

# ZSÓFIA ZVOLENSZKY

## SHORT CURRICULUM VITAE WITH SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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### AREAS OF RESEARCH

Philosophy of language, formal semantics, metaphysics

### CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITION

- ◇ FULL PROFESSOR, Department of Logic, Institute of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest (May 2019–)
- ◇ Department chair, Department of Logic (2018–)
- ◇ Head of the Analytic Philosophy Doctoral Program at the Institute (June 2015–) (The program is a track within the ELTE Philosophy Doctoral School)
- ◇ Co-director of the English-language MA Program in Logic and Philosophy of Science managed by the Department of Logic
- ◇ Associate Professor (2015-2019); Assistant Professor II (2008–2015); Assistant Professor I (2006–2008)

### PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

- ◇ Marie Curie Fellow, Institute of Philosophy, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, SASPRO scheme (January 2016–December 2018)
- ◇ Junior Research Fellow, Philosophy Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) (2005–2006)
- ◇ Junior Research Fellow in Philosophy at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, MTA–ELTE Philosophy of Language Research Group (director: János Kelemen) supported by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Research Support Office (2003–2006)

### EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS

- ◇ Habilitation, Institute of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, Eötvös University (ELTE), September 2013.  
Dissertation (in Hungarian) entitled *Kripke and Searle on Naming and Necessity*.
- ◇ New York University, New York, U.S.A., Ph.D. in 2007.  
Dissertation entitled *Modality, Names and Descriptions*, a portfolio of three essays:  
“The Lost Pillar of Deontic Modality”  
“Naming with Necessity”  
“Incomplete Descriptions, Incomplete Quantified Expressions”  
Advisor: Kit Fine; readers: Stephen Neale, Stephen Schiffer, Anna Szabolcsi.  
(M.A. thesis also at NYU entitled *Causation and Counterfactuals*; 2003, advisor: Hartry Field)
- ◇ Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts, U.S.A., B.A. *summa cum laude* in 1997.  
Majors: Philosophy, Logico-Linguistic Studies  
Honors thesis entitled *Internalism and the Mental*. Advisor: G. Lee Bowie

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS IN ENGLISH

1. Fictional Characters, Mythical Objects and the Phenomenon of Inadvertent Creation. (2016) *Res Philosophica*, 93/2 311–333. Special issue Philosophy of Fiction, Joshua T. Spencer (ed.). <http://dx.doi.org/10.11612/resphil.2016.93.2.2>
2. Authors Creating Fictional Characters, either Intentionally or Inadvertently. (2016) In: *From Philosophy of Fiction to Cognitive Poetics. Issues in Philosophy of Language and Literature*. (Series: Studies in Philosophy of Language and Linguistics) Piotr Stalmaszczyk (ed.), Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 47–76.
3. An Argument for Authorial Creation. (2015) *Organon F* 22/4, 461–487. <http://www.klemens.sav.sk/fiusav/doc/organon/2015/4/461-487.pdf>
4. Inferring Content: Metaphor and Malapropism. (2015) *Croatian Journal of Philosophy* 55/44, 163–182. A special issue on Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson's Philosophy of Language, Dunja Jutronic (ed.).
5. Searle on Analyticity, Necessity and Proper Names. (2012) *Organon F* 19, Supplementary Issue 2, 109–136. Juraj Hvorecký, Petr Kot'átko (eds.). <http://www.klemens.sav.sk/fiusav/doc/organon/prilohy/2012/2/109-136.pdf>
6. A Gricean Rearrangement of Epithets. (2012) In: *20 Years of Theoretical Linguistics in Budapest: A selection of papers from the 2010 conference celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Theoretical Linguistics Programme of Eötvös Loránd University*. Ferenc Kiefer, Zoltán Bánréti (eds.), Budapest: MTA Nyelvtudományi Intézet, Tinta Kiadó, 2012, 183–218.
7. Ruzsa on Quine's Argument Against Modal Logic. (2010) *Filozófiai Szemle* 54/4, angol nyelvű különszám: Imre Ruzsa—A Man of Consequence, Máté András, Mekis Péter (eds.), 40–48.
8. Is a Possible-worlds Semantics of Modality Possible? (2002) In: *Semantics and Linguistic Theory XII*. Brendan Jackson (ed.), Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 339–358.

## SUMMARIZED CV

Zsófia Zvolenszky was born in Siófok, Hungary. After a high school exchange year in the U.S. in 1990 (through a Soros–Rotary scholarship), she received a full-tuition scholarship to study at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, where she majored in philosophy and in logico-linguistic studies, an interdisciplinary special major, under the supervision of G. Lee Bowie. She earned her B.A. in 1997 and was accepted with a full-tuition fellowship at New York University (top-ranked among philosophy Ph.D. programs worldwide), where her Ph.D. advisor was Kit Fine, and her dissertation committee included Hartry Field, Stephen Neale, Stephen Schiffer and Anna Szabolcsi. Zvolenszky defended her dissertation entitled *Modality, Names and Descriptions* in 2007.

