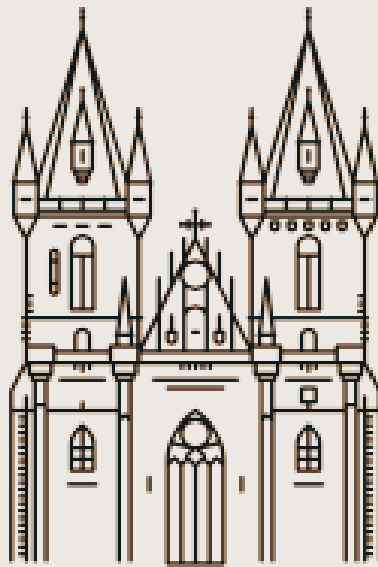


CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE 2021



CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES GROUP

REIMAGINING 'THE HEART OF EUROPE'

FRIDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2021

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE 2021



WELCOME

Welcome to this conference for Czechoslovak studies! It promises to be a jam-packed day, encompassing some 21 papers, 8 panels, a mentoring event for scholars identifying as female or non-binary, and 4 keynotes from a group of preeminent voices in Czechoslovak studies.

We are two second-year PhD students, completing research on Czechoslovak studies at Oxford. The day arose from a shared interest in bringing together some of the exciting and varied work happening in this field. However, it would not have been possible without the stellar efforts of so many others.

First and foremost, thanks must go to TORCH for providing funding, as well as the technical support demanded by online events in these strange and uncertain times. We also want to thank the fantastic Forum for Czech and Slovak Studies, and hope that attendees will use this conference as an opportunity to explore the Forum's work.

From the Forum, we are particularly grateful to Rajendra Chitnis and Peter Zusi for their support in the preparation of this conference, as well as to everyone else who has offered guidance and suggestions. Their thoughtful advice has been most welcome, making the final programme immeasurably better.

This has been a challenging programme to compile, including voices from around the world: from Oxford to Oslo, Helsinki to Hong Kong. This isn't where it ends, either, since we will also be running workshops for doctoral students in the future, and the mentoring scheme for female and non-binary researchers. But for now, sit back and enjoy - we hope you will enjoy the day as much as we will.

With warmest wishes,

Jana Hunter and Dylan Price

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE 2021



AWARDS, MENTORING, AND DISCUSSIONS

Award for the best postgraduate presentation

To celebrate the research that is currently taking place amongst postgraduate students, we will be awarding Dr Celia Donert's monograph *The Rights of Roma* (2017) to the best postgraduate presentation. We will let you know via email who has been awarded the prize. We look forward to your exciting presentations and hearing more about your research.

Female and Non-Binary Researchers in Czechoslovak Studies Mentoring Session

Led by Dr Julia Sutton-Mattocks (University of Bristol) and Dr Kelly Hignett (Leeds Beckett University) we will be hosting the mentoring session from 12.30 to 13.25, which is an opportunity for those who identify as female or non-binary to meet one another and form important and meaningful connections. The idea behind the session is to establish a female and non-binary group in Czechoslovak Studies, which would be a space for doctoral students and early career researchers, where they and their work is highlighted and shared. An initiative supported by members of the Forum of Czech and Slovak Studies, we hope that established academics and researchers will be mentors as the group evolves over the course of the next academic year. If you'd be interested in finding out more about the initiative, please do not hesitate to contact us.

To access to session, please join Zoom Room A.

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE 2021



AWARDS, MENTORING, AND DISCUSSIONS

Czechoslovak Studies Group Doctoral Workshop

Following the conference, the Czechoslovak Studies Group will establish a termly workshop for doctoral students. The aim of the workshop is to create a multidisciplinary space for doctoral students to get feedback on works-in-progress (be those papers, chapters, articles and so on) from their peers. As the last two academic years have been largely online, we hope that this workshop will allow doctoral students to foster invaluable friendships. We will email doctoral students and advertise the workshop to others after today's conference, after which we will be able to share with you all further details.

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE 2021



Programme outline

Welcome: 08.15-08.20 (*Zoom Room A*)

Jana Hunter and Dylan Price

Panel 1A - Linguistics and Patriotism: 08.20-09.20 (*Zoom Room A*)

The genius of the Slavic language: Jan Herkel's Pan Slavism (1826) in the history of linguistics

Raf Van Rooy (University of Oslo)

The Language with Literary Dialects: The Legacy of Jan Herkel's Pan Slavism on Habsburg Slavic Nationalisms

Alexander Maxwell (Victoria University)

Panel 1B - Transnationalism: 08.20-09.20 (*Zoom Room B*)

The role of Anglophilia in the process of Czechoslovak turning to the East: Conciliation of conservatism with socialism

Johana Kłusek (Charles University)

Slovak Return Migration from the United States at the Beginning of the 20th Century

Matúš Godál (Masaryk University)

Break: 09.20-09.25

Panel 2A - Communist Repression: 09.25-10.55 (*Zoom Room A*)

"Our World Had Fallen In On Us": Researching Communist Repression in Czechoslovakia, c.1948 – 1968

Kelly Hignett (Leeds Beckett University)

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE 2021



Programme outline

Panel 2A - Communist Repression: 09.25-10.55 (cont...)

Charter 77 on Trial: Revisiting political trials in Czechoslovakia, 1976-1982

James Moffatt (Cardiff University)

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk: The Czechoslovak Founding Father of People's Democracy

Pavel Krejčí (University of Hong Kong)

Panel 2B - Art and Culture: 09.25-10.55 (Zoom Room B)

Alžběta Siddalová and the Czech Rossetti – Exploring Bohemian artists' fascination with the English Pre-Raphaelites

Helena Cox (University of York)

Northern Horizons: Transferring the Scandinavian Modernity into the Bohemian Lands at the Turn of the Century

Jana Lainto (University of Helsinki)

A Magic Bullet for Modernity: Vladislav Vančura's Lethargus (Láálanegulo) (1929) and Jezero Ukereve (1935)

Julia Sutton-Mattocks (University of Bristol)

The Intercultural Role of Orientalist Scholars in Czech-Persian Aesthetic Communication

Majid Bahrevar (Yasouj University)

Break: 10.55-11.00

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE 2021



Programme outline

Panel 3A - Post-communist Politics: 11.00-12.30 (Zoom Room A)

Building Bridges to Nowhere - The Evolving Nature of Czech Strategic Culture

Marek Bičan (Masaryk University)

Memory and Populism: Feeling left Behind in the Periphery

Johana Wyss (Czech Academy of Sciences)

Gift or a bribe? The role of tradition in post-communist Slovak corrupt practices

Kristina Cimova (University of Glasgow)

Panel 3B - Politics and Identity: 11.00-12.30 (Zoom Room B)

'Muslims' as a category of practice in the study of Islamophobia in Czechia

Carlos Gómez del Tronco (University College London)

Strategies for the symbolic integration of the Slovak Romanies

Brett Chloupek (Northwest Missouri State University)

Rethinking Lustrations; Transitional Justice in Czechoslovakia and Ukraine

Martin Hocheľ (Central European University)

**Female and Non-Binary Scholars in Czechoslovak Studies Mentoring
Session: 12.30-13.25** (Zoom Room A)

Dr Kelly Hignett and Dr Julia Sutton-Mattocks

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE 2021



Programme outline

Keynote Speech by Chad Bryant (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill): 13.30-14.45 (*Zoom Room A*)

Inescapable: Nationalism, National Indifference, and Czechoslovak Studies Today

Break: 14.45-14.55

Keynote Speech by Karla Huebner (Wright State University): 14.55-16.10 (*Zoom Room A*)

Not Just Toyen: How Should We Envision First Republic Women and Gender?

