

Prof. Dr. Dr.h.c. Sándor Fazakas

DEBRECEN REFORMED THEOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Department of Social Ethics and Church Sociology

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1. Curriculum Vitae

Sándor Fazakas was born in Tîrgu-Mureş/Marosvásárhely (Romania) in 1965. He graduated from the high school in 1984. After graduation, he started his theological studies at the Reformed Faculty of the Protestant Theological Institute in Cluj. In the academic year 1987-88 he attended the Germanspeaking Saxon Evangelical Faculty of Sibiu/Hermannstadt. He finished his university studies at Debrecen Reformed Theological University (Hungary). He took his first and second Theological examinations with excellent result in 1991 and 1992, respectively. In the academic year 1991/1992 he was a scholarship holder of the Theological Faculty of the University of Münster/Germany (Westfälische-Wilhelms Universität). During this time he studied Systematical Theology and Ethics (under the leadership of H. H. Eßer, W. Neuser, K.-W. Dahm, E. Lessing) and Practical Theology (church development by M. Herbst).

Sándor Fazakas began his pastoral ministry in Milota in 1992. He has been the minister of the Hosszúpályi Reformed Church between 1995–2018. In the same year he started his teaching career as a lecturer at Kölcsey Ferenc Reformed Teacher Training College. He has been a lecturer at Debrecen Reformed Theological University since 1997 where he started his activity as an assistant professor. In 2000 he was appointed to associate professor. He has presented papers at a number of ecclesiastical and theological conferences in Hungary and abroad. Fazakas is a member of several church and academic committees on national and international level.

He did research at Kampen Theological University/Netherlands in October 2000 and at the University of Münster in autumn 2002. Mr. Fazakas obtained the grant of the Johannes Lasco Library Emden/Hardenberg Fellowship /Germany in 2008. In 2011 he obtained the grant for Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers of the *Alexander von Humboldt Foundation* (2011–2012, 2013–2014 and 2019: research fellow at the University of Münster – WWU/Germany) and 2017 research fellow at the University of Heidelberg with the grant of *DAAD/German Academic Exchange Service* (Research Stays for University Academics and Scientists)

Sándor Fazakas was appointed to professorship by the president of the Republic of Hungary on 1st September 2004.

The *most important achievements of his activities* nationally and internationally: as a rector he launched the systematic quality assurance programme of the university; he conducted the university accreditation achieving the grade of excellence in 2009, he developed, introduced and led to Synod acceptance the new order of in-service minister training and the unified system of minister training of the Hungarian Reformed Church. In his theological academic work he has done extensive research on theological and ecclesiastical memory culture and on exploring the legacy of the totalitarian political system from a theological perspective (remembrance, reconciliation, healing memory); Foundation of the Karl Barth Research Institute for Central and Eastern Europe in Debrecen (2008); He is a frequent presenter at international conferences and scientific panels and represents "an important voice" in the fields of church, religion and society, of Europe and its Christian theological heritage, of Central European experience in social ethics. He is a member of several international scientific bodies and work committees (see section 5).

Awards:

- 2004 Award for Excellence for his book titled *Emlékezés és Megbékélés* (Remembrance and Reconciliation); a shared award by the Synod of the Hungarian Reformed Church and Kálvin János Publishing House
- 2008 Grant of the Johannes Lasco Library Emden/Hardenberg Fellowship / Germany
- 2011 Grant of Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers of the *Alexander von Humboldt Foundation*/Germany
- 2017 Grant of Research Stays for University Academics and Scientists of the *DAAD* (German Academic Exchange Service)/Germany
- 2017 Honorary Doctor (*Doctor Honoris Causa*) of the Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca/UBB/Romania
- 2019 Grant of Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers of the *Alexander von Humboldt Foundation*/Germany
- 2021 *DAB Plaque Award* from Hungarian Academy of Science, Regional Committee in Debrecen (for own scientific achievements and scientific organizational efforts)
- 2024 *Karl Barth Prize* of the Union of Evangelical Churches in the EKD (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland)
- 2024 Grant of Research Fellowship from University of Münster (3 Months)

2. Academic degrees:

- Ph.D. Doctoral Thesis: "Towards a New Church?" the Ecclesiological Consequences of the Renewal of the Reformed Church's Renewal after the II. World War. He was conferred the summa cum laude honours degree in March 1999.
- Habilitation Thesis: Remembrance and Reconciliation. Criteria of Coping with the Past (accepted on 3rd June 2003).

