

Adrienn Gecse, PhD

a goldsmith-turned-wordsmith
research, writing & translation



www.adrienngecse.com

Funtunfunefu-denkyemfunefu

“Siamese crocodiles”

The name of the symbol on my website.

One of the Adinkra symbols of Ghana.

The symbol of democracy and unity.

- Those two words up there are in Akan, a principal language of Ghana, aren't they beautiful? A famous Akan folktale character is Anansi, a trickster spider is also from the region, who got to the Caribbean by way of the transatlantic slave trade.
- He represents wisdom, resistance and survival, and considered to be a god of stories. Read on and let Anansi lead you on your journey, now and always.



The results of my curiosity

Inner Asian Studies, PhD

African Studies, MA

Mongolian Studies, MA

Tibetan Studies, MA

English to Hungarian translator, PG certificate

Goldsmith, Vocational training

Although I was trained in proper linguistics and also translated from Tibetan and Mongolian throughout my studies and beyond, my real interest is in anthropology and the arts. Despite the objections, I managed to find a way to focus my dissertations, my following research and field work on the subjects and social issues I feel most drawn to – arts, education & environmental protection.

Expertise & Interests

- arts & crafts – jewellery, Buddhist statuary, West African art
- education – development through traditional arts
- human rights – equality and diversity
- environmental protection – through education
- religions – with a focus on Buddhism
- Africa – I think that Tippi Degré had a wonderful childhood

Alma maters:

School of Oriental & African Studies, UK

Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary

National University of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar

Favourite publications

- Treasures of Mongolian Cultural and Historical Heritage in Hungary, Ulaanbaatar – Budapest, IAMS – ELTE (2020)
- *Oral Narratives from the Early Twentieth Century*, in *Sources of Mongolian Buddhism*, Ed by V. A. Wallace, Oxford University Press (2020)
- *Art and artists in modern-day Tibet and Mongolia*, in *Tanulmányok Sárközi Alice tiszteletére*. L'Harmattan, Budapest (2018)
- *The role of arts, crafts and statue making in traditional Tibetan and Mongolian Societies*, in *Journal of Arts and Cultural Studies in Mongolia* (Soyol, urlagiin ikh surguul soyol, urlag sudlalin khureelel), Tomus XIX, Fasciculus 24., Ulaanbaatar (2016)
- *Mongolian statuary – its Tibetan roots, present situation and social significance*, ELTE, Doctoral School of Linguistics, Doctoral diss. (2016)
- *The relationship between Buddhism and the natural environment*, in *Keréknyomok*, Budapest (2014)
- *Smithery (darxan urlal, metall bolowsrūlax). Goldsmith (altın darxan) and blacksmith (darxan)*, in *Material Culture (Traditional Mongolian Culture I.)*. *Materielle Kultur. (Traditionelle mongolische Kultur I.)*. Wien – Budapest, IVA-ICRA Verlag – ELTE 2008 (DVD)
- *About the Ashanti goldsmithing*, in *Africana Hungarica*. 2nd Vol. № 1-2. L'Harmattan, Budapest (2007)

I have been

- **a goldsmith** – to create
- **a museum worker** – to enjoy the beauty of art
- **admin staff** – we all make mistakes
- **a temp** – to survive
- **a researcher** – to satisfy my curiosity
- **a writer** – to spread information
- **an NGO worker** – to change the world, no less
- **a translator** – to ensure the flexibility I need

Worked, studied, lived, loved & cried in

- **Hungary** – where I was born 5 minutes after my sister
- **Russia** – I applied for a scholarship to be with my twin who lived there (Cheeky!)
- **Mongolia** – visited 5 times up to now, for work, study, and for healing
- **United Kingdom** – spent 4 years in London, and my heart is still there

Likes

- **Book** – Roots by Alex Haley
- **Music** – from the heart
- **Chocolate** – 100% dark
- **Food** – home-made and plant-based
- **Honesty** – above politeness
- **Animals** – wild and free
- **Humans** – the kind, the genuine and the brave
- **Places** – wherever I find the above

The way certain people see me

“Your thoughts filter didn’t make it into your hard drive.”

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My birthday

19 December

I was born in the year of fire-snake and I am a Sagittarius.

Don't worry, it's all under control.

Most of the time.



On top of it

My family name is likely of Turkish origin (turk. *gece* → *night*) and the word is present in 18-20th century classical Mongolian language (mong. *kece*) too, where it means → tambourine, the traditional instrument of shamans.

In various traditional societies, due to their ability to create and their use of fire, metal workers are believed to be connected to the supernatural. They live on the darker side of the world, often away from the community, near the forest, which is the dwelling place of unknown creatures. They thought to possess qualities similar to the shamans', they are highly respected and often feared.

Let that sink in.

Misc

- SOASians – I am the Alumni Ambassador for Hungary. Get in contact!
- My biggest achievement in 2021 – I am still alive.
- My plans for 2022 – expect nothing, appreciate everything.
- I miss travelling.

- What's next → 



Wishing you the best for the rest of the year

Did you really, but really need a real tree this Christmas?

