- 07/2014 ELTE Summer University workshop on Cicero's *De Fato*.
- 2014/15 ELTE, Department of Classics: Cicero, *De Officiis* I – a reading seminar.
- 07/2013. ELTE Summer University workshop on Cicero's *De Natura Deorum* I-II.
- 2013/14 ELTE, Department of Philosophy: *Ancient Philosophy of Mind*.
- 2011/12 ELTE, Department of Philosophy: *Theological traditions in ancient philosophy*.
- 07/2011 ELTE Summer University workshop on Epicurus and Lucretius.
- 2010/11 ELTE, Department of Philosophy: *On the nature of the gods*.
- 2010/11 ELTE, Department of Philosophy: The history of philosophy from the Greeks to the 20th century.
- 2009/10 ELTE, Department of Philosophy: The history of philosophy from the Greeks to the 20th century.
- 2009/10 ELTE, Department of Classics: Lucretius *De Rerum Natura*.
- 2009/10 ELTE, Department of Philosophy: *Epicurus and ancient atomism*.
- 2007/08 ELTE, Department of Philosophy: *Hellenistic Philosophy of Mind*.

❖ TEACHING STATEMENT

As a teacher, I always put an emphasis on informing and improving the teaching and learning process by my current research, that it is shaped by my ongoing research issues and agendas. When students are exposed to the investigations of their tutors it is easier to get them involved and draw them into a subject, as minor researchers in their own right. The goal is naturally to guide them to a level where they can do independent research of their chosen topics, but that happens through showing them the main methodologies put in use. Since I have a new, strongly interdisciplinary research and also a current monograph – which has the promise to move forward debates concerning Epicureanism –, I have a lot of potentials to get students attracted to ancient philosophy and teach them the required expertise and thinking required for their preferred research.

Setting high standards in my classes is my central objective, but I find it important to achieve this in a supportive and friendly atmosphere so teaching and learning becomes a delightful exchange. One of my main goals is to teach students to reason and write clearly by developing their analytical skills. I devote much of our contact-time to teach the strengths and weaknesses of different argumentative strategies and the possible ways of their improvements. While criticizing I also wish to motivate students, to facilitate their engagement with a given set of material. This can be based on a detailed textual analysis,

assisting careful attention to detail to comprehend not only the complexity of an argument, but the possibility of its divergent understandings.

❖ CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

I have worked and published on a wide range of topics in ancient philosophy, notably on ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind and cosmology. While still pursuing several aspects of ancient philosophy, my current research project focuses on the literary forms of Roman philosophy and the way in which they influence reading philosophical texts and their consequent possible interpretations.

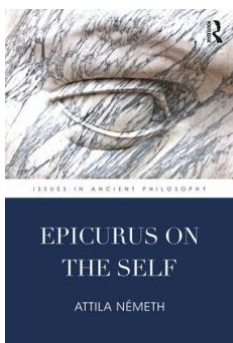
❖ SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

2018 – 2021	NKFI, Hungarian Research Scholarship.
2018 – 2019	Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Hellenic Studies, Harvard University.
05-2018	Károly Marót Award, granted by the Society of Classical Studies in Hungary, given for the best monograph in Classics of the year.
11-2017	Award of Excellence, granted by the Hungarian Association of Philosophy, given for the best monograph in Philosophy of the year.
2015 – 2016	OTKA, Hungarian Research Scholarship.
2012 – 2015	OTKA, Hungarian Postdoctoral Scholarship.
2010 – 2012	TÁMOP, Hungarian Research Scholarship.
2006 – 2009	Thomas Holloway Scholarship.
2004 – 2007	Central European University Scholarship.

❖ PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

Epicurus on the Self, London/ New York: Routledge, 2017



Epicurus on the Self reconstructs a part of Epicurean ethics, which only survives on the fragmentary papyrus rolls excavated from an ancient library in Herculaneum, *On Nature* XXV. The aim of this book is to contribute to a deeper understanding of Epicurus' moral psychology, ethics and of its robust epistemological framework and to show how the notion of the self emerges in Epicurus' struggle to express the individual perspective of oneself in the process of one's holistic self-reflection as an individual psychophysical being.