3. Academic positions:

- Professor since 2004 Department of Social Ethics and Church Sociology
- Chair of the University Doctoral Committee (2015–2024)
- Head of the doctoral school (2015–2024)
- Rector 2005–2011
- Chancellor 2005–2011 Leader of the Board of Directors of Debrecen Reformed College
- Vice-Rector 2001–2003
- Associate professor 2000–2004 Department of Social Ethics and Church Sociology
- Assistant professor 1997–2000 Department of Social Ethics and Church Sociology
- Assistant professor 1995-1997 Kölcsey Ferenc Reformed Teacher Training College
- Visiting professor/associate professor since 2005, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca/Romania - Department of Reformed Theology and Music
- Founder and head of the Trans-Tibiscan Reformed In-Service Minister Training Institute since
 2002
- Founder of the Karl Barth Research Institute for Central and Eastern Europe in Debrecen (2008); Head of the Barth Research Institute since 2017;

4. Fields of research:

- relationship of church and state: religions and churches after the change in Central Europe,
- religion and the church role in civil society,
- ecclesiology: current ecclesiology, ethics and ecclesiology,
- social ethics: current challenges of millenary for theology and church,
- social ethical aspects of reconciliation and facing historical sins,
- European integration: main functions and roles of church and theology in confluent Europe,
- medical- and Bioethics,
- Theology and Ethics of John Calvin, Karl Barth and the Reformed Protestantism.

5. Academic memberships and functions in national and international public life:

- Committee of Social Ethics of Ecumenical Council of Hungarian Churches (chairman)
- College of Doctors of the Hungarian Reformed Church (chairman of board of Systematical Theology)
- Theological Committee of the Synod of the Hungarian Reformed Church (chairman 2009–2015)

Member of:

- Gesellschaft für Evangelische Theologie/Germany (2001-; board member 2013-)
- CPCE (Community of Protestant Churches in Europe) Expert Group on Ethics (2005–2024)
- Zeitschrift für Evangelische Ethik (Berlin/Gütersloh) Editorial Board (2011–)
- Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für Theologie (2019–)
- Global Network of Research Centers for Theology, Religious and Christian Studies (2010–)
- WARC EAC (World Alliance of Reformed Churches European Area Committee) –
 Theological committee (2002–2006; 2022–2023)
- Egészségügyi Tudományos Tanács Kutatásetikai Bizottság Egészségügyi Minisztérium
 /Scientific Council of Health, Committee on Ethics of Science (2002–2011)
- Leuenberg Lehrgespräch (2002–2006)
- Süd-Ost-Europa Regionalgruppe der GEKE/CPCE (2006–2024)
- Societas Ethica (2001–)
- Karl Barth-Gesellschaft (2003-)

Evaluator for international Awards of Excellence Programs in Theology, Religion and Human Sciences (*Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise* at the University of Heidelberg 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019; 2020; 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024; *Ernst-Wolf-Preis – Nachwuchsförderpreis der Gesellschaft für Evangelische Theologie* 2014–15; 2016–2017; 2018–2021; 2019-2023; 2023–2025; *UEFISCDI – The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding*/ Bucharest 2012);

6. Main lectures abroad:

Austria (Innsbruck 2021; Vienna 2009, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2022) – Czech Republik (Prag 2009, 2015) – France (Paris 2021) – Germany (Berlin 2009, 2012, 2015; Bielefeld/Bethel 2005, 2021; Bonn 2011; Emden 2003, 2008, 2012, 2017; Erlangen 2011; Frankfurt (Oder) 2024; Greifswald 2007, 2009; Heidelberg 2012, 2014; Jena 2006; Leipzig 2019; Loccum 2021; Marburg 2014; Minden 2019; Münster 2012, 2019; Regensburg 2003; Schwerte-Villigst 2001, 2013, 2019; Suhl 2012; Soest 2018; Dresden 1997; Tutzing 2011; Wittenberg 2017; Hannover und Soost 2018; Schwerte-Villigst 2019) – Hong Kong (2019); Italy (Ancona/Falconara 2006) – Netherlands (Kampen 1998, 2004; Groningen 2002) – Romania (Cluj 2004–2024; Oradea 2005, 2014; Brasov 2005; Sibiu 2022) – Slovakia (Košice 2013) – South-Africa (Stellenbosch 2023) – Switzerland (Bern 2003, 2010, 2023).

7. Main publications and papers:

Complete Bibliography:

https://m2.mtmt.hu/api/publication?groupBy=publishedYear&cond=authors%3Bin%3B10010898&cond=category.mtid%3Beq%3B1&ty_on=1&ty_on_check=1&st_on=1&st_on_check=1&url_on=1&url_on_check=1&cite_type=2&sort=publishedYear%2Cdesc&sort=firstAuthor%2Casc&size=1000