



International Scientific Workshop

# **EUROPEAN CIVILISATION AND THE WORLD BETWEEN CONFLICTS, COOPERATION AND DIALOGUE**

**18 September 2015**

Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague  
nám. Jana Palacha 2, Praha 1

**ABSTRACTS**

**Prof. RNDr. Ivo Budil, Ph.D., DSc.**

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**Robert Knox, Transcendental Anatomy and Imagination of Racial War (Image of the Other in a Specific Cultural Context)**

The Eurasian revolution taking place approximately from 1750 to 1830 brought a radical change to the relations between key power centres of Eurasia and an essential disruption of the global power balance characteristic of the early modern world. The system of racial hierarchy, as developed in the Western imagination in the first decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, represented a global metaphor of the world, brought about with the Eurasian revolution. Robert Knox, one of the founders of modern comparative anatomy, contributed very significantly to the development of Western racial thinking. He coined the term "racial war" two decades before the emergence of Social Darwinism and his attempt to present race as an epistemological basis for the understanding of World History provides a very interesting testimony on the early Victorian concept of international relations. Robert Knox belonged to the influential intellectual group of Scottish political radicals and scientific materialists who played an important role in British academic life in 1820s and 1830s.

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**Gábor Egry, Ph.D.**

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**New Horizons from Prague to Bucharest: Ethnonational Stereotypes and Regionalist Self-Perceptions in Slovakia and Transylvania during the Interwar Period**

Defining the polity and drawing its boundaries is the essence of politics – according to Chantal Mouffe. Discourses of identity usually play a crucial role in this process which lays much emphasis on defining "us" and "them". The easiest way to do it

is a simple pairing of alterities a well proven method of national self-perceptions and quite a few analyses reconstruct such discourses in binary oppositions and mutual process. However, groups which form the basis of nation-building efforts are usually surrounded by more than one bordering groups which usually generates a set of discourses to define alterities which can be organized into a set of entangled instead of simply opposing discourses. In my paper I will analyse one such case, the Hungarian, which is further complicated by the existence of Hungarian minorities in such regions, namely in Slovakia and Transylvania, where a group of the regional elites promoted a regionalist discourse that was based on ethnicization of differences inside their own national group. In this context minorities and these regionalist could use each other and borrow elements from discourses of identity as resources in constructing their own discourses depending on whom they defined as the "other". Although the core idea was always the quest for national authenticity, the groups outlined, be it regional or national ones, were highly situational and the characterization of groups connected Prague with Bucharest via Budapest, contrary to the situation before 1918. Finally, I will argue that such attempts which also imply ethnicization of regional groups are not accidental, rather structural characteristics of centre-periphery relations and the dynamics they generate inside national discourses.

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### **Dr Joanna Fomina**

Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences

### **Understanding Russia? Helping Ukraine? Poles and Germans on the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict**

The annexation of the Crimean peninsula by Russia and the Russian-Ukrainian military conflict have triggered varied reactions in Europe. Although in response to the Russian

aggression against Ukraine the Western governments have imposed limited individual and economic sanctions and the EU has managed to speak in one voice there, agreeing common position was not easy. The survey results demonstrate that despite a popular perception of Poles as Russophobes and of Germans – as Russophiles, and thus an expected difference of attitudes towards the ongoing events in the two societies, we observe considerable convergence of opinions in both countries. This is not to say that Polish and German public opinions are unanimous regarding the conflict. On the contrary, both German and Polish societies are internally divided with regard to the assessment of current events, their roots and consequences as well as the required response on the part of the EU. Yet, we observe a toning down of considerable differences along national lines. Moreover, both Poles and Germans agree that the relations between their countries with Russia are bad; are generally critical towards Russia's policy vis-à-vis Ukraine and support sanctions against Russia and economic aid for Ukraine. At the same time, both Germans and Poles oppose providing military aid to Ukraine as well as are afraid of refugees flows from Ukraine in case of lifting the visa requirement for Ukrainians. All in all, the belief that Poles and Germans have completely opposite views on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict is not reflected in the public opinion survey results.