“Németh’s book is an original and valuable contribution to our understanding of Epicureanism, exploring Epicurus’ notion of the self in a comprehensive manner, throwing light on its many different aspects: physical,

psychological, epistemic, moral, and spiritual. To my knowledge, this is the only published study to undertake and successfully accomplish such a broad task.” – Voula Tsouna, *University of California at Santa Barbara*

“This monograph represents a very significant body of independent work, re-evaluating in a constructive and supportive spirit some central areas of Epicurean philosophy – notably self-cognition, agent autonomy and friendship – and displaying probable interconnections among those areas that have remained unnoticed or at least under-exploited in the existing scholarship. This is a considerable achievement. ...Chapter 1’s bold reconstruction, from very fragmentary textual material that is rarely made accessible to readers, of an Epicurean theory of self-cognition breaks a good deal of new ground; and the novel approach to Epicurean friendship in chapter 5 is both philosophically and historically attractive. ...What this monograph offers is a major new set of perspectives on current debates, able to reshape, challenge and enrich future discussions.” – David Sedley, *University of Cambridge*

“The topic is a good one and Németh makes some interesting and important new claims, bringing together discussions of Epicurean moral psychology, ethical improvement and moral responsibility in a way that shows the integrated and holistic nature of the Epicurean system. ...Németh makes good use of difficult evidence from *Nat. XXV*, perhaps for the first time showing what can be done with it beyond the well-worn topic of moral responsibility. ...Németh also has interesting and often novel things to say about some other central questions in Epicureanism, such as the atomic swerve.” – James Warren, *University of Cambridge*

“Overall, *Epicurus On the Self* is an important contribution to scholarship on Epicureanism. It will be essential reading for scholars of Epicurean philosophy of mind and the history of the idea of the self. It will also be useful for those working on Hellenistic psychology and ethics more generally.” – Pamela Zinn, *Texas Tech University, Syzesis* 2018

“Németh’s *Epicurus on the Self* offers an original and engaging study of self-constitution, self-knowledge and agency in Epicurus ... *Epicurus on the Self* is a step forward in our understanding of Epicurus’ moral psychology ... Németh’s book has a lot to offer and he is a relentlessly astute and honest reader of the texts.” – David Merry, *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany, Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2018

For further positive reviews cf.:

Solmeng-Jonas Hirschi, “A. Németh, *Epicurus on the Self*.” *Classical Review* 68 / Issue 2, 2018, pp. 374-376.

Francesco Verde, “A. Németh, *Epicurus on the Self*. London-New York: Routledge, 2017, 226,” *Rhizomata – A Journal for Ancient Philosophy and Science*, vol. 6 / Issue 2, 2018, pp. 236-244.

Enrico Piergiacomi: “Fisica ed etica del «sé» in Epicuro?” *Cronache Ercolanesi*, 48, 2018, pp. 51-65.

Péter Lautner, “Németh, Attila, *Epicurus on the Self*. Issues in Ancient Philosophy.” In: *Filozofia*, vol. 75/1, 2020, pp. 65-6.

Attila D. Kovács, “Epicurus from self-perspective.” *Elpis*, vol. 22, 2020/1, pp. 141-9. (In Hungarian.)

For a forthcoming review cf. Francesca Masi’s analysis in: *The Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy*, 2021, vol. 60.

ARTICLES / CHAPTERS (ALL PEER-REVIEWED)

- ‘The metaphors of *conscientia* in Seneca’s *Epistles*’ – accepted for publication by *Mnemosyne*.
- ‘Cicero and the *sorites*’ – submitted to a peer-viewed journal.
- ‘Epicureans on Teleology and Freedom,’ in Arenson, K. (ed.) *The Routledge Handbook of Hellenistic Philosophy*, London/ New York: Routledge, 2020, 224-35.
- ‘Atoms and Universals in Epicurus’, in Zilioli, U. (ed.) *Atomism in Philosophy: A History from Antiquity to the Present*, London/ New York: Bloomsbury, 2020, 93-112.
- ‘Epicurean Universals’, in *The Hungarian Journal of Philosophy*, 2020/3, 11-32. (In Hungarian.)
- ‘Seneca’s moral psychology’, in *Elpis*, 2020/1, 69-84. (In Hungarian.)
- ‘Seneca and the secret censor’, in *Ókor*, 2019/1, 72-85. (In Hungarian.)
- ‘Democritus’ theory of colours and colour perception’ – *under revision*, last presented at the International Association for Presocratic Philosophy Conference, Delphi, Greece, 25-30 June, 2018.
- ‘Lucretius and the *similitudo divini*’, in Kendeffy, G. (ed.) *Philosophy and the Divine*, Károli Press, 2018, 93-101. (In Hungarian.)
- ‘Epicurus on self-perception’, *The Hungarian Journal of Philosophy*, 2017/4. (In Hungarian.)
- ‘Metadrama in Seneca’s *Medea*’, in *Ókor*, 2017/2, 33-45. (In Hungarian.)
- ‘On Democritus’ Epistemology’, in Ferenczi, A. and Bárányi, I. (eds.) *Studia Classica*, 2015, 21-34. (In Hungarian.)
- ‘Cicero and the Epicurean Sorites’, *Ókor*, 2012/4, 22-33. (In Hungarian.)
- ‘Cicero and the Epicurean Theology’, *Ókor*, 2011/2, 11-21. (In Hungarian.)
- ‘[Epicurus](#)’ - Encyclopedia Article, 2005. (In Hungarian.)

