

Árpád Ferencz

Dr. habil. · Systematic Theology and Ethics

Pastor of the Reformed Parish of Zofingen (AG), Switzerland

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Academic Profile

Habilitated systematic theologian and Reformed pastor with academic and ecclesial experience in Romania, Hungary and Switzerland. His research connects the theology of Karl Barth with questions of pneumatology, ecclesiology, Protestant ethics and the relationship between church and society. Many years of university teaching and research, as well as experience in scholarly editing and academic administration.

Research Interests

- Karl Barth and Reformed theology, especially its reception in Eastern Europe
- Systematic theology, dogmatics and theological prolegomena
- Pneumatology and ecclesiology
- Protestant ethics: social ethics, bioethics, sexual ethics and political ethics
- Church, public sphere and society

Academic Career

Aug. 2013 - July 2015	Secretary General and Editor Hungarian Society for Theology (Collegium Doctorum); Secretary General and Editor of the journal „Collegium Doctorum“.
Sept. 2005 - June 2014	Senior Assistant for Systematic Theology Chair of Social Ethics and Ecclesiastical Sociology, Reformed Theological University of Debrecen, Hungary.
June 2007 - July 2015	Director of the Research Institute Central and Eastern European Karl Barth Research Institute at the Theological University of Debrecen.
SS 2013/14	Habilitation Habilitation in Systematic Theology, Debrecen.
WS 2003/04	Doctorate Faculty of Theology, University of Zurich.
Oct. 1997 - July 2000	Lecturer / Assistant Religious education and later systematic theology, Reformed Theological Faculty of Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj/Klausenburg, Romania.

Ecclesial Career

Since Feb. 2022	Pastor, Reformed Parish of Zofingen (AG), Switzerland.
Aug. 2015 - Feb. 2022	Pastor, Reformed Parish of Auenstein (AG), Switzerland.
Apr. 2006 - Oct. 2011	Pastor, Reformed Parish of Berettyóújfalu-Szentmárton, Hungary.
Sept. 1995 - Apr. 2006	Pastor, Reformed Parish of Bicalatu, Romania.

Education and Ordination

2008/09	Eastern Europe Scholarship of the University of Bern.
July 1996	Second theological examination and ordination.
July 1995	State examination in Cluj/Klausenburg, Romania.
WS 1990/91 - SS 1995	Theological studies at the Protestant Theological Institute in Cluj and Sibiu, Romania.

Academic Functions and Memberships

- Since 2024: Member of the Examination Committee of the Konkordat (Switzerland).
- Since 2021: Member of the Theological Commission of the Reformed Church of the Canton of Aargau.
- Since 2019: Member of the board of the Pastors' Chapter of the Reformed Church of the Canton of Aargau.
- Since 2015: Member of the Swiss Theological Society.
- Since 2000: Member of the Evangelical Theological Society.
- 2010–2015: Secretary of the systematic-theological section of the Collegium Doctorum (Hungary).
- 2007–2015: Cooperation partner of the International Karl Barth Database (Netherlands/USA).
- Participation in working groups of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE), including on ministry, ordination and episkopé, and on the theology of the diaspora.

Selected Publications and Editorial Work

- Der Einfluss der Theologie Karl Barths auf die Reformierte Kirche Rumäniens. Unter Berücksichtigung der Impulse für eine osteuropäische Theologie der Befreiung. Zürich: Theologischer Verlag Zürich, 2005.
- „Die Rezeption der Theologie Karl Barths in der Reformierten Kirche Rumäniens nach 1945.“ In: Martin Leiner/Michael Trowitzsch (eds.), Karl Barths Theologie als europäisches Ereignis. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2008, pp. 188–200.
- „Ist die Theologie Karl Barths noch aktuell? Kritische Würdigung und Reflexionen aus einer osteuropäischen Sicht.“ In: Ist die Theologie Karl Barths noch aktuell? Debrecen, 2008, pp. 41–55.
- Dogmatics after Barth. Facing Challenges in Church, Society and the Academy. Contribution to the volume of the same title, 2012, pp. 123–133.
- „Die Ethik des Heidelberger Katechismus als Grundlage und Richtlinie für moralische Urteilsbildung heute.“ In: Amt und Gemeinde LXIII (2012/2013), pp. 647–658.
- Co-editor: Vigasztaló ismeret: Tanulmányok a Heidelbergi Káté teológiájáról. Budapest: Kálvin János Kiadója, 2013.
- Translation and afterword: Karl Barth, A rómaiakhoz írt levél (Der Römerbrief, second version, 1922). Cluj: Exit Verlag, 2025.

Teaching, Editing and Current Projects

University teaching and research experience in systematic theology and ethics. Fields of teaching include dogmatics, prolegomena, pneumatology, ecclesiology, Karl Barth, general and Protestant ethics, social ethics, bioethics, sexual ethics and political ethics. Responsible editor of the journal „Collegium Doctorum“ (2013–2015) and head of the publication series of the Karl Barth Research Institute (2007–2015). Current translation project: K. H. Miskotte, Wenn die Götter schweigen, into Hungarian, with commentary (project period 2025–2026; planned publication 2026/27).

Further Information

Complete list of publications, abstracts, courses taught and further information:

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