



XVII ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE CENTERS FOR AUSTRIAN AND CENTRAL EUROPEAN STUDIES

Palacký University

June 4–8, 2025
Olomouc, Czech Republic

Welcome to Olomouc!



Founded in 1573, Palacký University Olomouc is the second-oldest university in the Czech Republic and one of the oldest in Central Europe. Its roots go back to the efforts of the Jesuit Order to provide higher education in the historical region of Moravia. Originally established as a theological seminary, the university gradually expanded to include philosophy, law, medicine and other areas of expertise.

It further developed in the 17th and 18th centuries, surviving Swedish occupation and Jesuit suppression, and was briefly moved to Brno before returning to Olomouc. In this period, many new Baroque buildings were built for the university, such as the convictorium or the nearby Church of Our Lady of the Snow.

Student life in Olomouc was influenced by reforms under Emperor Joseph II. Despite efforts to modernize, political unrest – especially the revolutions of 1848 – led to declining support from the Habsburg authorities. These pressures culminated in the university's closure in 1860, though some of its institutions continued under different names.

It wasn't until 1946, after the end of World War II and the dissolution of Austria-Hungary decades earlier, that the university was re-established under its current name – honoring the Czech historian and politician František Palacký, a leading figure of the Czech National Revival and a member of the Imperial Council in Vienna.

In recent years, the university has marked a dynamic development towards international excellency. Consisting of eight faculties, it blends heritage with cutting-edge infrastructure to foster research, innovation, and international collaboration.

It is our great honor to be this year's hosts and we hope you will enjoy not only the convention but also everything this unique place has to offer.

Alžběta Peštová,
Jan Ciosk
& the assisting team

Practical information



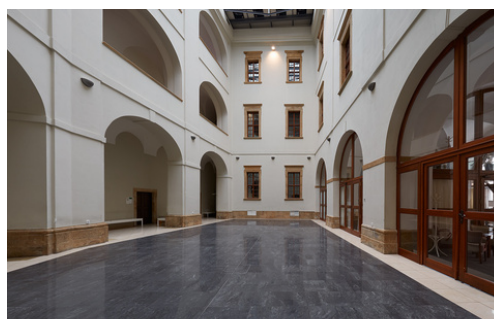
Conference venue

Umělecké centrum UP (**Konvikt**)

Univerzitní 3

779 00 Olomouc

Czech Republic



Hotels

OREA Hotel Arigone

Univerzitní 234/20

779 00 Olomouc

Czech Republic

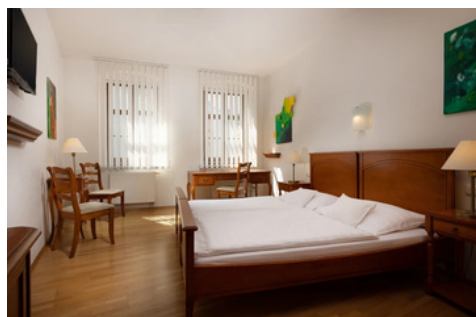


Hotel Palác

1. máje 869

779 00 Olomouc

Czech Republic



Conference Program



Wednesday, June 4

- From 3pm** Check-in at both conference hotels – Hotel Arigone and Hotel Palác
- 6pm** Official reception at the Arts Center of Palacký University (Konvikt)
- 6:30pm** Opening remarks by Jan Stejskal, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, concert of the Olomouc ensemble of contemporary music Lichtzwang



Arts Center of Palacký University (Konvikt)

A Baroque building of the former Jesuit monastery dating to the 16th century. One of the most historic parts of the Palacký University, which the 2002 reconstruction transformed into a modern academic complex and hub of Olomouc's cultural life. This complex houses classrooms, studios, film and theatre auditoria and hosts film festivals and others.