REVIEWS (ALL PEER-REVIEWED)

- Arenson, K., *Health and Hedonism in Plato and Epicurus*, New York and London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2019, [Bryn Mawr](#).
- Hammerstaedt, J., Morel, P.-M., Güremen, R., *Diogenes of Oinoanda, Epicureanism and Philosophical Debates*, Leuven University Press, 2017, [Bryn Mawr](#).
- Maso, S. *Grasp and Dissent: Cicero and Epicurean Philosophy*, Brepols, 2015, [Bryn Mawr](#), 2015.
- Warren, J. & Sheffield, F. (eds.) *The Routledge Companion to Ancient Philosophy*, New York and London, 2013, [Bryn Mawr](#), 2014.
- M. Schofield (ed.) *Aristotle, Plato, and Pythagoreanism in the First Century BC*, Cambridge, 2013.
- Rhizomata*, May, 2014.

- December, 2022 Seneca 2022. International Conference, Lisbon: ‘Seneca on Shame’
- November 24, 2020. Institute of Philosophy, RCH, Budapest, online: ‘Seneca on the Will’
- October 6, 2020 Institute of Philosophy, RCH, Budapest, online: ‘Epicurean Universals’
- April 14, 2020. Institute of Philosophy, RCH, Budapest, online, job talk: ‘Seneca and the Narrative Self’
- July 6, 2020 Invited Speaker at the Philosophy in Assos Conference, Turkey – cancelled.
- December 16, 2019 Eötvös Loránd University: ‘Seneca’s Philosophy of Mind’
- May 9, 2019 Harvard University: ‘The Metaphors of *Conscientia* in Seneca’s Epistles’
- May 2, 2019 Princeton University: ‘The Metaphors of *Conscientia* in Seneca’s Epistles’
- February 15, 2019 University College London: ‘The Epicureans on Teleology and Freedom’
- November 16, 2018 Eötvös Loránd University: ‘Seneca and the Secret Censor’
- June 25-9, 2018 Delphi, 6th *Biennial International Association for Presocratic Studies Conference*: ‘Democritus’ theory of colours and colour perception’
- May 26-8, 2018 University of Szeged: ‘Seneca and the literary self’
- May 5, 2018 Eötvös Loránd University: ‘Seneca’s philosophy of mind’
- April 16, 2018 University of Fribourg: ‘Epicurean Universals’
- January 17-8, 2018, Radboud University: ‘The literary self in Roman and Modern Thought’
- April 24, 2016 University of Debrecen: ‘Seneca Grammaticus’
- November 25, 2015 Eötvös Loránd University: ‘Lucretius on colours’
- October 22-3, 2015 University of Athens: ‘Democritus on colours’
- June 30-July4, 2014 University of Thessaloniki, 4th *Biennial International Association for Presocratic Studies Conference*: ‘Democritus B156’
- April 13-4, 2014 Károli Gáspár University: ‘Lucretius and the *similitudo divini*’
- May 22, 2013 Eötvös Loránd University: ‘The Unity of virtues’
- November 19-20, 2012 Pázmány Péter University: Reflections on Prof. Attila Simon’s paper, ‘*Synesis* as a political concept in Aristotle’
- October 8-10, 2012 University College London: ‘Cicero and the Epicurean sorites’

May 23-6, 2012	Pázmány Péter University: 'Paul Klee and Heracleitus'
April 28-9, 2011	Pázmány Péter University: 'On Aristotelian pleasures'
December 2, 2010	Pázmány Péter University: 'Doxography in Cicero's <i>DNDI</i> '
March 19, 2010	Eötvös Loránd University: 'Epicurus on self-reflective thinking'
March 1, 2010	Institute of Philosophy, Bratislava: 'Lucretius on the swerve'
September 10-13, 2009	Collegium Budapest: 'On the origin of animal motion in Aristotle's <i>De Motu</i> '
April 24, 2009	Pázmány Péter University: 'Mental representation in ancient atomism'
April 6-7, 2009	University of Edinburgh: 'Epicurus on the self'
September 12-3, 2008	Central European University: 'The reductionist - anti-reductionist debate'
May 16-7, 2008	Humboldt University: ' <i>Ep. Hdt.</i> 35.1-40.6'
November 3, 2007	University College London: 'Epicurus on self-awareness'
June 6-8, 2007	University of Zagreb: 'On the appropriate method of division in Aristotle's <i>De Partibus Animalium</i> , Book I'
May 16-8, 2007	Pázmány Péter University: 'Epicureanism'
April 4, 2007	Royal Holloway, University of London: 'The textual reconstruction of <i>PHerc.</i> 1056 corn. 3 z. 2 and 3'
May 31, 2005	University of Prague: 'The composition of the immortal part of the human soul in Plato's <i>Timaeus</i> '

❖ OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Initiator and Co-Founder of The Forum of Hellenistic Philosophy - please see [website](#).