Break: 16.10-16.15

Keynote Speech by Christopher Campo-Bowen (Virginia Tech): 16.15-17.30 (*Zoom Room A*)

Rural Imagery and Rural Imaginaries: The Countryside, Belonging, and Ethnicity in Czech Opera

Break: 17.30-17.45

Panel 4A - History and Religion: 17.45-18.45 (*Zoom Room A*)

Subversive Veneration? Habsburg Authority, Bohemian Identity, and the Marian Cult c. 1650-1690

Anna-Marie Pípalová (University of Cambridge)

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE 2021



Programme outline

Panel 4A: History and Religion: : 17.45-18.45 (cont...)

Recasting the Christian Democratic Discourse in Czechoslovakia in the late Cold War: Christian Europeanism confronts Communist Nationalism

Krystof Dolezal (Central European University)

Panel 4B: History and National Identities: 17.45-18.45 (Zoom Room B)

Drawing Central Europe's Borderlands: Community Mapping Practices in Teschen, 1918-1920

Tess Megginson (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

"Czechoslovakia – The Heart of Europe" as reflected in German-language journals published in Prague between 1921 – 1937

Magdalena Bak (University of Vienna)

Break: 18.45-19.00

Keynote Speech by James Krapfl (McGill University): 19.00-20.15 (Zoom Room A)

The Humane Ideal in Czech and Slovak History and Its Significance for Europe's Future

Closing Remarks: 20.15-20.25 (Zoom Room A)

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE 2021



Keynote Speaker Biographies

"Inescapable: Nationalism, National Indifference, and Czechoslovak Studies Today"

Chad Bryant, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill



Chad Bryant is an Associate Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who has received fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies and the National Humanities Center. He is the author of *Prague in Black: Nazi Rule and Czech Nationalism*, winner of the Rosenberg Book Prize. Bryant's most recent publication *Prague: Belonging in the Modern City* was published earlier this year and tells the story of five marginalised individuals who, over the last two centuries, forged their own notions of belonging in the capital city. Alongside Kateřina Čapková and Diana Dumitru, Bryant is co-authoring a revised history of the Slánský trial, research for which has been supported by a collaboration fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies.

"Not Just Toyen: How Should We Envision First-Republic Women and Gender?"

Karla Huebner, Wright State University



Karla Huebner is a Professor of Art History and affiliate faculty in Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Wright State University and has received research grants and fellowships that include Fulbright-Hays DDRA and an Andrew Mellon predoctoral fellowship. In 2013 she was elected to the board of Historians of German, Scandinavian, and Central European Art (HGSCA) and in 2019 she was elected President of the Czechoslovak Studies Association. Huebner has presented papers internationally and has contributed a number of books and has published articles in various journals, including *Journal of Women's History*, *Aspasia*, and *Papers of Surrealism*. Huebner's most recent publication *Magnetic Women: Toyen and the Surrealist Erotic* examines the life and work of the artist Toyen, a founding member of the Prague surrealist group, and focuses on her construction of gender and eroticism.

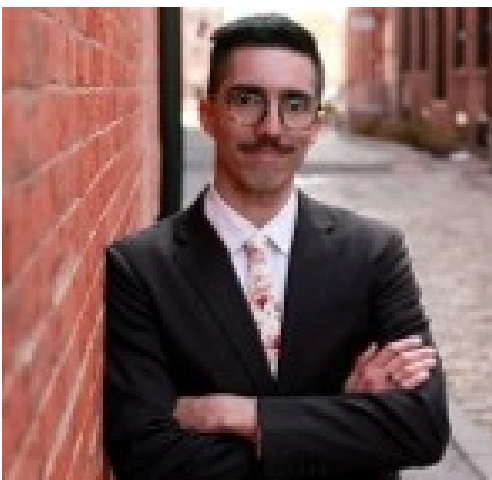
CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE 2021



Keynote Speaker Biographies

"Rural Imagery and Rural Imaginaries: The Countryside, Belonging, and Ethnicity in Czech Opera"

Christopher Campo-Bowen, Virginia Tech



Christopher Campo-Bowen is an Assistant Professor of musicology in the School of Performing Arts at Virginia Tech. He completed his Ph.D. in musicology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received a Fulbright grant for the Czech Republic to perform dissertation research. Campo-Bowen's research focuses on music in the Habsburg Monarchy in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, especially on the relationships between music, ethnicity, gender, and empire. He is particularly interested in the music of the composers Bedřich Smetana, Antonín Dvořák, and Leoš Janáček and how conceptions of ruralness in Czech opera structured notions of subjectivity and identity. His current project investigates how urbanites' operatic visions of Czech rural cultures were instrumental in creating a coherent sense of ethnonational belonging.

"The Humane Ideal in Czech and Slovak History and Its Significance for Europe's Future"

James Krapfl, McGill University



James Krapfl is an Associate Professor of modern European history at McGill University in Montreal. His book *Revolution with a Human Face: Politics, Culture, and Community in Czechoslovakia, 1989-1992* was awarded the George Blazyca Prize for best new monograph on eastern Europe by the British Association of Slavonic and East European Studies, as well as the Czechoslovak Studies Association Book Prize (also 2015). Krapfl is a specialist on east central Europe with particular interests in the history of mentalities and political culture, and in the historical anthropology of revolutionary phenomena. Krapfl is preparing a new book on the political cultures forged in the collective effervescence of 1968. Research for this project has been supported by Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and by Czech, German, and Slovak funding bodies.

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE 2021



Female and Non-Binary Mentoring Session

The session is kindly being led by Dr Julia Sutton-Mattocks and Dr Kelly Hignett.

Dr Julia Sutton-Mattocks (University of Bristol)



Julia Sutton-Mattocks is a Lecturer at the Department of Russian at the University of Bristol. Her research interests focus on the continuities between late nineteenth-century culture and the interwar period; transnational European Modernism and the Avant-garde; interactions between narratives of the body (and/or body politic) and the arts; and interactions between different art forms, especially between literature, cinema and art. Funded by the South, West and Wales Doctoral Training Partnership, her PhD examined portrayals of medicine in Czech- and Russian-language literature and cinema of the 1920s and early 1930s. In 2020-21, Sutton-Mattocks is convening a number of exciting courses, including 'Hedgehogs & Foxes' (nineteenth-century Russian literature) and 'Woman & Nation'.

Dr Kelly Hignett (Leeds Beckett University)



Kelly Hignett is Senior Lecturer in History at Leeds Beckett University. Her research interests relate to twentieth century central and eastern Europe, with a particular focus on communist Czechoslovakia. Her primary research interests include: repression, imprisonment and forced labour; show trials and political persecution; criminality and social deviance; nationalism, state-building and identity construction. She has previously published a number of journal articles and book chapters and recently co-authored a book titled *Women's Experiences of Repression in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe* (Routledge, 2018). She is currently writing about women political prisoners in Czechoslovakia and her next project will explore the history and heritage of communist-era forced labour camps in Czechoslovakia, as part of a wider study of experiences of incarceration and forced labour in Eastern Europe after 1945.

