

Historia Europea, z.s. – Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University – Matice moravská

invite you to the 8th annual international postgraduate conference

Rethinking 20th Century Europe: The Continent of (Un)Freedom

8th and 9th November 2021

Conference attendees: Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University (Arna Nováka 1, Brno); Audience: Online via MS Teams

Programme, links and more information: www.historiaeuropeana.eu

Facebook event: Konference Promýšlet Evropu 20. století: Kontinent (ne)slobody

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The 8th annual *Rethinking 20th Century Europe* conference will take place on November 8th - 9th, 2021. This year's conference will focus on the topic of **freedom**. John Galsworthy (1867-1933), an English novelist and playwright, once said that freedom is a state of mind. Such a statement implies that, human mind being as diverse as it is, so is the idea of freedom. Its perception is a very wide and heterogeneous concept that varies between groups and people. Nevertheless, it is of core influence to all of them and is considered one of the baseline social and human values – a position that destined it to become an instrument of power and ideological play. It takes different forms, shapes and manifestations throughout the time. Its undefined or even problematic nature shows more than ever in these troubled times on the background of global pandemic when basic human rights and liberties are being limited based on the health protection efforts.

On the other hand – what were the various facets of (un)freedom in Europe of the past century? During our two-day meeting, we will try to capture the likeness of freedom from different points of view and attempt to answer many questions: What was the idea of freedom in different people, groups, movements or states? How did people lose their freedom? How did they fight for it and what were they willing to sacrifice? Did the achieved freedom stand up to the expectations or was it discovered to be an illusion or a halfway-step? What were the limits of freedom and the responsibilities it implied? The range of topics is indeed very wide, spanning from analyses of manifestations of (un)freedom of movement, thought, speech, consciousness, gathering, education, choice of occupation, religion, expression or enterprise all the way down to outlining the understanding of personal, ethnic, cultural, sexual or gender (un)freedom, internal or external. All the manifestations of (un)freedom can be understood as means of conflict between the established norm and abnormality or as means of conflict in general; also as a gift, challenge or a condition of a life well lived.

Various approaches and theoretical concepts can be used to approach the above stated matters – we certainly do not shy away from interdisciplinarity. We expect the contributing articles to focus on wider ideas, as well as to particular topics and events. However, the desired outcome should be to point out the international significance of the topic or wider context and comparison, rather than a narrowed-down study of specific or regional phenomena. We put emphasis on the general context, aiming to interpret the causes, purposes and the consequent effect of the studied events. The time span of our focus is between the early 20th century and the fall of the Eastern Bloc.

Schedule

1st day

8th November 2021

9:00-9:30
9:30-10:00

Registration
Opening Ceremony

Mgr. Ondřej Varad'a, representative of *Historia Europeana*, z. s.
doc. Mgr. Tomáš Malý, Ph.D., Head of the Department of History,
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University
prof. PhDr. Jiří Hanuš, Ph.D., Vice-rector for personnel and academic
affairs, Masaryk University

10:00-11:05

Section A

(Un)Freedom of Human Sexuality

Moderators:

doc. Mgr. Denisa Nečasová, Ph.D., Mgr. Martin Hromek, Ph.D.

10:00

Mgr. Michal Mako

Department of History
Faculty of Arts
Masaryk University
Brno

**In the Grip of Discourses: Homosexuality in the Czech Press Before the
Dissolution of Austria-Hungary (1909-1913) (*in Slovak*)**

The paper focuses on the depiction of the phenomenon of homosexuality in the
Czech press in the last years before the dissolution of the monarchist
Austro-Hungarian Empire (1909-1913). Heteronormative media discourse on
homosexuality will be monitored and analyzed through this press. A critical discourse
analysis inspired by the Austrian linguists Martin Reisigl and Ruth Wodak will be used
to capture and evaluate this heteronormative media discourse.

10:15

Mgr. Jan Krčál

Institute of Historical
Sciences
Faculty of Arts and
Philosophy
University of Pardubice

Crime Against Nature: Homosexuality in the Pardubice Region (*in Czech*)

The research from Pardubice revealed interesting life stories of homosexual people
from 1918 to 1945. Most cases were represented by men who were suppressing their
sexual behaviour and urge up to the point when they were not able to continue
anymore. In that moment, they disrespected the social order and even ignored their
surroundings while having sexual intercourse. The persons often justified their
behaviour by claiming to have drunk alcohol and hence the court considered it as a
mitigating factor. In fact, the sexuality itself was of secondary importance. What the
court saw as more significant was the offense against morals and virtuous manners.

