

Gyula Szvák (in Hungarian: Szvák Gyula), born on 18th February 1953, Budapest, is a historian, Academic Doctor of History (DSc, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 2001), and full-time Professor (Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest, ELTE), whose main field of research is the history of Russia, specializing in the Early Modern period and Russian Historiography.

He is the Founder and Head of the Centre for Russian Studies of Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest (1995-2018), Emeritus Professor of the Centre since 2018, Chairman of the Hungarian-Russian Commission of Historians (since 2006) and Chairman of the “Foundation for the Development of Russian Language and Culture” (since 2006). He also served as the Chairman of the Hungarian-Russian Friendship and Cultural Society (2009-2015).

After graduating from ELTE (1977) in two majors – History and Russian Language and Literature – he taught at the Department of Eastern European History of ELTE as Assistant Professor and later as Associate Professor (1988). In 2003 he obtained the title of full Professor at the Centre of Russian Studies (ELTE).

In 1981, he received an MA-degree from ELTE. After finishing a post-graduate correspondence course in Leningrad, he defended his PhD thesis in 1984, which he wrote under the supervision of R. G. Skrynnikov. In 2001, he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation entitled “The main problems of feudal Russian history in Russian historiography” and received the degree of Academic Doctor of History (DSc.). In 2006, the Russian Academy of Sciences awarded him the title of Doctor Honoris Causa.

Next to his university activities, he also played an active role in academic publication. In 1986, he was one of the founders of the publishing house called “Maecenas Kiadó”. In 1989-90 he served as Deputy Chairman of the Association of Hungarian Book Publishers and Book Distributors. In 1997, he became the head of the publishing house called “Pannonica”. He edited the anniversary book series “Centuries of Hungary” and the series “Encyclopaedia of the 21st Century”, as well as such significant works as: “The History of Hungary in the Middle Ages”, “The History of Hungary in the Modern Times” and “The History of Contemporary Hungary”. He was an editor and one of the authors of the first “History of Russia” written by Hungarian authors after 1945. In 2002-2003, he served as the chairman of the board of trustees of the “National Educational Publishing House”.

In 1990, together with his colleagues, he founded the first autonomous centre of Hungarian historical Russian studies, the Hungarian Institute of Russian Studies, which in 1995 continued to operate as an independent department of ELTE, under the new name of the Centre for Russian Studies. This Centre has become a leading academic institution of Hungarian Russian studies, which received a wide international recognition – both in the “East” and the “West”. Parallely, in 2003, he formed and led a Research Group of Historical Russian Studies at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In 2006, the President of Russia, V. V. Putin awarded him the Pushkin Medal for his work as the chief curator of the Hungarian-Russian Cultural Season of 2004-2005.

Currently, he is editing a series of publications called “Books on Russian Studies” and “Post-Soviet Notebooks”. He is also a member of the editorial board of the journal “Russian History” and some other Russian academic journals. He has been the founder and editor-in-chief of the open access online journal RussianStudiesHu since 2019. In addition, he assumes a membership in the editorial boards of twelve international journals on Russian studies.

He published thirty books, amongst them: *Iván, a Félelmetes* (Ivan Groznyi), Budapest, 1985; *A Moszkvai Oroszország története* (A History of Muscovite Russia), Budapest, 1997; *False Tsars*, foreword by Nicholas Riasanovsky. New Jersey, 2000; *"Московия". Очерки истории Московского государства второй половины XV – конца XVII века*. Москва: Издательство Института российской истории РАН, 2000; *IV. Iván és I. Péter utóélete* (*The Afterlife of Ivan IV and Peter I*), Budapest, 2001; Niederhauser, Emil – Szvák, Gyula. *A Romanovok*. (The Romanovs), Budapest, 2002; *Русская парадигма. Русофобские заметки русофила*. Санкт–Петербург, 2010; *На службе у Клио и у власть предержащих (этюды по россиеведению)*, Budapest, 2014; *Опыт микроисториографии*. Москва, 2019; *"Идеи и музы". Тайны русистики*. Москва, 2020.