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE 2021



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

Welcome: 08.15-08.20

Jana Hunter is a PhD candidate in History at the University of Oxford funded by the Rawnsley Scholarship. She is currently at the University of Vienna on the Scatcherd European Scholarship for research. Her project maps Czech modernist consciousness in the cultural exchanges between British, German, and Czech travel writers during the second half of the nineteenth century, with a particular focus on the perceptions and experiences of time and space. Prior to Oxford, Jana received an MPhil from the University of Cambridge and a first-class degree from the University of Durham.

Dylan Price is a PhD candidate at the University of Oxford. His research interests include music from Czechia and Eastern Europe, affective and environmental criticism, and forms of (trans)nationalism that arose from the nineteenth century to the present day. He received a first-class undergraduate degree from Merton College Oxford, and an MPhil from the University of Cambridge. Now, he is based at Worcester College Oxford as Asa Briggs Scholar in the Humanities, supported by the AHRC and the Clarendon Fund (OUP).

Panel 1A - Linguistics and Patriotism: 08.20-09.20

The genius of the Slavic language: Jan Herkel's Pan Slavism (1826) in the history of linguistics

Raf Van Rooy (University of Oslo)

In his 1826 *Elementa universalis linguae Slavicae*, the Slovak author Jan Herkel (1786–1853) famously coined the term Pan Slavism in its Latin guise *Pan Slavismus*. However, it is not this word but another linguistic concept that takes center stage in his *Elementa*: the “genius” of the Slavic language. Whereas *Pan Slavismus* only appears once, the neuter noun *genium* occurs no less than 63 times in the book.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

Indeed, Herkel's Panslavic quest is a far-going attempt at revealing the genius of the Slavic language through a rational comparative study of its numerous dialects, not least his native Slovak—or "Pannonian," as he calls it himself. As a historian of linguistics and a non-Slavist, I aim to frame Herkel's ideas in the long history of linguistics, focusing on two interconnected aspects of his 1826 *Elementa*. Relying on the first ever English translation of Herkel's landmark publication, which I have recently completed as part of a forthcoming book project in collaboration with Alexander Maxwell, I will analyze (1) his concept of "genius" (cf. Van Hal 2013) and (2) his usage of the language/dialect dichotomy (cf. Van Rooy 2020). This analysis will serve to assess Herkel's sense of Slavic linguistic identity, which appears to be remarkably inclusive and rational, following Enlightenment trends.

Raf Van Rooy (PhD KU Leuven, 2017) is Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow at the University of Oslo (Norway), working on the project "Between migration and linguistics: Greeks in Western Europe and the emergence of contrastive grammar in the Renaissance (c.1390–1600)" (2021–23). Van Rooy previously was PhD fellow (2013–17) and postdoctoral fellow (2017–21) of the Research Foundation—Flanders (FWO) at KU Leuven (Flanders, Belgium). Holding degrees in Classics, General Linguistics, and Early Modern History from KU Leuven, UCLouvain (Louvain-la-Neuve), and Ghent University, he specializes in the premodern history of linguistics and Greek studies. In 2020, he published *Language or Dialect? The History of a Conceptual Pair* (Oxford University Press) and *Greece's Labyrinth of Language: A Study in the Early Modern Discovery of Dialect Diversity* (Language Science Press). He is currently supervising the development of DaLeT, the Database of the Leuven Trilingue, and preparing a new volume on Neo-Latin and New Ancient Greek for Brill.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

***The Language with Literary Dialects: The Legacy of Jan Herkel's
Panslavism on Habsburg Slavic Nationalisms***
Alexander Maxwell (Victoria University)

Jan Herkel's 1826 *Elementa universalis linguae Slavicae*, which introduced the word "Panslavism," has left interesting legacies. While non-Slavs repurposed the word "Panslavism" to articulate their fears of Russian expansionism, Slavs in the Habsburg monarchy drew more inspiration from Herkel's vision of "unity in literature." Presupposing a single "Slavic language," Herkel's orthographic suggestions conceptualized as "dialectical" the distinct literary traditions in Russian, Polish, Czech, Serbian etc. The unstated assumption that a single "language" can contain distinct literary traditions written in distinct orthographies informed Slavic linguistic nationalism during the nineteenth century. For example, the idea of literary "dialects" inspired language codifiers, such as Matia Majer's grammar of the "Illyrian dialect of the Slavic language," Ignac Kristianović's "grammar of the Croatian dialect," and Ľudovít Štúr's pamphlet on "the Slovak dialect and the need to write in this dialect." Jan Kollár's proposed pan-dialectical literary journal, in turn inspiring Pjotr Dubrovskii's publication *Dennitsa/Jutrzenka*. Even after the 1848 Pan-Slav congress disillusioned Slavic fantasies of straightforward mutual comprehensibility between "dialects," several activists sought not particularist literatures, but renewed efforts to choose a single literary standard, such as Josef Franta Šumavský's plan to revive Old Church Slavonic, and schemes for Habsburg Slavs to adopt literary Russian, advocated by Imbro Tkalac, Andrej Radlinský, Ľudovít Štúr, and others. Efforts to promote "Serbo-Croatian" or "Czecho-Slovak" as national languages, finally, also rested on the assumption of a "language" encompassing multiple orthographic standards.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

Alexander Maxwell is associate professor of history at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand. He studied at the University of California, Davis, Georg-August University in Göttingen, Germany, and the Central European University in Budapest, before completing his PhD at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He held brief postdoctoral positions in Erfurt, Swansea, Reno, and Bucharest before joining the faculty at Victoria University. He is the author of *Choosing Slovakia: Slavic Hungary, the Czechoslovak Language and Accidental Nationalism* (I.B. Tauris, 2009); *Patriots Against Fashion: Clothing and Nationalism in Europe's Age of Revolutions* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014); and *Everyday Nationalism in Hungary: 1789–1867* (De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2019). He is currently writing a comparative study about the language/dialect dichotomy in government administration. He is also collaborating with Raf van Rooy on a scholarly translation of Herkel's *Elementa universalis linguae Slavicae*.

Panel 1B - Transnationalism: 08.20-09.20

The role of Anglophilia in the process of Czechoslovak turning to the East: Conciliation of conservatism with socialism

Johana Kłusek (Charles University)

The paper focuses on the paradoxical role Anglophilia – as an important object of the period's Othering - played in the Czechoslovak turning from the West to the East during late phases of World War II and in the early months of the Third Republic. It argues against a dichotomous understanding of the Czechoslovak power groups of the time - the “real” democrats coming back from London and the “evil” Communists returning from Moscow. The multi-faceted image of Britain, as captured in the exile and later democratic media of the Third Republic, shows the ground where the groups reached an improbable match. Already during the war democrats surrounding President Beneš started to build the bridge spanning conservatism as the traditional British asset and socialism as its new feature.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

However, a friendly tone towards the nation that was soon to become one of the chief enemies was initially also abided by the official communist newspaper. The society shattered by the war experience and insecure in regard to the future was an ideal target for unproblematic soaking of such discourse. More concretely, the paper inspects the Czechoslovak war image of Britain and Czechoslovak reflections and interpretations of British parliamentary election of summer 1945. The absence of an ideological clash in the observed discourses sheds light on the often-underestimated scope of responsibility democratic elites had for the political development in post-war Czechoslovakia and, at the same time, highlights the power of one common progressive mindset Western and Eastern Europe shared after the war.

