Regions of Strategic Importance
Geographical Spaces, Cultural and Political Constructs, and Analytical Tools

7 – 9 December 2017

Thursday, 7 December
Faculty of Arts, Charles University
Nám. Jana Palacha 2, Praha 1
Room 301

17:00  **Public lecture and discussion**
Charles Clover
*Putin and Xi: Is There a new Model of Authoritarian Emerging?*

Friday, 8 December
Oettingen Palace
Josefská 6, Praha 1

10:00  **Official Opening**
Mirjam Friedová
(Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University)

10:15  **Keynote Lecture**
Rachel Murphy
(University of Oxford)
*Area Studies and the Analytical Advantages of Context: Insights from Case Study Approaches*

11:15  **Coffee break**

11:30  **Panel 1: New Approaches to the Study of Strategic Regions**
Chair: Pavel Barša

William R. Thompson
(Indiana University)
*Whither the Regional Subsystem Concept in International Relations: Gone but Not Forgotten or Still Limping Along?*

Thomas J. Volgy
(University of Arizona)

Michal Semian
(Charles University)
et al.: *Region and its many Identities: Dealing with the Variability in Regional Conceptualizations*

12:30  **Lunch**

13:30  **Panel 2: Central Europe and its Regions**
Chair: Kateřina Králová

Frank Hadler
(Universität Leipzig)
*Always in Between and Never in the Center: Reflections on East Central Europe’s Strategic Position*

Christian Voss
(Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
*Spatial Turn and Slavic Studies – A Contradiction in itself?*

Coffee Break

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Saturday, 9 December
Oettingen Palace
Josefská 6, Praha 1

10:00 Panel 4: Regions and Belonging in (and out of) late Ottoman Spaces: Geographical and Intellectual Considerations
Chair: Petr Kučera

Benjamin Fortna
(University of Arizona)
Regions in Flux: Geography, Identity and Belonging in the Late Ottoman Empire and the “Modern Middle East”

Stefano Taglia
(Oriental Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences)
The Intellectual Environment as a Strategic Region for the Development of Modernity

11:30 Coffee break

12:45 Lunch

13:30 Panel 6: The Expiration of a Regional Construct: Theoretical (re-) Considerations of ‘the Middle East’
Chair: Andrew Newman

Eberhard Kienle
(Ifpo Beirut and CNRS/Sciences-Po, Paris)
The Middle East: Region or Illusion

Ali Ansari
(University of St. Andrews)
Rethinking Iranshahr

Ebru Akcasu
(Charles University)
The Vocabulary of Regions: Linguistic Devices at the Service of Hegemony

15:15 Coffee break

15:30 Closing Remarks
Olga Lomová
(Charles University)