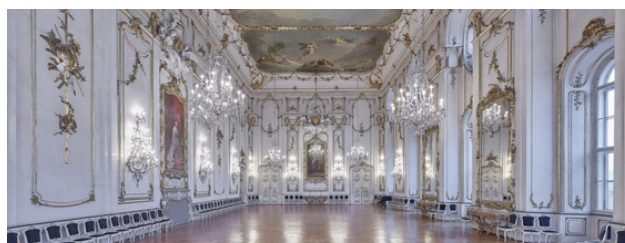
Lichtzwang

The aim of this ensemble is to promote mainly Czech contemporary music and to encourage the creation of new compositions for unusual instrumental combinations. The name is inspired by Paul Celan's poetry collection *Lichtzwang*.



Thursday, June 5

- 8:30am** Austrian Studies Program, University of California, Berkeley:
John Connelly (Director); Caleb Longacre, Daniel Edison (Speakers)
- 9:30am** Coffee break
- 9:45am** Austrian and Central European Center, IOG der Universität Wien:
Marija Wakounig (Director); Luděk Němec, Maximilian Ewers (Speakers)
- 10:45am** Coffee break
- 11:00am** Wirth Center for Austrian and Central European Studies, Edmonton:
Alexander Carpenter (Director); Aleksandra Dębińska (Speaker)
- 11:30am** Reports of the Centers (Berkeley, Vienna, Edmonton)
- 12:00pm** Lunch at Bistro Konvikt
- 1:00pm** Bus departs to Kroměříž
- 2:30pm** Guided tour of the Kroměříž Chateau (English and German) and
individual tour of the Flower Garden
- 7:00pm** Dinner in Kroměříž
- 9:15pm** Return to the hotel



Kroměříž Chateau and Flower Garden

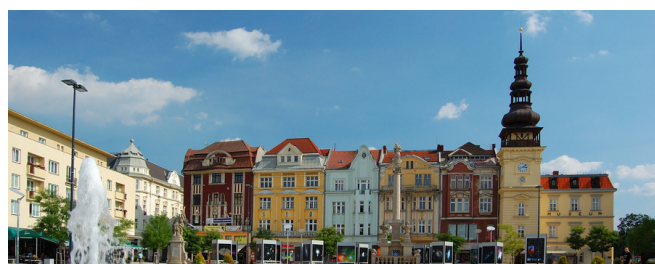
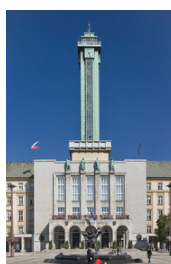
Kroměříž Chateau is a magnificent Baroque residence that once served as the principal seat of the bishops and archbishops of Olomouc. Its richly decorated interiors include a unique library, historical picture gallery with works by Titian, and ceremonial halls. The castle's design reflects the prestige and artistic ambitions of its builders, particularly under Bishop Karl II von Liechtenstein-Kastelkorn. In 1998, the castle and its gardens were recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Flower Garden in Kroměříž, built between 1665 and 1675, features precise geometric patterns, symmetrical flowerbeds, and ornamental sculptures. A central rotunda and a 244-meter-long colonnade add architectural grandeur together with multiple hedge mazes, fountains, and greenhouses.



Friday, June 6

- 8:30am** Foundation for Austrian Studies, Universiteit Leiden:
Sarah Cramsey (Director); Christien Smits, Jan Verkoren (Speakers)
- 9:30am** Coffee break
- 9:45am** Österreich-Zentrum, Palacký University Olomouc:
Alžběta Peštová (Director); Markéta Hynešová, Adam Vlček (Speakers)
- 10:45am** Coffee break
- 11:00am** Mitteleuropa Zentrum, Andrassy Universität Budapest:
Georg Kastner (Director); Markus Cillien (Speaker)
- 11:30am** Reports of the Centers (Leiden, Olomouc, Budapest)
- 12:00pm** Lunch at Bistro Konvikt
- 1:00pm** Bus departs to Ostrava
- 2:30pm** Guided tour of the Dolní Vítkovice industrial heritage site (English and German) and a short tour of Ostrava
- 7:00pm** Dinner in Ostrava
- 9:30pm** Return to the hotel



Ostrava and Dolní Vítkovice industrial site

Ostrava, the third-largest city in the Czech Republic, is located in the Moravian-Silesian region near the Polish border. Historically known as the "steel heart" of the country, it experienced a significant growth in the 19th century with the discovery of coal, transforming it into a major industrial hub within the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Today, Ostrava is a vibrant cultural center hosting events such as the Colours of Ostrava music festival and housing institutions, e.g. the Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra.