Johana Klusek is a PhD Candidate at Charles University in Prague. Her research focuses on Czechoslovak Anglophilia between 1939 and 1948. She looks at Britain as on a new significant Other, onto which, Czechoslovaks projected their visions, hopes as well as fears and frustrations in one of the most turbulent times of Czech history. As a SYLFF fellow Johana undertook an internship at Humboldt University and cooperated on the project 'London Moment' in 2019. She has taught a course 'History from Below' at Charles University and Jagiellonian University in Krakow. In AY 2020/2021 she worked as a Postgraduate Teaching Assistant at SSEES UCL. A chapter, devoted to post-transformation ideological discourses of Václav Klaus, in a monograph 'Traces of Velvet Revolution: Where Does the 1989 Dwell?' represents her latest publication (Karolinum, 2021).

Slovak Return Migration from the United States at the Beginning of the 20th Century

Matúš Godál (Masaryk University)

The phenomenon of return migration refers to a tendency of immigrants returning to their country of origin from the destination country after a certain amount of time.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

The majority of the existing research concentrates on Slovak immigration to the United States and not on return migration. Therefore, Slovak return migration might be regarded as a neglected aspect of Slovak emigration and immigration studies. Despite the fact that scholars preoccupied with Slovak immigration to the United States acknowledge that this migration experience was predominantly temporary, there are certain deficiencies in comprehending this migration experience. This paper brings a closer look to various categorizations of return migrants with the use of the US' Reports of the Department of Commerce and Labour between the years 1900 and 1919 and the statistics extracted from the Fourteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1920. The comparative analysis of these reports concerning Slovak return migrants showed unexpected conclusions in terms of the intentions of migrants at the time of emigration as well as the number of Slovak return migrants. This analysis was predominantly based on the three largest waves of Slovak departures from the USA in the second decade of the 20th century.

Matúš Godál is currently studying a Master's degree programme in Upper Secondary School Teacher Education in English Language and Literature and History at the Faculty of Arts at the Masaryk University in Brno in the Czech Republic. He focused on the phenomenon of Slovak return migration in his bachelor's thesis "Slovak Immigration and Return Migration from the United States during the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries", in which he tried to revise some assumptions that have been made in relation to Slovak migration between the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the United States. At the Bachelor's degree programme Humanities, he studied English Language and Literature and History. His bachelor's thesis might be, therefore, regarded as an intersection between his two areas of study. It connects history of the present-day Slovak Republic and the history of the United States, which has been fundamentally interrelated with various migration processes from its foundation.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

Panel 2A - Communist Repression: 09.25-10.55

“Our World Had Fallen In On Us”: Researching Communist Repression in Czechoslovakia, c.1948 - 1968
Kelly Hignett (Leeds Beckett University)

The Communist consolidation of power in Czechoslovakia in February 1948 unleashed a wave of terror and repression, involving the arrest and incarceration of large numbers of people under Article 231 of the new legal code, for “crimes against the state”. During the peak years of repression, 1948-1954, it has been estimated that around 90,000 Czechoslovak citizens were prosecuted under Article 231, most of whom were deemed to be muž určený k likvidaci (‘selected for liquidation’) and were sentenced to lengthy periods in penal institutions and tabory (forced labour camps), where many languished until the late 1950s/early 1960s. In addition, the Communist Party pursued a policy of ‘punishment through kinship ties’, so while family members of those convicted for political crimes were not necessarily arrested themselves, they were generally considered ‘guilty by association’ and were subjected to ‘collateral’ or ‘secondary’ repression through a sustained campaign of discrimination, stigmatism, marginalisation and exclusion.

This paper will draw on some of my recent research, analysing personal narratives of incarceration and repression during the early decades of state socialism in Czechoslovakia. In particular, I will focus on women’s experiences of communist-era repression, which are often under-represented in the existing historiography. While researchers often highlight women’s reluctance to share personal information about traumatic experiences compared to many of their male counterparts, their accounts can also be deeply illuminating, providing us with new insights and perspectives into communist-era repression.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

Dr. Kelly Hignett is Senior Lecturer in History at Leeds Beckett University, UK. Kelly's research interests relate to twentieth century central and eastern Europe, with a particular focus on communist Czechoslovakia. Her primary research interests include: repression, imprisonment and forced labour; show trials and political persecution; criminality and social deviance; nationalism, state-building and identity construction. She has previously published a number of journal articles and book chapters and recently co-authored a book titled *Women's Experiences of Repression in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe* (Routledge, 2018). Kelly is currently writing about women political prisoners in Czechoslovakia and her next project will explore the history and heritage of communist-era forced labour camps in Czechoslovakia, as part of a wider study of experiences of incarceration and forced labour in Eastern Europe after 1945.

Charter 77 on Trial: Revisiting political trials in Czechoslovakia, 1976-1982
James Moffatt (Cardiff University)

The Normalisation period in Czechoslovakia has tended to be treated as static, particularly regarding dealings with political dissent, in which the two opposing forces of the regime and Charter 77 are pitched against one another. This paper focusses on a lesser-known trial, that of Rudolf Battěk, seeking to understand why and how the regime became markedly more oppressive from the mid-1970s to the early 1980s. Battěk's trial and prosecution will be situated within the context of the better-known trials, such as those of the Plastic People et al. in 1976, and of VONS in 1979. Unlike the Plastic People and VONS trials, Battěk's case would go on to be largely forgotten by the historiography, despite its significant positioning within the changes of political structuring within not only Czechoslovakia but also within the wider context of the Communist Bloc in the early 1980s. Key to this paper is understanding how and why the sentences given to the non-conformists during this time became increasingly extreme, especially towards Battěk, as a minority within not only the state, but especially within the Charter.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

James Moffatt has just graduated from Cardiff University with upper second-class honours in History. At Cardiff, under the guidance of Professor Mary Heimann, he developed a keen interest in the nature of post-Prague Spring Czechoslovakia. Through this he sought to develop a greater understanding, and achieved a First in his dissertation on political trials in the Normalisation era. James will be developing his knowledge of the Czech language at Masaryk University in Brno over the next year, before hopefully returning to complete a Masters.