10:30

Mgr. Denisa Vídeňská

Institute of Historical
Sciences
Faculty of Arts and
Philosophy
University of Pardubice

**An Illness to Freedom? Female Homosexuality as a Subject of Medical
Discourse in the First Half of the 20th Century (*in Czech*)**

The paper will focus on the analysis of professional medical work that dealt with
sexuality, psychiatry and neurology and helped to shape the discourse of female
sexuality. The functioning of the apparatus in practice will be possible to present on a
specific criminal case, which was solved in the years 1942-1946. Two women were
diagnosed with a number of mental illnesses (schizophrenia, hysteria, etc.), which were
supposed to be the reason for their homosexual behavior. The case was also
adjourned several times thanks to this diagnosis. The methodology will be based on a
discursive analysis, inspired by Michel Foucault.

10:45-11:05

Discussion

11:05-11:15

Break

11:15-12:20	Section B	(Un)Freedom in Thoughts, in Philosophies, in Ideas
	Moderators:	doc. Mgr. Denisa Nečasová, Ph.D., Mgr. Lukáš Lexa
11:15	Mgr. et Mgr. Pavel Máša Department of History Faculty of Arts Masaryk University Brno	The Old Regime and the World Revolution. The Concept of Freedom in the Thinking of Karel VI. Schwarzenberg and Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk (<i>online in Czech</i>) The establishment of independent Czechoslovakia at the end of the First World War in 1918 was considered by the Czech society to be an extraordinary moment in the Czech history. After centuries of oppression the Czech nation was free again. However, the whole event can be seen in a broader context as one of the manifestations of much deeper changes that have taken place in Europe since the turn of the 18 th and 19 th centuries. This development could be evaluated differently. The paper will present the perspectives of two prominent Czech intellectuals - Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and Karel VI. Schwarzenberg. It will be shown how these two different but in many ways similar personalities perceived the liberation of Czechoslovakia, how they evaluated a political system of the First Republic and its degree of freedom for an individual citizen and how they viewed the issue of freedom under the impression of more general social and political development in postwar Europe. Therefore it will be important to answer what was their ideal of freedom, how could it be best secured and what threatened it.
11:30	Mgr. Ondřej Varad'a Department of History Faculty of Arts Masaryk University Brno	"Lord, One Day Our Flag Will Fly Victoriously Over Our Free Nation and Liberated Land!" The Ideal of Freedom in Thoughts of Members of The Czechoslovak Legion (<i>in Czech</i>) The aim of this article is to explore the ideals of liberty and new free state in the thoughts of members of The Czechoslovak Legion. Primarily, the research will aim to identify repetitive or archetypal patterns of the ideas or imagination of freedom. Consequently, the article will attempt to observe the development of said ideas in time and to pinpoint the aspect that influenced it – special attention will be given to official memoranda, manifestos, speeches or other endeavours to actively popularize the idea of Czechoslovakia and Czechoslovakism from its leading figures to the men who fought to bring them into effect.
11:45	Mgr. Martin Hromek, Ph.D. Department of French Language and Literature Faculty of Education Masaryk University Brno	Roger Garaudy and the Revival Process in Czechoslovakia in the 1960s (<i>in Czech</i>) In this paper, I will reflect on the French influences on the process of communist détente in the period and on the efforts of Czechoslovak intellectuals to break out of the schematism of Stalinism. I will focus on the personality of this somewhat forgotten Marxist philosopher and influential leader of the French Communist Party, whose views were widely quoted in the cultural press. The paper draws on archival research, but primarily on the cultural press, using a combination of content and discourse analysis.
12:00-12:20	Discussion	
12:20-13:00		Lunch break (refreshments at the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University)