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**Doc. PhDr. Zdeněk Hojda, CSc.**

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**"They Asked Me to Call the Son of God Who Will Bring Them Some Seals." The Greenland Experience of Herrnhut Missionaries (Moravian Brothers) in 18<sup>th</sup> Century**

At the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, three centuries after the termination of the medieval European settlement, revived the interest in distant Greenland, possession of the Danish Kingdom. The first pioneers were the missionaries, first the Danish Lutheran priest Hans Egede and since the year 1733 also the members of the renewed Unitas Fratrum (Moravian Church). From Moravia came also the three founders of Moravian mission, later the settlement of New Herrnhut on the place of present-day capital Nuuk. Their efforts will be presented on the basis of the rich documentation preserved in the archive of the Moravian Church in Herrnhut (in Lusatia), from their settlement on Western coast of Greenland and first difficult years to their successes, crowned after a half a century of work, by the founding of third Moravian settlement in Greenland. We will pay attention especially to the trials occasioned not only by extreme inhospitability of the island, but especially to the encounters with the native Inuits, separated from the missionaries by barriers of completely different language, thought, lifestyle and experience.

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**Doc. Markéta Křížová, Ph.D.**

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**Meeting the Other in the New World: Jesuit Missionaries from Central Europe on Spanish Colonial Frontier**

The contribution will focus on the participation of missionaries from the "Czech Province" of the Society of Jesus in the colonization of America, especially the northern fringes of the "Viceroyalty of New Spain" (Contemporary Mexico and Central America), in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. It will focus on the image of the "American Indian" in the letters and reports of these missionaries, sent to their home province, on the image of the New World and, consequently, the mirror image of "Europe" thus created. Via the activity of the Jesuits, intensively followed

up in their home province – complemented by other direct and indirect involvement in the process of overseas colonization – the inhabitants of the Czech Lands found themselves integrated into the newly established Atlantic system, and on the multidirectional cultural transfer that occurred directly on the borderlands and indirectly via the web of commercial, political and intellectual contacts.

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**Doc. PhDr. Michal Pullmann, Ph.D.**

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**The Long 1970s Between East and West**

This paper outlines paths of stabilization, which were established across Europe at various points during the “long” 1970s (that time period between 1968 and the mid-1980s) and it focuses on the role of the new individualism in the pursuit of this stability. Against the background of the systemic differences between the East and the West (in terms of economics, political institutions and public spheres) the paper focuses on identifying and analyzing in both halves of divided Europe similar trends in the development of the new individualism and seeks to understand its functional effects in regard to the search of political and social stability.

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**Doc. PhDr. et JUDr. Jakub Rákosník, Ph.D.**

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**The Long 1930s: Structural Transformation of European Societies (1929–1945)**

The paper is based on the conceptual framework that divides interwar epoch into two distinct and separate periods, divided

by the year 1929. Whereas 1920s can be interpreted as an attempt to restore concept of bourgeois society inherited from the long 19<sup>th</sup> century, the years after 1929 will be presented as the complex societal transformation. The Great Depression demonstrated collapse of the conservative project and provided conditions for the new forms of social order. From the Weberian perspective of ideal types following patterns of transformation can be distinguished: (reformed) liberal, corporatist, and socialist.

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**PhDr. Stanislav Tumis, M.A., Ph.D.**

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**Interpretations of the Famine in Ukraine (1932–1933): Reflections of the Soviet and Western Historiography in Times of Cold War as a Source for Understanding of Controversial Perceptions of Historians and Politicians in Current Discussion**

The issue of famine in Ukraine became after the collapse of the Soviet Union (1991), from different reasons, one of the most frequent topics discussed and remembered not only in countries of the Soviet Union (particularly in Ukraine), but also in the Central and Western Europe and the United States. Famine in Ukraine was not limited only to research of historians but early after 1991 was politicized and became huge symbol of the Soviet terrors (comparable to another symbol of totalitarian power, holocaust). For Ukrainians became a key source for formation of their post-communist nationalism, for Western countries (primarily in the Central Europe) a reminder of Russian threat. Russian historians and politicians, on the other hand, made an effort to weaken the impacts of this powerful and impressive symbol. This contribution will explore the roots of famine interpretations in the Soviet Union and the West which considerably influenced the present views.

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**Mgr. Přemysl Vinš**

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**A Short Analysis of Political and Social Caricature in Communist Albania**

The paper deals with the analysis of political and social caricature in Albania during the communist regime. Graphic caricature was one of the main pillars of propaganda that reflected and publicly presented the political line in different periods of the existence of the communist regime. The paper analyzes the thematic structure and the manner how the image of the Albanian right politics was reinforced, and at the same time, how the so-called external and internal enemies were attacked. The paper focuses on the caricature published in the satirical magazine *Hosteni*.

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