Dolní Vítkovice is a unique industrial heritage site, encompassing a former coal mine, coke ovens, and blast furnaces. Established in 1830s partly on the initiative of the Rothschilds and Gutmanns, the complex was a significant center for iron production until its closure in 1998. Today, it serves as a cultural and educational hub and its visitors can ascend the Bolt Tower, a converted blast furnace, for panoramic views of the city.



Saturday, June 7

- 9:00am** Center for Austrian Studies, Hebrew University, Jerusalem:
Noam Haim Shoval (Director); Margarita Lerman, Omer Levin Ben Haim (Speakers)
- 10:00am** Coffee break
- 10:15am** Center for Austrian Studies, University of Minnesota:
Howard Louthan (Director); Amelia Spell, Stephan Knott (Speakers)
- 11:15am** Coffee break
- 11:30am** Reports of the Centers (Jerusalem, Minnesota, New Orleans),
summary and closing remarks
- 12:30pm** Lunch at Bistro Konvikt
- 1:30pm** Guided tour of Olomouc (English and German) and individual trip to
Svatý Kopeček basilica (bus No. 11 from the Main Station in the direction
Svatý Kopeček)
- 7:00pm** Director's Dinner/Dinner for doctoral students in Olomouc



Olomouc and Svatý Kopeček

Olomouc, located in the historical region of Moravia, boasts with a rich history dating back to Roman times, when a military camp was founded near the present-day city. There are multiple Baroque monuments and churches, including the UNESCO-listed Holy Trinity Column and a series of ornate fountains. Olomouc also played a vital role in Central European defense as Festungsstadt Olmütz, a fortified stronghold of the Habsburg Empire. As the seat of the Moravian archbishopric and home to Palacký University, Olomouc continues to blend its religious heritage, academic life, and history into a uniquely vibrant city.

Svatý Kopeček, located just outside Olomouc, is a renowned pilgrimage site crowned by the Basilica of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary. The basilica was built in the 17th century and elevated to the status of Minor Basilica by Pope John Paul II in 1995. It is set on a hill with sweeping views of the Haná region.

See you at the XVIII Convention!



Book of Abstracts



University of California, Berkeley

Caleb Longacre: Bitter Bodies and Wandering Souls: Egyptian Artefacts and Medicinal Mummies in Early Modern Antiquarianism

Little was known of ancient Egypt in early modern Europe, though a great deal was thought. With no certain knowledge for translating Egyptian hieroglyphics, European scholars, artists and antiquarians were forced to approach that most ancient culture of the Nile either through their canon of familiar classical and biblical authors, or through the material objects of ancient Egypt itself. These material objects – whether idols, sepulchral lamps, or hieroglyphic stones – were interpreted through a mystical, perhaps even proto-orientalizing image of Egypt derived from the writings of the ancient Greeks and Romans. Thus detached from anything but an ambiguous material culture and a speculative system of knowledge, early modern Europeans could use ancient Egypt to build grand historical narratives for political or religious legitimacy. By exploring the ambiguous place of ancient Egyptian mummies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries – caught between contradictory medicinal and antiquarian values – this paper serves as the beginning of a larger project to piece back together the imaginative complex of ancient Egypt, one that captured the attention of scholars and the funding of princes from England to Austria. In the writings of Athanasius Kircher or in the many medicinal or universal lexica of the early Enlightenment, this orientalized image of Egypt guaranteed the value of Egyptian mummies, whether they were ground into a powder and prescribed for contusions, or stored in a *Kunstkammer* and studied for wisdom.