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk: The Czechoslovak Founding Father of People's Democracy

Pavel Krejčí (University of Hong Kong)

This paper analyses the intellectual roots of the people's democracy regime in Czechoslovakia after World War II (1945-1948). Although people's democracy is traditionally associated with the Stalinist regimes governing Eastern Europe after 1948, its theoretical framework had been developed by Czechoslovak thinkers long before the involvement of the USSR in World War II, albeit in a qualitatively different form from the Stalinist version. Specifically, the paper focuses on reinterpreting the role of the Czechoslovak founding-father, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk. Masaryk elaborated a concept of 'humanitarian democracy' that he saw as a higher stage of liberal democracy, and whose conceptual origins he traced to the European Renaissance and Reformation. For Masaryk, the Renaissance and Reformation engendered 'new ethical and social ideals' of humanity. According to his interpretation, the embracing of these ideals prepared the ground for the French Revolution that incorporated these humanistic ideals ('Liberty-Equality-Fraternity') into modern public life. The proclamation of these innate natural rights paved the way for further demands for economic and social justice. These economic and social demands were the driving forces of the nineteenth century and prepared the ground for the social struggles of the twentieth century.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

In order to successfully deal with these struggles and prevent violent revolution, Masaryk claimed that true democracy must not only be political, but also social and economic. Although overlooked, such notions provided the theoretical basis for the project of 'socializing democracy' that became a synonym for people's democracy after World War II.

Pavel Krejčí is a PhD Candidate in History at the University of Hong Kong and an awardee of the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme. His doctoral thesis examines the transformational shift in Czechoslovak society from the Western Liberalism of the interwar era towards post-war Socialism. He completed his master's degrees in History and Law at Charles University, Prague, under the supervision of the former Czech Prime Minister, Mr Petr Pithart. His thesis on Czechoslovakia during World War Two was awarded the Prize for Young Historians in the National Competition for Young Historians. Prior to commencing his doctoral studies he worked for five years in the Cabinet of the Vice-Prime Minister of the Czech Government as a Political Affairs Specialist.

Panel 2B - Art and Culture: 09.25-10.55

Alžběta Siddalová and the Czech Rossetti - Exploring Bohemian artists' fascination with the English Pre-Raphaelites
Helena Cox (University of York)

Around 1900, as one of the cultural centres of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Prague was home to a growing circle of artists admiring the English Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood (PRB). Among them was the painter and etcher Max Švabinský (1873–1963). Švabinský's association with Rossetti was mainly based on the enthusiasm of his model and later wife, Ela Švabinská (1878-1967) and her impact on Max's work. Ela first emerged as the artist's model, creating a specific feminine type with a signature look inspired by the Pre-Raphaelites.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

They soon became known as the Czech Rossetti and Alžběta Siddalová – the Czech version of the Pre-Raphaelite model and artist Elizabeth Siddall's name as it often appeared in concurrent Czech art journals. This paper will use the case study of the Švabinskýs to explore the impact of the Pre-Raphaelites on the Czech art scene at the turn of the century. It will also focus on the key role of female agency within the Pre-Raphaelite movement and how this was reflected by the creative collaboration between Ela and Max Švabinský.

Helena Cox (nee Gaudeková) – PhD candidate in Art History at the University of York; Curator at Beverley Art Gallery, East Riding of Yorkshire Museums. Helena previously worked as a Curator at the National Museum in Prague (Czechia) where she researched the Japanese art collection and published two monographs: *Playing All Day Long* (2014) and *Buddhas, Bódhisattvas and Deities – Japanese Buddhist Art from the Náprstek Museum in Prague* (2012) and a series of peer-reviewed articles mainly exploring 19th century Japanese woodblock prints. Helena's research is focused on intercultural dialogues, such as between Japan and 'Western' culture, and between Central Europe and Britain. Helena's PhD explores the reflection of British art in Bohemia, nowadays Czechia, around 1900. This includes an emphasis on the role of the Pre-Raphaelites in shaping Central European and specifically Bohemian art. As a Curator, Helena currently oversees a Yorkshire-based collection of late Victorian and Edwardian paintings.

Northern Horizons: Transferring the Scandinavian Modernity into the Bohemian Lands at the Turn of the Century

Jana Lainto (University of Helsinki)

In this paper, I present Czech-Scandinavian cultural exchanges and transfers at the turn of the century. The main point of departure is an individual actor, Arnošt Vilém Kraus (1859–1943), a German studies professor at Charles University, who was the first Czech scholar systematically interested in Scandinavia.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

Kraus, a small-nation intellectual, valued Scandinavian modernity and gazed towards Scandinavia, another geographical and cultural periphery, for inspiration that he could import into the Bohemian Lands to elevate the Czech national culture. I therefore present Kraus as a cultural transmitter between the Bohemian Lands and Scandinavia, particularly Denmark. I study the images of Denmark that Kraus constructed in his published works, and I furthermore explore aspects, which Kraus considered modern and progressive – I particularly focus on Kraus's interest in Danish agricultural practices and folk high school education. In this case study, I trace Kraus's transfer methods, the circulation and reception of these concepts in the Bohemian Lands and finally their practical implementation into the Czech national milieu. Kraus belonged to a circle of national activists around Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and actively supported Masaryk's cultural and later political movement. These transnational activities are therefore studied in the context of Czech progressive nationalism, as I address the possible implementation and use of Kraus's Scandinavian activities within Masaryk's political programme.

Jana Lainto is a PhD candidate at the Centre for Nordic Studies at the University of Helsinki, Finland. In her doctoral project, she studies the development of Czech-Scandinavian cultural exchanges and transfers from the late 19th century until World War II. Her main research interests are Czech cultural history, cultural transfer studies and Czech-Scandinavian cultural relations. She was recently awarded the Josef Dobrovský Fellowship by the Czech Academy of Sciences for foreign researchers that enabled her to work as a visiting researcher at the Institute of Czech Literature of CAS in May and June of 2021. She holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in History and Philosophy from Palacký University Olomouc in Czechia (2011) and a Master's degree in European studies from the University of Helsinki in Finland (2016).



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

A Magic Bullet for Modernity: Vladislav Vančura's Lethargus (Láálanegulo) (1929) and Jezero Ukereve (1935)

Julia Sutton-Mattocks (University of Bristol)

My proposed paper examines two works by the prominent Czech doctor-writer and member of the interwar Avant-garde, Vladislav Vančura (1891-1942): his unrealised 1929 film scenario *Lethargus* (*Láálanegulo*) and his 1935 play *Jezero Ukereve*. In the two works, which share a core narrative, Vančura conflates important figures and events in the history of research into African trypanosomiasis (the disease commonly known in English as 'sleeping sickness') and heralds as a potential miracle treatment a drug called Salvarsan: the world's first so-called "magic bullet" drug and the first effective treatment for syphilis, but one that was never used effectively in the treatment of sleeping sickness.

This new composite history of the disease, I argue, functions as a complex metaphor for the creative Avant-garde's attempt to restore humanity to health. Relatedly, I will argue that the two works show the extent to which the promise of Salvarsan – the 'magic bullet' – appeared to speak to the post-war period's deepest desire; that a panacea might be found for modernity's ills. Finally, I will examine the differences in genre, form and plot development between the two works, and argue that they reveal a change over time in Vančura's vision for the Avant-garde (from experimentation to action) that partly stemmed from the shift in the political climate as the 1920s gave way to the 1930s.

