

Czech Society for Slavonic, Balkan and Byzantine Studies

in cooperation with

**Faculty of Arts and Letter, Catholic University in Ružomberok,
Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences,
Institute of Slavonic Studies of the Czech Academy of Sciences,
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University
and
Faculty of Arts, Charles University**

is arranging

an deferred international scientific symposium

Oppression, Despotism and Totalitarianism in Culture and Cultural History

Symposium will take place on

20th – 22nd October 2021

in Brno

in Czech Academy of Sciences facility on Čechyňská 19, 602 00.

In the event of an unfavorable epidemiological situation, the negotiations will take place with the possibility of connecting online or exclusively online

Focus of the symposium:

In *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, Hannah Arendt (1906-1975), a German-Jewish political philosopher, traced two historical forms of totalitarian rule, Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia, studying their politics, as well as the aspects that seemed at least partly non-political. Almost 70 years have passed since *The Origins of Totalitarianism* were published and we are convinced that it is necessary to open up the topic again and widen our horizons, further including the non-political aspects while still reflecting upon the politics.

The aim of symposium named **Oppression, Despotism and Totalitarianism in Culture and Cultural History** is to not only commemorate how **totalitarian practice** was enforced in the recent past (the 20th century), creating the “un-free” environment and deforming (or even incapacitating) the opportunity to live a free life, but also to point out the influence of despotism and un-freedom in more distant past – **in the Ancient era, the Middle Ages and Early Modern period all the way up to contemporary history**. The subject will mainly be approached through the optics of cultural history that were defined by Peter Burke (*1937) as an image and pursuance of the past reaching over the framing made up by political, economic, social and legal history, as well by the history of ideas and ideologies, but still maintaining a connection to those, being influenced by them and influencing them. Defined as such, excursions into political, economic, social and legal history, the history of ideas and ideologies and political insights are inevitable for cultural history to exist.

The planned symposium is based upon a long-lived tradition of Czecho-Slovak international conferences focused on cultural history (Year 1: *The Current State and Prospects of Cultural History in Central Europe*; Year 2: *Fellowships – A Centenary*; Year 3: *Cults in History*). In this respect, the symposium plans to make provision for **cultural history** with all the possible overlap not only into **historical, but also into literary and philosophical spectrum, as well as into the history of art**.

Thematic ranges:

1. Totality, totalitarian movements and totalitarian thoughts in 20th century
2. Tolerance and intolerance in history
3. Historiographic, philosophical and politological approaches to freedom and un-freedom, tolerance and intolerance. Conceptual approaches of individuals and schools of thought and their critique
4. Can a totalitarian system be reformed? Visions, principles and consequences of so called "Khrushchev Thaw"
5. Despotism and oligarchy in the earliest (cultural) history
6. Life in unfree social systems throughout history
7. An individual as a symbol and bearer of liberal and illiberal thoughts and discourse
8. Art, science and architecture in totalitarian dictatorships

Organization and guidelines:

Conference languages: Czech, Slovak, English. An interpreter from and into English will be available on demand.

Presentation duration: 15 minutes

Deadline for applications is set on **30th August, 2021**. Please use following e-mail address:

easterneurope@hiu.cas.cz

Application shall also include a submission abstract. The expected abstract length is about 1,800 characters including spaces (a standard page) in English and Czech/Slovak.

Registered for October 2020, who confirmed their interest in participating in October 2021 by 15 May 2021, do not register again

We are looking forward to new acquaintances and inspiring debates.

Sincerely on behalf of all organisers of the symposium,

doc. PhDr. Radomír Vlček, CSc.,

Chair of Czech Society for Slavonic, Balkan and Byzantine Studies

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Application form for symposium
Oppression, Despotism and Totalitarianism
in Culture and Cultural History,
which will take place in Brno on 20th – 22nd October 2021

Name, surname, title:

Submission title:

Name and address of home institution:

Submission abstract (about 1 standard page – 1,800 characters including)

Please send the filled-in application form on following e-mail address before
30th August 2021

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