University of California, Berkeley

Daniel Edison: Marxist Humanism and European Universalism: Contributions of the Korčula Summer Schools

This paper explores how the Yugoslav Praxis group—a network of anti-Stalinist Marxist philosophers—conceptualized European identity and universalist values before and after the pivotal year of 1968. Situated between East and West, Praxis thinkers used the Korčula Summer School as a platform to critique both capitalist and authoritarian socialist systems, advocating a humanist Marxism rooted in the creative potential of the individual and in cosmopolitan universalism.

The presentation focuses on the 1968 summer school, held in the midst of international protest movements and the Prague Spring, which many participants saw as the realization of a democratic, pluralist socialism. Through figures such as Rudi Supek and Danko Grlić, the Praxis group promoted a vision of European unity grounded in shared humanist and socialist values, challenging nationalism and emphasizing solidarity. However, the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia and subsequent repression across Eastern Europe marked a turning point. From 1968 to the collapse of communism in 1989, the Praxis group's universalist vision fragmented. Some intellectuals turned to human rights and peace movements, while others, like Mihailo Marković, shifted toward nationalism—undermining earlier commitments to cosmopolitanism. Rather than suggesting a direct political influence, this paper reconstructs how the language of Marxist humanism embodied a broader intellectual aspiration for a unified Europe, offering insight into how ideals of solidarity, democracy, and universalism evolved—and ultimately unraveled—in the late socialist era.



University of Vienna

Luděk Němec: Aristocratic Memory Reframed: The Schwarzenbergs and Hluboká Castle

The paper explores how the aristocracy of the Habsburg Monarchy responded to political, economic, and social transformations from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century, using the Schwarzenberg family—and specifically one particular aspect—as a case study: their main South Bohemian residence, Hluboká Castle. Originally rebuilt in the Neo-Gothic style in the 19th century, it became known as the "Pearl of South Bohemia," evoking the wealth, prestige, and history of one of the most influential noble families in Central Europe. Initially conceived as a representative seat, the castle evolved over time into a symbolic platform that was repeatedly instrumentalized—not only by the Schwarzenbergs but also by various political regimes, including the Nazi authorities and the Communist regime—each reinterpreting and appropriating its aristocratic legacy. This occurred against the backdrop of growing social tensions and the waning influence of the aristocracy in the late monarchy, the political pressure of interwar Czechoslovakia with its efforts to deprive the nobility and carry out land reform, and the double expropriation of Schwarzenberg property by Nazi Germany in 1940 and Czechoslovakia in 1947. The paper thus traces the development of the castle as a site of memory, through tourist attraction and regional icon, and a place of political appropriation. The study presents results from parts of an ongoing dissertation project, designed as a family biography of the Schwarzenberg family between 1888 and 1947/1948, with focus on South Bohemia and the family's primogeniture.

University of Vienna

Maximilian Ewers: Die Revolution 1848 in den Hirtenbriefen Kardinal Rauschers

Die Revolution von 1848 stellte einen tiefgreifenden politischen und gesellschaftlichen Umbruch dar, der auch die katholische Kirche vor große Herausforderungen stellte. In dieser Zeit entwickelten sich innerhalb der Kirche verschiedene Strömungen: Auf der einen Seite standen liberal-katholische Kreise, welche dafür plädierten, sich gegenüber den Idealen der Revolution, wie Freiheitsrechte, Nationalstaatlichkeit und Mitbestimmung, zu öffnen. Auf der anderen Seite formierte sich eine konservative, staatsnahe Haltung, die in der Kirche eine Bewahrerin von Ordnung und Hierarchie sah. Der zentrale kirchliche Akteur in Österreich war Joseph Othmar Kardinal von Rauscher, der in seinen Hirtenbriefen sich klar gegen die Revolution positionierte. Er lehnte die radikalen Forderungen der Revolution ab, insbesondere den antiklerikalen und säkularisierenden Kurs vieler revolutionärer Gruppen. Zugleich zeigte sich Rauscher aber sensibel für berechnete Anliegen seiner Zeit, etwa im Hinblick auf soziale Gerechtigkeit und die Rolle der Kirche im modernen Staat. In seinen Hirtenbriefen betonte Rauscher die göttliche Ordnung als Grundlage jeder legitimen politischen Autorität. Er warnte vor den Gefahren des moralischen Verfalls, den er mit revolutionärem Gedankengut assoziierte, und plädierte für eine Rückbesinnung auf christliche Werte als Stabilitätsanker in einer Zeit des Umbruchs. Insgesamt spiegeln Rauschers Hirtenbriefe die Bemühung wider, kirchliche Autorität in einer sich wandelnden Gesellschaft zu behaupten, ohne den Kontakt zur sozialen Realität zu verlieren. Als höchster Repräsentant der österreichischen Kirche und als Moderator des österreichischen Katholizismus versuchte Rauscher zwischen kirchlicher Loyalität zum Staat und ultramontaner Emanzipation zu navigieren.