Dr Julia Sutton-Mattocks is a lecturer at the University of Bristol, where she teaches Czech and Russian literature, history and culture. As a researcher, her interests lie in Czech and Russian literary and visual culture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with a particular focus on the medical humanities. She is also a keen literary translator from both Czech and Russian.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

The Intercultural Role of Orientalist Scholars in Czech-Persian Aesthetic Communication

Majid Bahrevar (Yasouj University)

The influence of Persian literature on Czech culture, literature, and art is here examining as regard to the growing institutional development of Oriental studies and the increasing Czech knowledge of Persian poetry across academia and the public by the spread of Czech Iranology from the early Czech Romantics to the end of the Cold War. The Czech orientalists who got acquainted with the source of some classic Persian poems attempted to translate or adapt them into Czech verse, predominately with the help of the well-known Czech poets such as J. Vrchlicky, V. Nezval, J. Seifert, and V. Holan. In fact, they were not only an effective help to those scientists and students who were interested in the orient, but at the same time served as an intercultural mediatory between the eastern and continental poetry and art. The study extensively traces the roots of the inspiration, describing the collaboration of Czech trends of poets with Czech orientalists such as J. B. Kosut, J. Borecky, J. Rypka, and V. Kubickova. It also provides a detailed context of an intercultural and aesthetic communication was started particularly via the translation of Hafiz and then Nizami's poetry into Czech verse inspiring exotic pieces in the Czech visual art. One can follow here that the impact of the German school of orientalists is here predominant, also the adaptation of W. Goethe had an epoch-making role.

Majid Bahrevar is an associate professor of Yasouj University and worked as a visiting professor of Iranian studies at Charles University in Prague (2015-6) also as a researcher at McGill Institute of Islamic Studies (2019). He published books in Persian *Humoring with Hafiz: A Phenomenological Approach to Poetics of Hafiz and Parodists' Satire*, Tehran. 2016; *All Seasons Are Beautiful*. Tehran. 2015. Papers in English:



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

Centered on Needs of Learners: Developing ESP Curriculum for the Iranian Students of Persian Language and Literature, IJMT. USA. 2012.

A Semiotic Perspective on Modernist Revolt against Poetic Imagery of Persian Lyricism, in Is It Real? UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing. 2016.

Panel 3A - Post-communist Politics: 11.00-12.30

Building Bridges to Nowhere - The Evolving Nature of Czech Strategic Culture **Marek Bičan (Masaryk University)**

As a concept, strategic culture is widely used in security studies because it provides a useful analytical framework through which researchers study various traditions of thinking about national security within selected countries. Sadly, Czech strategic culture and its recent development provides an interesting example of how things can go wrong in the country that was famous for its post-communist values-based foreign policy.

The purpose of my presentation would be to (a) introduce the audience to the very concept, (b) identify and define the three main Czech subcultures (Atlanticism, Internationalism/Europeanism, and Isolationism), (c) briefly describe their origins and developments, (d) focus on reasons of the rise in popularity of Isolationism and its main proponents, and (e) identify potential changes in the Czech strategic culture after the parliamentary elections of 2021.

I intend to focus on Isolationism because it gradually developed from a rather obscure subculture in the 1990s into its current highly relevant and very assertive form pursued by the broad political coalition. This coalition consists of various political parties (KSČM, SPD, Trikolóra, Volný blok) and enjoys vocal support from President Zeman and former President Klaus.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

I believe that such a presentation would be interesting to the broader audience because of its focus on the proponents of Isolationism and their values. Furthermore, it would provide an interesting basis for the discussion about whether this development is specifically Czech(-oslovak) or whether it is merely a local version of wider development.

Marek Bičan is an Assistant Lecturer at the Department of International Relations and European Studies at Masaryk University and a Researcher at Czech Priorities. He holds Master's degrees in Politics and Contemporary History from King's College London and in International Relations from Masaryk University, where he continues as a PhD candidate in International Relations and European Politics. During his studies, Marek spent several months in London (as an intern at the Czech Embassy), in Oxford (as an intern at the Europaeum), and in Budapest (as a visiting student at Central European University). His main research focuses are British domestic politics, British foreign and defence policies, and grand strategy. Marek teaches several courses at Masaryk University and often presents the findings of his research at conferences. Furthermore, he frequently comments on these topics on various Czech media.

Memory and Populism: Feeling left Behind in the Periphery **Johana Wyss (Czech Academy of Sciences)**

This paper investigates whether the way in which Czech citizens relate to the commemoration of the fall of the Iron Curtain can shed light on the increasingly illiberal sentiments and 'democratic backsliding' in the Czech Republic. Instead of focusing on the large urban agglomerations such as Prague or Brno, it explores perspectives of the citizens living in the borderland peripheries, where, in fact, populist parties are strongest. Based on my ethnographic research in Czech Silesia, analysis of current political discourse, and on follow-up fieldwork during the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution in November 2019, this paper provides a case study of increasing political polarisation as a new form of illiberalism emerges.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

After completing her doctoral research in Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Oxford (2014-2018), **Johana Wyss** joined the University of Warwick as a Teaching Fellow (2018-2019) and then the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle (Saale), Germany, as a Postdoctoral Researcher (2019-2021). Currently, she is a full-time Research Fellow at the Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences, and she is working on her first monograph entitled 'Grandfathers in the Wehrmacht'. Simultaneously, she is developing a new research project focusing on the relationship between memory and populism in Central and Eastern European context. In July 2021 she had the honour of receiving the Otto Wichterle Award for excellence in science.

www.johanawyss.com

Gift or a bribe? The role of tradition in post-communist Slovak corrupt practices

Kristina Cimova (University of Glasgow)

Corruption in the Central and East European region has been the subject of rigorous scholarly research (Batory, 2012, 2020; Fric, 1999; Ledeneva, 2009; Popova & Post, 2018; Rose-Ackerman, 2016), and in 2016, Transparency International (TI) ranked Slovakia as the 6th most corrupt out of the European Union's 28 Member states (Sipos, 2016). This ranking has not significantly improved since, and one area where corruption is recognised to be acutely present is the Slovak healthcare system (Eurobarometer, 2017; Sipos, 2016). Of particular interest in this sector and others is the distinction between informal practices and corruption, namely the idea and traditions of gift-giving, as opposed to bribery. My recent research into the understanding of grand and petty corruption in the CEE context, specifically within Slovakia's health care sector, has shed light on the cultural idiosyncrasies associated with gift-giving behaviour in the real-life experiences of participants.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

The participants of the research have articulated invaluable linguistic features, relating to: their reasoning behind gift-giving, the importance of the timing of gifts, elements of trust and fear both motivating and also guaranteeing successful outcomes of corrupt transactions, and the roles played by customs and traditions in corruption in post- communist society. The paper discusses these specific notions while moving away from quantitative and perception-based measurements of corruption, instead providing a rigorous investigation of these phenomena anchored in qualitative analysis of language and real-life understanding.

Dr Kristina Cimova is a researcher based at the University of Glasgow. She completed her undergraduate studies in Russian and English literature, subsequently moving into a Masters in Russian, Central, East European and Eurasian Studies. Her focus so far has been on Central Europe and the Visegrad Four countries, and she recently completed her PhD with Glasgow University's CEES department, focusing on corruption in health care in Slovakia. She is currently working with the MRC/CSO Social & Public Health Sciences Unit at the University of Glasgow on an NIHR-funded project, addressing health inequalities through better use of cross-sectoral administrative data. The project collaborates closely with the Scottish government, public policy bodies, the NHS, and the third sector. Her research interests include corruption research, health inequalities, and the CEE region.

