

Curriculum Vitae.

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Dr. Viktor FORIAN-SZABO

Academic degrees: BSc (WU), BA, MA, MA, PhD
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Multidisciplinary academic specializing in Middle East economic history, economics & politics and international development, with a focus on Iran. Experienced educator with a strong record of undergraduate and graduate teaching, cross-cultural engagement, and inclusive practices.

Professional Experience

July 2025– Present

Post-Doctoral Fellow

Max Weber Centre for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies
Erfurt, Germany

July 2023 – June 2025

Professional development

- **University Course in Project Management:** Completion of the course and certificate in project management (IPMA® Level D), improved skills in project planning, implementation and management.
- **Publications and research:** Authored and published academic works, contribution to research in my field (for a detailed list, see below in the relevant section of the document).
- **Research funding:** Actively seeking funding for future research projects, gaining experience and insights into the application process.
- **Volunteering and professional development:** Participated in various workshops and conferences in my field, expanding professional network and expertise especially in the areas of Islamic studies, law and economy.

February 2023 – June 2023

Lecturer

Corvinus University of Budapest- Institute of World Economy
I taught courses on financial institutions in the Global South, focusing on their structure, challenges, and role in economic development.

March 2019 – February 2023

Doctorate: "The Iranian Insurance Market"

As a **Prae Doc Assistant** at the University of Vienna (2018–2022), I contributed to the institute's academic and administrative functions, including drafting research proposals, organizing events, and managing departmental tasks. I designed and lectured courses such as *Islam in Europe* and *Islamic Finance*, fostering critical thinking and interdisciplinary engagement among students. My work culminated in the successful defense of my doctoral thesis with *summa cum laude*, and I consistently received excellent evaluations from students for my teaching effectiveness and course design.

September 2019 – October 2020

Guest Researcher, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Faculty of Law

I conducted extensive on-site research for my doctoral thesis on the institutional development of insurance in modern Iran, utilizing primary sources and collaborating with local experts. This role involved establishing a professional network by engaging with academics, legal professionals, and policymakers, as well as immersing myself in Persian language studies to achieve advanced proficiency, which enhanced my ability to analyze primary documents and communicate effectively within the local context.

Education

February 2019	Master of Arts in "International Development" University of Vienna – Institute for International Development Focus: Economic development concepts in the Global South.
May 2018	Master of Arts in "Arab World and Society" University of Vienna - Institute of Oriental Studies Focus: Arabic and Persian. Middle Eastern Politics and Economics, Islamic Banking
March 2016	Bachelor of Arts in "Oriental Studies" University of Vienna - Institute of Oriental Studies Specialization in Arabic, Iranian, and Turkish Studies
October 2013	Bachelor of Science in "International Business Administration" Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU) Focus on Finance, Areas of Interest: Financial Derivatives, Insurance Industry, Capital Markets
2010	Exchange year Moscow State University – Faculty of Economics Business studies in Russian, certificate in Russian (B2)

Teaching (selection)

- **Financial Markets and Institutions in Developing Countries:** Institute of Global Studies, Department of World Economy; Corvinus University, Budapest, Summer Term 2023
- **Capital Markets: Faculty of Economics:** University of Sopron, Summer Term 2023
- **Islamic Finance. Economic, Ethical and Historical Foundations:** Faculty of Philosophy, Faculty of Economics; University of Vienna, Winter Term 2022
- **International Finance: Faculty of Economics:** University of Sopron, Winter Term 2022
- **Introduction to Insurance: Faculty of Economics:** University of Sopron, Summer Term 2022
- **Ethics and Capital Markets: Faculty of Philosophy, Faculty of Economics:** University of Vienna, Winter Term 2022

Publications (selection)

Monograph (in progress) on Iran, scheduled for publication in 2026

Forian-Szabo. (2024). *Risk and Uncertainty in Modern Islamic Practice. The insurance industry in Iran from the beginnings to the present.* Monograph. Frank & Timme, Berlin.

Ebert, Oucharah, Forian-Szabo (2024). *Berber Studies, Islamic Studies and Arabic Studies in Leipzig. The correspondence of Hans Stumme (1864-1936) to Ignaz Goldziher (1850-1921).* Frank & Timme, Berlin.

Forian-Szabo. (2024). The Specific Features of the Islamic Insurance System. [Forthcoming]

Forian-Szabo. (2023). Insurance and Islam. Theological and legal discussions in the Islamic Republic of Iran. *Journal of Law and Islam* 13 (2023).

Fórián-Szabó, & Kovács, T. (2021). A burdensome legacy: opportunities and challenges for the Iranian economy after the presidential election. *Hungarian Foreign Policy Review [Külügyi Szemle]*, 20 (3), 38–79. https://doi.org/10.47707/Kulugyi_Szemle.2021.3.2

Volunteers & Awards

FWF – Austrian Science Fund, Publication Funding (2024). € 9.600,00

Substitute member of the Senate of the University of Vienna (2019-2021)

Merit-based scholarship of the University of Vienna (2019, 2024)

University of Vienna. Advanced Research School in Law and Jurisprudence (Ars IURIS)- Fellow (since 2021)

Conference Participations and Workshops (Selection)

Understanding the Middle East and North Africa: History, Religion, Politics, and Economy, Bratislava (2024).

Annual Conference of the Society for Arabic and Islamic Law, Erlangen (2023). Lecture in German.

Iranian-Hungarian Friendship Association, Budapest (2023).

Socratics Seminar of the Ars Iuris Doctoral School, Strobl am Wolfgangsee (2022). Workshop with lecture in German.

Socratics Seminar of the Ars Iuris Doctoral School, Strobl am Wolfgangsee (2021). Workshop with lecture in German.

Modern Law and Institutional Decay: The Ecology of Institutional Transplants in the Muslim World, Vienna (2020).

The International Society of Public Law (ICON-S) annual conference, Santiago de Chile (2019).

Language skills

Hungarian	Mother tongue (C2)
German	Mother tongue (C2)
English	Professional fluency (C1)
Russian	Professional fluency (C1)
Czech	Professional fluency (C1)
Persian (Farsi)	Fluent in written and spoken language (B2-C1)
Arabic	Academic and Communicative Level (B1-B2)
Turkish	Academic and Communicative Level (B1)