University of Alberta

Aleksandra Debinska: Those who carry the shreds of useless masculinity.... - grotesque representations of war disability in the Second Republic of Poland (1918-1939)

The aim of this presentation is to reconstruct the grotesque image of disabled veterans in Polish literature of the interwar period. Alongside the romanticized and ennobled discourse of soldierly heroic masculinity that returned to Poland during World War I, another image of masculinity began to emerge more clearly - one that was marginalized, tabooed or excluded from official war and political narratives. Polish literature (especially pacifist or antiwar) from 1918-1939, depicts soldiers not only as national heroes, but as those who became victims. Writers and poets, creating the characters of mutilated veterans, thus try to articulate a protest against the fictitious ennoblement of those deserving of the fatherland, but in the practice of life - living on the margins of society, often deprived of their livelihood. In Polish literature, the difficulty of expressing the suffering experienced by disabled veterans is clearly discernible - it could be the language of screaming or silence, the language of trauma or expressionist grotesque. In this presentation, I will try to outline how narratives were created around demobilized men, using the language of the grotesque, inspired by the work of the German Expressionists. I will focus here on excerpts from texts written by Witold Wandurski, "Death on a Pear Tree" (1923), and Emil Zegadłowicz, "Motors" (1938).

Leiden University

Christien Smits: A comparative study of post-war nation-building processes in Central Europe: a student's perspective

In this presentation, I will discuss several post-war moments of nation-building in Central Europe in the second half of the twentieth century. The comparison builds forth on a research paper on the importance of dichotomies for the process of nation-building in Czechoslovakia after the Second World War. It is argued that the creation of ethnic dichotomy and a lack of ideological dichotomy resulted ultimately in the communist take-over. This research will be applied to the construction of (national) identity in several other post-war situations, both in- and outside Central Europe. The talk is concluded by a discussion of lessons learned from studying Central Europe.

Leiden University

Jan Verkoren: Between Two Worlds. The Trans-dynastic Diplomacy of Empress Consort Eleonore Magdalene of Neuburg

This presentation explores the political role of Eleonora Magdalena of Neuburg (1655-1720), Holy Roman Empress and wife of Leopold I (1640-1705), as a case study to reassess the significance of consorts in early modern international, inter-dynastic and especially trans-dynastic politics. Drawing on the recently published correspondence with her father and eldest brother, the talk examines Eleonora's actions at the Viennese court from 1677 to 1690, showing how she operated not merely as passive link between dynasties and states, but as a politically active mediator between her family of birth (the Wittelsbachs of Palatinate-Neuburg) and her marital family (the Habsburgs).

Eleonora's case invites a rethinking of consort power, not as exceptional but as structurally embedded and politically consequential. By focusing on this Normalfall rather than just on exceptional female rulers, the presentation contributes to a more representative and nuanced understanding of women's political agency in the early modern Holy Roman Empire.