Panel 3B - Politics and Identity: 11.00-12.30

Strategies for the symbolic integration of the Slovak Romanies

Brett Chloupek (Northwest Missouri State University)

Extremist strains of nationalism are on the rise in Slovakia and throughout Europe as evidenced by recent national and European Union elections. Usually, the political platforms of ultranationalist parties like Slovakia's "Kotlebists—People's Party Our Slovakia" have included anti-minority sentiments that threaten to fuel



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

segregation and violence if not effectively countered. Symbolic gestures can precede more concrete steps toward cooperation and mutual understanding. This paper calls for the symbolic integration of well-established yet marginalized ethnic groups in Europe like the Romanies of Slovakia as a political strategy to counter ultra-rightwing extremist political rhetoric. This can be accomplished through their inclusion and representation within the national semiosphere in the form of commemorative street names. I focus on nationalism particularly because it remains the dominant political-cultural force in most of Central and Eastern Europe and also because the major existential threat to the Romanies and other similar groups comes primarily from extremist rightwing elements. As a result, more moderate center-right parties are best positioned to make progress with such civic nationalist policies. This type of strategy would help deny ultranationalist parties access to this political space and blunt such rhetoric by making it increasingly difficult to represent ethnic minorities as foreign or alien to the nation state, which is currently easily accomplished when targeted ethnic minorities do not possess any symbolic political capital. I argue that a narrow window to accomplish this integration in an uncontroversial and non-confrontational way exists in Slovakia currently as a result of a recent national law requiring all unnamed streets in the country to be named.

Dr. Brett Chloupek is an associate professor of geography at Northwest Missouri State University. His research has focused primarily on the Czech and Slovak Republics and the Czech immigrant experience in the United States. He has addressed questions of ethnic and national identities in the two republics after 1993, the history of commemorative street names in Košice, Slovakia and their function in integrating political ideologies in the cityscape, and the persistence of Czech vernacular landscapes in the United States, particularly the Bohemian Alps of Nebraska.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

'Muslims' as a category of practice in the study of Islamophobia in Czechia

Carlos Gómez del Tronco (University College London)

Since 2015, several European cross-national surveys have measured the most negative attitudes towards 'Muslims' among Czech respondents (Heath & Richards, 2019; Marfouk, 2019; Pew Research Center, 2018; TNS, 2015). While issues of validity of some of these surveys' questions have been previously raised (Prokop, 2019, pp. 93–94), little attention has been paid to the fact that such surveys mostly treat the social category 'Muslim' as one of analysis rather than practice (Brubaker, 2002). As it is the case with 'immigrants' (Braun et al., 2013), respondents in different national contexts are likely to cognitively interpret the scope and nature of the socially constructed group that stands behind the category 'Muslims' differently. In this respect, Czech literature on Islamophobia has often focused on elite discourse while ignoring popular manifestations of anti-Muslim prejudice (Černý, 2019).

In order to better understand contemporary processes of racialisation (Miles & Brown, 2003) and social cognition (van Dijk, 2014) of 'Muslims' in Czechia, I will present the results from twenty-three semi-structured interviews with Czech citizens conducted over the summer of 2020. The paper will contribute to understandings of the effects of intergroup contact in social cognition, salient themes and frames associated to 'Muslims', the racialisation of 'Muslims' and religious prejudice. Following the analysis, I offer four recommendations for future research in Czechia which can be extrapolated to other Central and Eastern European countries.

Carlos Gómez del Tronco is an Early Stage Researcher in the MSCA-funded FATIGUE programme, which explores the rise of illiberalism and populism in Central and Eastern Europe. He is also a PhD candidate at the UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies where he writes on Islamophobia in Czech political discourse and attitudes towards Muslims in Czechia.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

'Carlos holds a MA in International Relations and European Studies from Metropolitan University Prague and a BA in Media Communication from Carlos III University, Madrid.

Rethinking Lustrations; Transitional Justice in Czechoslovakia and Ukraine **Martin Hochel (Central European University in Vienna)**

This project consists of an article, based on my undergraduate dissertation work, on the comparison of transitional justice in former Czechoslovakia and Ukraine. In particular, the making and the execution of transitional justice in the form of lustration processes is analysed and compared. This study makes use of the fact that there has not been a study written on these two countries and that the Ukrainian side consulted its proposed lustration legislation, after the Euromaidan demonstrations, with experts from Czechoslovakia, which was one of the first countries to implement lustrations after 1989. From these two, the accessibility and problems related to the documents, which were to be screened, are compared, as well as the overall quantitative reach of these lustrations. Likewise, this study looks at the international reception that these two pieces of legislation received in the form of recommendations from the Council of Europe and verdicts from the European Court of Human Rights. To help explain the different settings in which they were implemented, it makes use of stories and interviews of key persons who were, or are, engaged in delivering the outcomes of lustration. The study concludes that despite the cooperation between the two sides, the Ukrainian lustration legislation seeks to target different groups of people and is better compared with other countries in the Eastern European region, where similar attempts occurred, than with the former Czechoslovakia.

Martin Hochel comes from Slovakia and is studying abroad. He has recently finished his undergraduate degree in Contemporary History and Politics at Birkbeck College, University of London. As of September 2021, he will start the two-year MA Nationalism Studies programme at the Central European University in Vienna.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

Throughout his studies, Martin has written on transitional justice in the former Czechoslovakia and the surrounding countries. He won second place at the essay competition of the British Czech and Slovak Association and has presented his research at the British Undergraduate Conference in Leeds. During his final year of undergraduate study, Martin worked for the EURACTIV Slovakia portal.

Panel 4A - History and Religion: 17.45-18.45

Subversive Veneration? Habsburg Authority, Bohemian Identity, and the Marian Cult c. 1650-1690

Anna-Marie Pípalová (University of Cambridge)

The process of Recatholicisation and the focus on establishing Marian cults has often been seen as a method of re-establishing and strengthening Habsburg authority in Central Europe during and after the Thirty Years' War. However, this paper will focus on the ways in which Catholic belief and Marian veneration could be subversive to political authority within a Catholic state, and how Marian cults could be used simultaneously to disrupt and to increase Habsburg power. It will do this by focusing on Bohuslav Balbín (1621-1688), the Bohemian Jesuit, scholar, and patriot who authored four hagiotopographies – histories of Marian cults – focused on the territories of the Bohemian monarchy, and the vision of the Bohemian monarchy and the Virgin Mary which he expounded upon in these works. The Habsburgs utilised images of the Virgin Mary to portray her as supporting their military victories. I will argue that Balbín, unlike the Habsburgs, represented the figure of the Virgin in a patriotic guise, as the protectress of the Bohemian monarchy, and as a figure which geographically and historically united the territories of the Bohemian monarchy. This portrayal of the Marian cult in Bohemia interacted with Habsburg Marian imagery in a complex manner. Although Balbín's Marian works contributed to the Recatholicisation of Bohemia and in this way furthered Habsburg authority in the region, his portrayal of the role of the Virgin Mary in Bohemian history and geography was also subversive and critical of Habsburg power and policy.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

Anna-Marie Pípalová is a PhD student at the University of Cambridge, where she previously also completed her MPhil and Undergraduate degrees. Her PhD research focuses on Bohemian historiographical scholarship and its relationship to patriotism and identity in the seventeenth century.

