

Inner Asia and Europe: Archaeological, Historical and Linguistic Interactions in the
thirteenth and fourteenth century

CALL FOR PAPERS

5-7 March 2026 with an additional day of visits to archaeological sites on 8 March

Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest

Organising Committee: Ákos Apatóczy, Francesca Fiaschetti, József Laszlovszky, and
Balázs Nagy

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The conference focuses on the interaction between two vast regions, Europe and Inner Asia, along with the historical context and modern scholarly research related to this topic. The planned program aims to explore these connections and regional interactions within a Eurasian framework.

The relevance of the conference is demonstrated by the growing international interest in recent years in Central and Eastern European historical and archaeological studies, particularly regarding the Mongol Empire and its expansion into Asia and Europe. While earlier medieval studies—strongly centered on Western Europe—paid relatively little attention to this region, it has now become clear that this was an area of exceptional importance for understanding Eurasian interactions. At the same time, European campaigns previously considered peripheral by Mongol and Asian scholars have come into the spotlight, as specialized written and archaeological sources shed new light on many aspects of the empire's expansion.

One such field of inquiry is the study of the historical role and significance of the Cumans, in which Hungary holds outstanding importance in the history of scholarship. More recent research has shown, however, that in addition to Eastern Europe, the study of this group is also crucial for understanding the history of the entire Balkans as well as that of some Central European countries. The European impact of the Mongol expansion and modern research into medieval communication have likewise produced significant new findings. Finally, the fragmentation of the empire and the emergence of successor states—both in Europe and Inner Asia—had lasting effects on the early modern history of both regions.

The conference does not aim solely to address the history of interactions between the two regions; it also intends to consider new methods and challenges in the scholarly study of

these topics. Among the new approaches, environmental and climate-historical studies stand out: through various scientific methods and the results of environmental archaeology, researchers have been able to shed completely new light on the migrations of steppe peoples and the rise of the Mongol Empire.

The conference program consists of four major sections, in accordance with the scholarly concept.

1. The Mongol Invasions of Europe in the Thirteenth Century: Interactions and Impact (Archaeological and Historical Approaches)
2. Linguistic and Cultural Landscapes of Nomadic Societies in Pre-Modern Eurasia (Oriental Studies, Mongolian Studies, Inner Asian Studies)
3. Population Movements and Environmental Change: Long-Term Perspectives and New Approaches (Environmental and Climatic History, Environmental Archaeology, Archaeogenetics)
4. From Nineteenth-Century Traditions to Twenty-First-Century Challenges: Historiography of Research on European and Inner Asian Interactions, Current Trends, and Future Directions

If interested, please send a 150-words abstract to Balázs Nagy (nagy.balazs@btk.elte.hu) by 25 January

Conference fee: €50

Conference fee including participation in the archaeological site visits on 8 March: €100