Palacky University Olomouc

Markéta Hynešová: „So ist alles, alles Comödie – und mir gfallt die am allerbesten, in der's fidel und lustig zugeht.“ Der Umbruch in der Rezeption von Emanuel Schikaneder in Schikaneder (1885) von Friedrich Radler

Emanuel Schikaneder, eine der schillerndsten Persönlichkeiten des ausgehenden 18. und des Anfangs des 19. Jahrhunderts hat lange nur im Zusammenhand mit Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart als Librettist von Die Zauberflöte im kollektiven Gedächtnis überlebt. Sein Beitrag zur süddeutschen und österreichischen Theater- und Kulturgeschichte ist jedoch ein viel größerer. Sein OEuvre zählt mehr als hundert Stücke, von denen knapp die Hälfte aufgefunden wurde. Die Erbauung des Theaters an der Wien sowie die Etablierung der Wiener Volkskomödie, die den Weg für Ferdinand Raimund und Johann Nestroy ebnete, sind nur einige seiner Leistungen. Im Schatten Mozarts als sein Ausbeuter rezipiert, beginnt sich der Zugang zu einem der bedeutendsten Theatermänner der Geschichte im ausgehenden 19. Jahrhundert zu wandeln. Einen der ersten Versuche, Schikaneder in den Mittelpunkt eines Theaterstückes zu stellen, wagte Friedrich Radler, der das Auftragswerk Schikaneder für die Eröffnung des Theaters in der Josefstadt im September 1885 schrieb. Sein Zugang zum Tausendsassa Schikaneder wird aus verschiedenen Blickwinkeln analysiert, um den Umbruch in der Rezeption zu markieren.

Palacky University Olomouc

Adam Vlček: „Mir freilich ist sie poetisch, diese Wirklichkeit...“ Der vergessene deutschböhmisches Autor Moritz Reich

Moritz Reich (1831–1857) war ein deutschböhmisches Schriftsteller jüdischer Herkunft, Autor zahlreicher Gedichte und vor allem Prosastücken, die aber nach seinem Tod in Vergessenheit gerieten. Die literaturhistorische Forschung hat Reich bisher nur sehr begrenzt berücksichtigt.

In meinem Beitrag stelle ich sowohl den tragischen Lebenslauf von Moritz Reich, als auch die Geschichte der Publikation und Rezeption seiner Werke vor. Der Schwerpunkt liegt jedoch auf Reichs Schaffen. Zu Lebzeiten des Autors wurden nur zirka 30 Erzählungen und Novellen publiziert, die die gemeinsamen Themen (etwa Außenseiter der ländlichen Gesellschaft oder dysfunktionale Familienkonstellationen) zu einem zusammenhaltendem Dorfkosmos verbinden.

Ich analysiere, inwiefern Reich an der Wiege der sogenannten Grenzlandliteratur steht, wenn er in der Novelle Der Kinderhandel einen Konflikt einer deutschen und einer tschechischen Familie schildert, und wie sich seine Texte den Gattungen Dorf- und Ghettageschichte zuzuordnen sind, bzw. von ihnen abweichen. Der Beitrag will sich nicht zuletzt ebenfalls Reichs poetologischen Selbstüberlegungen widmen, die sich zerstreut in verschiedenen Texten (Die erschrockene Susanne, Nur ein Schreiber, Der Onkel aus Petersburg u. a.) befinden und zusammen als das persönliche Literaturprogramm eines jungen realistischen Schriftstellers in den 1850er Jahren gelesen werden können.



Andrássy University Budapest

Markus Cillien: Die nachrichtendienstlichen Aktivitäten der deutschen Auslandsgeheimdienste in Mitteleuropa in den Jahren 1946-1968 – dargestellt anhand der Akten des Államvédelmi Hatóság (AVH) und seiner Nachfolgeorganisationen

Aufgrund der veränderten sicherheitspolitischen Lage der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (BRD) und der z. Z. stattfindenden geopolitischen Neuordnung des internationalen Staatensystems rücken auch nachrichtendienstliche Aktivitäten wieder verstärkt in den Vordergrund. Um in diesem Kontext mögliche Lehren aus der Vergangenheit für die Gegenwart zu ziehen, lohnt sich daher ein Blick auf die nachrichtendienstliche Informationsgewinnung des Bundesnachrichtendienstes (BND) während des Kalten Krieges in Mitteleuropa. Eine Untersuchung der Aktivitäten des deutschen Auslandsnachrichtendienstes bietet sich an dieser Stelle besonders an, da die Leistungen des BND während des Ost-West-Konfliktes bislang als zu wenig erforscht gelten, weshalb sie sich bisher auch nicht zusammenfassend bewerten lassen. Dies trifft auch noch auf die Zeit von 1949 bis 1968 zu. In diesem Kontext sollen daher vor allem die nachrichtendienstlichen Aktivitäten des BND in Ungarn untersucht werden.