13:00-14:05	Section C	Political, National and Economic (Un)Freedom
	Moderators:	Mgr. Lukáš Lexa, Mgr. et Mgr. Jakub Marša
13:00	Mgr. Jaromír Sobotka Department of History Faculty of Arts Masaryk University Brno	“Liberation from the Chains of Economic Dependence”: Relation of Austrian Social Democratic Party to the Phenomenon of Liberty (<i>in Czech</i>) Liberty represented a crucial topic for Austrian social democrats of the 19 th and 20 th century, the request for „workers liberation“ took the leading position in party political programs and election declarations. But the social-democratic understanding of liberty was highly inspired by Marxism and it was therefore strongly different from the understanding of this phenomenon within classical liberalism. Liberty in this case meant not just the acquisition of political rights but primarily escape from economic dependence. Investigation and analysis of social-democratic concepts of freedom and liberty is the main goal of my paper.
13:15	Mgr. Ing. Regina Chupera Department of History Faculty of Arts Masaryk University Brno	“Small Nations” and the Struggle for National Independence: the Bashkir National Movement Towards a Republic (<i>in Czech</i>) The issue of „small nations“ in Europe was the most acute in the beginning of the 20 th century. The First World War, the civil war in Russia, the transformation of consciousness, and the crisis within the monarchies, developed to a new level the international perspective of the European nations and determined the disintegration of the monarchies. The result was the establishment of new states and republics. My paper will observe several centuries of struggle of the oppressed, aiming to save the identity of the Bashkir nation and, step by step, the Bashkir national movement for the independence of their republic within the territory of Russia. The paper will discuss the national movement from Tsarist Russia to the events of the establishment of the Bashkir Republic, and focus on comparisons and cooperation with „small nations“ in pursuit of the establishment of new republics on the European continent.
13:30	Mgr. Luboš Palata Faculty of Arts Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem	The Influence of Interwar Regimes on the Current Form of Political Systems in Central Europe (<i>in Czech</i>) The current forms of "sick democracy" in Central Europe consciously or unconsciously follow the pattern of interwar regimes in the region. The aim of my contribution to the conference is to examine the extent to which this is the case and whether it helps the acceptance of current regimes by the citizens of the post-communist states of Central Europe.
13:45-14:05	Discussion	
14:05-14:15		Break

14:15-15:20	Section D	(Un)Freedom of Religion and Conscience
	Moderators:	Mgr. Michal Mako, Mgr. Tereza Richtáriková
14:15	Mgr. Gabriel Székely, Ph.D.	The Greek Catholic Church and Jews in Slovak Republic in Years 1939 - 1945 <i>(online in Slovak)</i>
	Institute of Political Sciences Faculty of Arts University of Prešov	The paper focuses on the attitude of the Greek Catholic Church towards Jews during the period of the Slovak Republic (1939 - 1945). In this paper, we will explain specific forms of assistance from the hierarchy and the clergy of the Greek Catholic Church in favor of saving the Jewish population from deportations.
14:30	Mgr. et Mgr. Jakub Marša	Jaroslav Vyskočil, a priest in an unfree country <i>(in Czech)</i>
	Department of History Faculty of Arts Masaryk University Brno	The paper presents the pastor Jaroslav Vyskočil, an important figure of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church. The paper is focused on the 1950s, when Jaroslav Vyskočil served in the city of Brno. The paper is not a biography, but aims to demonstrate specific manifestations of communist church policy at the local level on the example of the pastor Vyskočil. At the same time, the paper offers an image of a believer who is actively trying to express his religion in the environment of a totalitarian communist state.
14:45	Mgr. Ondřej Bakeš	The Truth Will Set You Free. Opus Bonum as an Areopagus of Exile <i>(in Czech)</i>
	Department of History Faculty of Arts Masaryk University Brno	The Athenian Areopagus was founded in post-exile as a modern platform in the activities of the Opus bonum organization. We will examine whether its discussion meetings, cultural events or other activities have contributed to changing the thinking, attitudes and ideological starting points of its individual actors. We are interested in whether a possible change of starting points manifests itself permanently or is only of a time-dependent nature and, above all, what is the relationship between the refinement of opinions, changes in the concept of truth and attitudes to freedom from the point of view of individuals and Opus bonum.
15:00-15:20	Discussion	
15:20-15:30		Break