In 2002, Zvolenszky moved from New York City to Budapest. From 2003, Zvolenszky joined the MTA–ELTE Philosophy of Language Research Group headed by János Kelemen, and began teaching analytic philosophy courses, primarily philosophy of language, at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) Institute of Philosophy. In 2005–2006 she held a junior research fellow position at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA). From 2006, she was appointed assistant professor at the Department of Logic within ELTE Institute of Philosophy. The 2006 Bologna process, which separated curricula into B.A. and M.A. programs, launched a first-year introductory course, *Logic and Reasoning*, which Zvolenszky has since been teaching to annually 80–220 students; she developed her own course materials and, for the first time in the history of the Institute, she appointed teaching assistants to lead consultation sessions and assist in grading regular homework assignments, so even a large-scale course could offer personalized attention to students. Zvolenszky has also been teaching (at the Institute as well as the ELTE Theoretical Linguistics

Department) introductory and advanced courses in Hungarian as well as in English, focusing on essay writing and reading philosophy texts in English, covering a wide range of topics in philosophy of language, metaphysics and logic. Since 2013, Zvolenszky has been teaching in English-language cognitive science programs (Budapest Semester in Cognitive Science, Middle European Interdisciplinary Master Programme in Cognitive Science). She has been advising 3 Ph.D. students in the Analytic Philosophy and the Logic Doctoral Programs; one of them, Réka Markovich defended her Ph.D., written in English, in 2018 and presently has a permanent senior researcher position at the University of Luxembourg.

Between 2009 and 2012, Zvolenszky held the MTA Bolyai János Research Fellowship. She habilitated in 2013 and was appointed associate professor in 2015. Since then, she has been head of the Analytic Philosophy Doctoral Program at ELTE. In 2016, she won a three-year Marie Skłodowska-Curie research fellowship at Slovak Academy of Sciences, SASPRO scheme. Since 2018, Zvolenszky has been head of ELTE's Department of Logic and co-director (with András Máté) of the English-language MA Program in Logic and Philosophy of Science, for which Máté and Zvolenszky had developed the accreditation materials together. Since its launch in 2010, this MA program has had students from five continents, from over 20 countries (a 3-minute introductory video in English from 2023 features interviews with some of the students as well as Zvolenszky, highlighting the unique interdisciplinary, individualized-research-oriented approach of this MA program <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7T5jDbUCO0>). In 2019, Zvolenszky was appointed full professor at ELTE.

Between 2006 and 2017, Zvolenszky was head instructor at Erasmus Collegium, a highly selective mentoring program for Hungarian students; an off-shoot of this is a philosophy of language research group she launched in 2016 as part of a national 4-year OTKA-grant she led. Between 2018 and 2021, she was principal investigator for a Higher Education Institutional Excellence Grant entitled “Autonomous Vehicles, Automation, Normativity: Logical and Ethical Issues” (ELTE Institute of Philosophy, 17 participating researchers, 8 new positions created through the grant scheme: over the years, 5 doctoral students were employed part-time; 3 early-career researchers were employed as assistant professors, 1 of them full time; 9 of the participants were women.)

Zvolenszky has been reviewing articles for journals in Hungary and abroad, including *Linguistics and Philosophy*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Synthese*. She co-organized a summer school and workshop at Central European University in Budapest (in 2010 with Jason Stanley based at Yale U.; in 2015 with Craige Roberts then based at Ohio State U.). Between 2008–2011, Zvolenszky was a member of the ELTE Faculty Council; since 2008, she has been a member of the Philosophy Institute Council. She has been a board member (since 2016 president) of the Cogito Prize, in the scope of which young philosophers' manuscripts are selected for publication in a monograph series.

During her career, Zvolenszky has given over 120 talks at conferences and university departments, most of them in English (in 15 countries); 4 of these were keynote lectures (3 outside Hungary, presented in English).

Of the 18 papers Zvolenszky published in Hungarian, two companion essays were praised in book reviews about the Hungarian editions of two 20<sup>th</sup>-century analytic philosophy classics, by H. P. Grice and Saul Kripke. For the latter volume (Kripke: *Naming and Necessity* 1970/2007), Zvolenszky also edited, copy-edited and supervised the translation of the Hungarian critical edition published almost 4 decades after the original lectures, preparing for it a monograph-sized companion essay and 30-page glossary.

Zvolenszky authored 21 papers in English, for which she has been tracking over 150 independent international citations, including two entries in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, one in the *Blackwell Guide to the Philosophy of Language*, one in the *Handbook of Modal Logic* series co-edited by Johan van Benthem; also in journals like *Noûs*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Mind & Language*, *Journal of Semantics*. A (2015) paper of Zvolenszky's, on the semantics and metaphysics of fictional discourse, was assigned reading at an advanced metaphysics course taught at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Her (2002) paper “Is a Possible-worlds Semantics of Modality Possible?” was required reading in courses at MIT, New York University, Northwestern, Kyoto University, Goethe University. One of the greatest linguists alive, Angelika Kratzer, in her (2012) book *Modals and Conditionals*, discusses “Zvolenszky's puzzle”.