Recasting the Christian Democratic Discourse in Czechoslovakia in the late Cold War: Christian Europeanism confronts Communist Nationalism ***Krystof Dolezal (Central European University)***

Today, across Europe, we witness an influx of civilisational language injected with identitarian Christian references employed by far-right forces leaving the traditional mouthpiece of Christian repertoires, Christian Democrats, empty-handed. This development causes ideological disorientation for present-day Christian Democracy, especially in the post-Soviet countries, burying the dissident and émigré cosmopolitan and liberal discourses centred on Europe. In this paper, I recast the ideological composition of the Czechoslovak Christian Democracy during the late Cold War that I read as one of the few chapters of democratic and liberal thought in Czechoslovak history co-fostered by Catholic and Protestant thinkers. Christian Democrats unblocked alternative political imagination to contest one of the principal legitimising narratives of the communist rule: cultural nationalism. I build on the recent scholarship in political theory that attributes to Christian Democracy a distinctive character and a central place in the intellectual history of the European twentieth century. However, the rejuvenation of Christian Democratic ideology beyond the Iron Curtain has been screened out from the historical narratives and represents an almost unknown set of principles. I zoom in on the concept of Europe within the Christian Democratic ideological morphology, arguing that Christian Democrats played a crucial role in inventing Europe as an idea and a strategy to decolonise Czechoslovakia from the communist hegemony and align it with the West. Nonetheless, Christian Democrats delivered a limited universalism coupled with illiberal features that today causes the provincialisation of the European idea vis-à-vis the challenges of different cultural and religious traditions.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

Krystof Dolezal is a PhD candidate in political science at the Central European University in Vienna, specialising in political theory and intellectual history of 20th century Europe. His current research focuses on the intersection between political ideologies and religion. Specifically, he looks at the reconstruction of the Cold War, Czechoslovak Christian Democratic ideology. Krystof holds two master (in political science and theology) and two bachelor degrees (political science and film studies) from Charles University, all summa cum laude. In 2020 his work received the second prize in the Oxford University Essay Competition and in 2018 Edvard Beneš Prize for the Best Master Thesis in Humanities. Krystof was a visiting student at the Centre for Social and Political Thought at Sussex University, recipient of the Visegrad Fund Scholarship and a fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) in Vienna. He also lectures at CEU and Charles University. Outside of academia, Krystof works as a consultant for Czech political party and its think tank.

Panel 4B - History and National Identities: 17.45-18.45

Drawing Central Europe's Borderlands: Community Mapping Practices in Teschen, 1918-1920

Tess Megginson (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

My paper explores how community mapping initiatives reacted to the 1919 Paris Peace Conference, looking specifically at the disputed area of Teschen/Těšín/Cieszyn in the borderlands of Czechoslovakia and Poland. At this Conference, both the Czechoslovak and Polish delegations made sovereignty claims over Teschen using maps made by professional cartographers, while simultaneously inhabitants of Teschen were creating and circulating their own mapping and territorial imagery around the region. Using these maps from Czech and Polish community-based newspapers, magazines, and pamphlets during the 1918-1920 Teschen conflict, my paper analyzes how inhabitants of this borderland protested the drawing of borders at the Paris Peace Conference.



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

The Teschen region housed heavy industry, coal mines, and a railway junction that linked Bohemia and Moravia with Slovakia, and thus was important for both Czechoslovakia and Poland. The conflict was also one of the main reasons that Czechoslovakia and Poland did not enter a formal alliance during the interwar period, despite the Great Powers' (particularly France's) desire for a cordon sanitaire to stop the expanse of Bolshevism eastwards. Finally, the memory of the Teschen conflict had ramifications for border changes at the onset of the Second World War: Poland gained part of the Teschen region back in November 1938, with the help of Nazi Germany, less than a year before Poland itself would be invaded. My paper analyzes the influence that amateur maps and mapping imagery had over the inhabitants of the region as a form of protest to the decisions made in Paris.

Tess Megginson is a PhD student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill studying spatial history, specifically researching community-based mapping practices in central and eastern Europe between the two World Wars. Her PhD research examines maps created by Germans living in the Czechoslovak borderlands leading up to the 1938 annexation of the Sudetenland. She completed her Master of Arts in European and Russian Affairs with a specialization in history at the University of Toronto in 2020, where her thesis focussed on mapping the borderlands of Czechoslovakia and Poland during the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in Honours History at McGill University in 2018.

“Czechoslovakia – The Heart of Europe” as reflected in German-language journals published in Prague between 1921 – 1937
Magdalena Bak (University of Vienna)

Robert Walser, a prolific Swiss writer, wrote: “I am a Czechoslovakian attaché.” His partially ironic statement confirms the thesis that Prague was the hub of modern European movements at the beginning of the 20th century. The hybrid culture of



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

this region, where the city is the embodiment of multilingualism and multiculturalism, is reflected in short journalistic forms that made it possible for the authors to (re)position themselves in the field of literature. With regard to the identity-forming role of language, modernity can be characterised by the rejection of national categories. After the attributes multinational and bilingual lose their basic meanings, the question concerning the function of multilingualism takes a central position in the examination spectrum. Despite a significant language barrier – concerning the structure of the Prague Society, a distinction has to be made between a represented and an actual multilingualism of the inhabitants – the numerous contacts among Czech, German, and Jewish groups can be proven.

The column by the German-Jewish author from Prague Georg Mannheimer proves this hypothesis. Born into a German-speaking family, he identified himself with German culture and literature. At the same time, he sympathised with Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and emphasized Czechoslovakia's very important role at the European level. Therefore, it is interesting to analyse the journalistic texts that were published in three major German-language journals - Die Wahrheit, Prager Presse and Prager Blatt. The hybrid identity of the authors, who found themselves caught up in the tense atmosphere generated by German culture and tradition on the one hand and the enthusiasm for the Czechoslovak idea of statehood and politics on the other, shows a frequent tendency in the portrayal of Prague as a European centre – even in texts not written in Czech. The selection of journals can be justified by their political function in Czechoslovakia; therefore, the main hypothesis of this proposed lecture can be more thoroughly discussed and examined.

Magdalena Bak is a graduate of the Paris Lodron University in Salzburg in the field of Literature and Cultural Studies (master's thesis – The Habsburg Myth in Radetzky March by Joseph Roth and The Salt of the Earth by Józef Wittlin). As of March 2021, she is a postgraduate assistant at the University of Vienna in the Department of German Studies in the Faculty of Modern German Literature, where she is working on her doctoral thesis concerning the Habsburg Myth from a multilingual (German–Czech – Polish) aspect. Main research areas include:

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE 2021



Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

history and theory of Austrian literature, the definition and meaning of “Austria,” history and literature of the Habsburg Monarchy, the Slavic impact on literature from German-speaking countries. Scholarship from the Deutsche Gesellschaft e.V. (2016) and Austrian Studies Association (2021). Detailed biographical information including a list of lectures and publications can be found under the following link: <https://www.univie.ac.at/germanistik/magdalena-bak/> (content in German).