15:30-17:00	Section E	Gaining and Losing Freedom and Democracy
	Moderators:	Mgr. Tereza Richtáriková, Mgr. Ondřej Varad'a
15:30	Anthony Constantini, M.A. University of Vienna	The Centre Cannot Hold: An Analysis of Democracy's Failure in the First Republic of Austria, the Rise of the Fascist Ständestaat, and What It Portends for the Present State of Democracy in Europe (<i>in English</i>) By the end of the First Republic of Austria, the country's political movements pointed toward Hitler's Germany, international Marxism, and anti-Nazi Catholic fascism; none sought to preserve democracy. This paper would seek to understand the total failure of democracy to take root in the First Republic from its founding in 1919 to the victory of the Catholic fascists with the founding of the Federal State of Austria, the Ständestaat, in 1934. It would answer the question of why the Austrians so readily gave up the freedom they had in the republic for the restrictive fascism of the Ständestaat.
15:45	Drd. Vornicu Drăguț Violeta University of Bucharest	Similarities Between the Dictatorial Ideology of King Carol II of Romania and the Fascist Regime (<i>online in English</i>) The regime of Carol II between authority and dictatorship - a two-year regime in the History of Romania (1938-1940) - was a period in which King Carol II (1930-1940), one of the most discussed and contested rulers, established an authoritarian /dictatorial/ totalitarian regime in Romania. Although there were cultural achievements during his reign, they were overshadowed by the controversies surrounding the king's private life and the country's slippery slope of a dictatorial regime.
16:00	Ákos Bartha, PhD Institute of History Research Centre for the Humanities Eötvös Loránd Research Network	Terrorists and Freedom Fighters. Arrow Cross Party Militias, "Ragged Guard" and "KISKA" Auxiliary Forces in Hungary (1938–1945) (<i>online in English</i>) My presentation explores the entangled relations of the far-rightist ACP militias, the paramilitary unit of "Ragged Guard" and the KISKA Auxiliary Forces in Hungary. KISKA was officially formed to secure the background of the Hungarian and German Army in 1944, but it became a cover organization for Jews, deserters, and resistance fighters. Some key-figures of KISKA were former ACP members and many of them joined "Ragged Guard", a Hungarian paramilitary corps, which infiltrated into Slovakia and Ruthenia in 1938/39. My lecture will be based on recent literature, as well as on a vast array of archive materials.
16:15	Dániel Luka, M.A. University of Pécs	Fearing Freedom: Causes of the Hungarian Revolution in October 1956 and the Communist Leadership's Perception of Crisis and its Reactions from 1945 to 1956 (<i>in English</i>) The revolution in October 1956 was in the making for several years. Dissatisfaction reached its peak in the autumn of 1956 and triggered social explosion, however, the path of the Hungarian society and the party to that event can be analyzed from various perspectives, including transnational and comparative aspects. Preparations of compensation were in progress between 1953 and 1956, and the regime recognized signs of social upheaval. The paper makes it more clear what freedom meant to the society, and how the communist administration perceived societal changes, crises and how it reacted to them.
16:30-17:10 17:30-00:00	Discussion	Closing of the 1st Day of the Conference Social evening with refreshments (dinner)

2nd Day 9th November 2021

9:00-9:05 Opening of the 2nd Day of the Conference (*ONLINE ONLY*)

9:05-10:35 Section F The Limits of Freedom

Moderators: Mgr. Ondřej Varad'a, Mgr. Tereza Richtáriková

9:05 Sandra Klos, M.A.

Austrian Academy of Sciences

Are We Free to Decide Who We Are? Autobiographical Narratives of Austrian Scientists (*online in English*)

When I state that I am a scientist or an expert on a certain topic, I have to do it believably. I have to keep my audience in mind, choose my medium appropriately, put my argument forward in a culturally acceptable way. What are these rules of self-acclamation? How far does my freedom stretch as to choose who I am or who I want to be seen as? In my doctoral thesis, I am comparing autobiographical narratives of Austrian scientists from the late 19th to mid-20th centuries. I analyze career strategies as well as self-fashioning practices. Thus, I would like to contribute to a cultural understanding of European scientific authority.

9:20 András Szécsényi, PhD

Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security

Half-freedom. Post-war Experiences of Liberated Hungarian Survivors of German Concentration Camps (1945) (*online in English*)

My goal is to explore how the liberated Hungarian inmates lived in “half freedom” in German DP- and refugee camps, Swedish sanatoria right after the liberation and in the first post-war year. I use the term “half freedom” as a complex definition of feelings and experiences between captivity and return to the communist Hungary/emigration to the West. I analyze the various narratives of the liberated, mostly Jewish, people based on ego-documents and archival sources. I also put my research results into a global context on other post-genocide un- and half-freedom interpretations.

9:35 Sofia Lopatina, M.A.

Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

Collective Practices and Control Culture: Youth in Soviet Leningrad (1960-1972) (*online in English*)

The presentation will focus on negotiations of (un)freedom between the youth groups and agents of social control in Soviet Leningrad in the 1960s. I will examine various strategies that the agents of social control employed to manage youngsters, their responses to youth behaviours they regarded as deviant or problematic, including prohibitions, public shaming, punishment, relocation. Such behaviours appeared under many labels, such as misbehaviour, immorality, crime, hooliganism or social parasitism. Such responses included various emotions such as anxiety, fear, hatred, or disgust. Young people, to whom such responses were directed, were labelled as villains, losers, deviants, hooligans, fools, or victims. Second, I will address how the affected youth coped with social control and responded to it in the context of a very narrow range of allowed behaviours.