Weitergehende Fragestellungen:

- Inwieweit nahmen der BND bzw. dessen weitergeleitete nachrichtendienstliche Informationen Einfluss auf ausgewählte Entscheidungsträger (noch festzulegen, welche Personen hier in Frage kommen) während zentraler Krisen des Kalten Krieges? ► hier ist dann jeweils ein konkreter Bezug zu Mitteleuropa herzustellen
- Welche Kanäle zur Kontakthanbahnung wurden seitens des BND vorwiegend genutzt? ► ehemalige Agenten von Abwehr, Amt Ausland, Abwehr OKW, SD, SS, etc. oder neue Informanten?
- Welche Schlüsselinformationen konnten gewonnen werden und welchen Einfluss nahm die Verarbeitung dieser durch den BND auf den weiteren Fortgang des Kalten Krieges
- Welche Lehren lassen sich aus den gewonnenen Ergebnissen ziehen?
- Was wussten die ausländischen Sicherheitsdienste/Nachrichtendienste von den Aktivitäten des BND?

Forschungsstand Die „Unabhängige Historikerkommission zur Erforschung der Geschichte des Bundesnachrichtendienstes 1945 – 1968“ hat besagten Zeitraum in ihrem in 14 Bänden publizierten Forschungsprojekt erforscht. Dabei lag der Betrachtungsschwerpunkt auf der Geschichte des BND, seinen Vorläuferorganisationen, sowie seines Personal- und Wirkungsprofils von 1945 bis 1968 und des Umgangs mit dieser Vergangenheit. Der Fokus hierbei lag u. A. auf der NS-Vergangenheit einzelner BND-Mitarbeiter. Aber auch Ergebnisse zur sogenannten order of battle intelligence des BND liegen vor. Hierzu sind zahlreiche Akten aus West- und Stasibeständen verfügbar. Hieran anknüpfend könnten durch die Akten der ungarischen Geheimdienste neue Forschungsergebnisse erzielt werden. Was wusste die ungarische Seite/der Warschauer Pakt von den Aktivitäten des BND in Mitteleuropa? Welche Kontakte bestanden? Wer waren die genutzten Quellen? Wurden Doppelagenten identifiziert? Wie erfolgreich waren die Aktivitäten des BND in Mitteleuropa des Eisernen Vorhangs?



Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Margarita Lerman: Eluding Empire: Jewish Fugitives, Habsburg Diplomacy, and the Politics of Mobility

Serving as a Habsburg diplomat at the turn of the 20th century was a complex task, especially as the empire faced rapid urbanization and industrialization processes that posed challenges to many population groups. Until the beginning of World War I, millions of Austro-Hungarians emigrated. Not all left permanently, and many remained connected to their former homeland, for instance through letters, complaints, and requests sent to consulates. This period of heightened mobility and trade also created new opportunities for criminal activity, particularly related to the cross-border movement of people and goods. Before formalized multilateral police cooperation, law enforcement relied almost solely on consulates to help locate suspects. However, diplomatic missions were not only points of contact for authorities – they were also venues where suspects sought refuge, and diplomats often found themselves intervening in legal conflicts with host countries. These interventions were particularly complex when suspects were Jewish, a group stereotyped as linked to criminality, which highlighted tensions between legality and social norms. To track down higher-profile suspects, diplomats sometimes relied on informants, including petty criminals. Correspondingly, Habsburg diplomats were not only continuously confronted with the empire's ethnically, religiously, and socially diverse population, but also acted upon – and, at times, benefited from – this diversity when administering imperial law. Drawing on archival materials from consulates across the Mediterranean – Constantinople, Cairo, and Barcelona – this paper explores the dual role of Habsburg consuls. Positioned at the intersection of diplomatic representation and law enforcement, they were not only intermediaries but also key decision-makers, navigating issues of judicial normativity, deviance, and the tension between state and individual responsibility. Their role exemplifies the complexities of representation in a time of increasing mobility, shifting social dynamics, and evolving international relations, offering insights into the divergence between written law and its implementation.