9:50 Róbert Balogh, M.A. and Rudolf Paksa, PhD

Institute for Central European Studies
University of Public Service

Institute of History
Research Centre for the Humanities
Budapest

How Do Populists Use the Opportunist 'Everyman' Against the Solidarity-based European Union? (*online in English*)

How does Viktor Orbán's paternalistic populism undermine the European Union? And why does it have a social base in Hungary? Solidarity is one of the most important core values of the EU. It took shape in Western Europe because of the impact that labour movement, feminism, having to face the Holocaust, decolonisation, and demolition of borders had in the 20th century. Eastern Europe (including Hungary), however, has not adopted this social experience. Focusing on cultural references, this paper shows how and why the opportunist 'everyman' became a social ideal in Hungary after 1945.

10:05-10:35 Discussion

10:35-10:45

Break

10:45-11:50	Section G	(Un)Freedom in Sport, Art, Science and Education
	Moderators:	Mgr. et Mgr. Pavel Máša, Mgr. et Mgr. Jakub Marša
10:45	Mgr. Mária Rímešová Department of Slovak History Faculty of Arts Comenius University Bratislava	Ideologization of the Historical Research Departments at Comenius University in the Years 1948-1950 (<i>online in Slovak</i>) The work is limited in time to the years 1948-1950, when new conditions affected all areas of life, including higher education, but especially the social sciences, which had a special place in this process. Therefore, the aim of the work is to point out how the Faculty of Arts at Comenius University in Bratislava and its historical department was ideologized. The work describes the activities of action committees or the university act, which created two historical departments at the faculty. Last but not least, the work deals with personalities who were to complete the ideologisation of the researched departments.
11:00	Mgr. Patrik Klicman Faculty of Arts Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem	Czechoslovak Ice Hockey in the 1950s (<i>online in Czech</i>) Article will deal with Czechoslovak hockey in the 1950s. The period is chosen because of the greatest decline in ice hockey in the history of Czechoslovakia. Disintegration is mainly due to the new state establishment, which after the trial of hockey players in 1950 let the entire national team fall. Politics intertwined with sport. The Communist regime changed the formats of the competition, maintaining the status of amateur athletes, creating personnel ratings of players and practically controlling the entire life of hockey players. The highlights were the agents who traveled with the national team to all foreign matches.
11:15	Mgr. Tomáš Timko Institute of Aesthetics and Art Culture Faculty of Arts University of Prešov	The Struggle of Artists for Free Public Space in Czechoslovakia Between 1948 and 1989 (<i>online in Slovak</i>) The aim of the paper is to comprehend the possibilities of free artistic expression in public space during various stages of socio-political development in Czechoslovakia. In this paper we combine the methods of historiography and aesthetics with the method of analysis and interpretation. The focus is on artistic expressions that did not arise on the basis of a political order (Jiří Kovanda, Alex Mlynářčík, etc.), were realized in a public space and insisted on the authenticity and freedom of artistic expression. We will point out the processes that resulted in a more intimate, inner artistic freedom in the atmosphere of (non) freedom.
11:30-11:50	Discussion	
11:50	Mgr. Michal Mako representative of Historia Europeana, z. s.	Closing Ceremony

Change of schedule reserved!

***Conference venue : ONLINE via MS TEAMS**

Link for the 1st Day of the Conference (8th November 2021) :

<https://is.muni.cz/go/fl6fvy>

Link for the 2nd Day of the Conference (9th November 2021) :

<https://is.muni.cz/go/ay3yn5>

***Conference venue : IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE**

Meeting room of the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University

(Arna Nováka 1, 602 00 Brno, Building A - Room A.411)

Map of Brno and the campus plan of Masaryk University, Faculty of Arts :

<https://www.phil.muni.cz/o-nas/kde-nas-najdete/areal-8>

***Public transport connection**

The nearest stop to the campus : **Grohova** (tram lines No. **3, 10, 12**)

All the necessary information on transport around Brno (timetables, network plans, tickets, emergencies, future or on-going changes, closures) can be found on the website :

<https://www.idsjmk.cz/en/index>

***Catering at the conference**

Active attending participants who have paid the conference fee are entitled to refreshments during the first day of the conference (November 8, 2021) - refreshments such as sandwiches, fruits, vegetables and hot drinks at Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, as well as a hot dinner (from 5.30 p.m.) in the nearby restaurant U Lucerny (Veverí 20). You will find a link to **electronic voting below**, based on which we will evaluate your food preferences and order the number of food portions.

Choose your meal preference here : <https://is.muni.cz/go/9alpvq>

Link to the restaurant's website : <http://www.u-lucerny.cz/>

***Contact details**

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Facebook event : <https://www.facebook.com/events/894722158036593>