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Omer Levin Ben Haim: What makes a successful tourism city: The case of Vienna and Budapest

What factors make a city a successful tourist city? How does it manage to accomplish this without impacting its residents? The success of a tourist city based on a complex interplay of factors, balancing visitor appeal with resident well-being. Cities have many elements that make them attractive. Those elements, those factors, can be roughly divided into two groups: tangible factors and perceived factors. A tourist city, we believe, incorporates both the city's story and its physical space, both the city's physical space and its narrative.

Our research examines two neighbored cities that share history: Vienna, Austria and Budapest, Hungary. Both cities are considered substantial tourist destination that attract many tourists every year. Both find a balance between the two types of factors; the tangible elements support the perceptual ones and vice versa. We study the relationship between the physical city, the imagined city, and today's city. We analyze the impact of key urban parameters, including local identity, historical preservation, human-scale development, experiential offerings, livability, and resident-centric governance. These parameters, while possessing universal relevance, are contextually shaped by each city's unique character. They serve the tourists but, no less importantly, they serve each city's residents, facilitating the creation of a sustainable tourist product.

This connection between tourists and residents, between the factors that serve's tourist and those that serves the residence is the main focus of this study. We show the two congruence; the concrete, the city itself, its physicality, the buildings, the streets that the visitor encounters supplement and reinforce the perception of the city, its story, the image of the city that appears in people's minds. The built city acts and functions first and foremost for the benefit of its residents. Each activity the city undertakes for the benefit of its residents is directly or indirectly beneficial to tourists as well.

University of Minnesota

Amelia Spell: The Battle of Lepanto (1571) in German News and Print

In 1453, the Ottoman Empire's capture of Constantinople sent shockwaves through the Christian world, and their westward expansion into the Balkans and Mediterranean continued to provoke resistance from European powers determined to preserve their territories and trade routes. A challenge to Ottoman expansion came in 1571, when a joint Venetian, Spanish, and Papal fleet confronted them off the coast of Lepanto, with the Christian forces achieving a decisive victory on October 7. News of the triumph reached Venice nearly two weeks later. The city erupted in celebration, and the victory was quickly disseminated through news networks. Across Europe, both elites and commoners rejoiced in what was seen as a high point in the sustained conflict against a common enemy. Immediate reports were followed by a surge of printed works in prose and verse.

This presentation examines a range of these sources to explore how the Battle of Lepanto was represented in news and print. It argues that as news traveled farther into German-speaking regions, accounts displayed more pronounced anti-Ottoman prejudice. The study reveals how distance from the event influenced the tone of reporting, offering insight into early modern media and the construction of the Ottoman "other."

University of Minnesota

Stephan Knott: Crusaders, Crowds, and Chaos: The Fourth Crusade and the People of Constantinople (1202-1204)

This paper aims to offer a better understanding of the role played by the people of Constantinople during the Fourth Crusade (1202-1204). Although the importance of the city's populace has generally been acknowledged, their behavior is still poorly understood. This is partly due to the nature of our sources. Niketas Choniates, our key informant about the goings-on inside the city in the 12th century, portrays the populace as irrational and wine-drunk. His account reflects the perspective of a member of the Byzantine elite—a mixture of elite snobbery, ignorance, and fear of the violence of the mob. The Fourth Crusade offers a unique opportunity to correct this view. This paper will examine the people's methods of political participation and rebellion and will argue that the populace played a far bigger role in the outcome of the crusade than is commonly assumed.

