

Call for Papers



2nd Annual International Conference

Colloquia in Honour of Professor Josef Macurek. The History of Mentalities and Culture of Central and Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Times.

on the theme

Foreigners in the Society of Central and Eastern Europe (11th–16th c.)



Time



Venue

31st October – 2nd November 2024 Faculty of Arts MU, Brno

„Unius linguae uniusque moris
regnum imbecile et fragile est.“

This is a quote from *De institutione morum* of Stephen I, the first king of Hungary.

The sentence depicts the experience of the Hungarians, who were perceived by their neighbours as foreigners and hostile nation at that time. However, the Hungarian kingdom was inhabited by people speaking different languages and having various customs. In this context, was the quotation an expression of wisdom or a forced reaction? Without a doubt, it was meant to set an example for the domestic politics of the kings and express the desired role of the foreigners in the kingdom. Primary sources show us that all medieval rulers lived in a network of intercultural relations.

Acknowledgement of the medieval multicultural reality raises the question – what was the social perception of the foreigners and how the meaning of this term changed? What could the *lingua* mean, and what it transferred? Despite bringing Christianity, culture, trade, and education, the foreigners were often perceived negatively. It was they who helped the Hungarians, Bohemians, Poles and inhabitants of Rus' to become a part of the European civilization at some point. In this process, the role of language was crucial. In this respect, one may ask how its significance in the relations between different cultures was changing.

The Conference aims to conduct comparative research on the process of foreigners' integration into the society of the Kingdom of Bohemia, Poland, Hungary, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and the principalities of Rus'. The chronological framework will cover the period from the Christianization of the mentioned states up to the end of the 16th century, when the situation in Central and Eastern Europe substantially changed. Ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious interactions, which gradually created a unique mosaic of relations between the countries, were the most important factors of such integration. The outcomes of this historical development can be seen even nowadays. Including various cultural prejudices. However, many of today's “foreigners” may not have been considered extraneous in the past.

Papers may focus on proposed themes:

- Complex identification of foreigners in primary sources
- Ways of the migration to the other lands and its causes (prisoners of war, refugees, diplomats, mercenaries, clergymen, traders, etc.)
- Methods of foreigners' integration into society
- Foreigners' careers at the royal and local courts
- The influence of migrating intellectuals on education and culture
- The social status of educated foreigners
- The role of confession in the foreigners' integration process
- The influence of foreign ecclesiastic centers on the development of domestic culture
- Attitudes of the domestic elites towards foreigners (particularly, the fear of losing political and economic power)
- The image of foreigners in contemporary sources (e.g., possible reasons for the prevailing depiction, prejudices, connection to domestic politics)
- The role of foreigners in the transfer of technological and craft knowledge and skills (architecture, metallurgy, goldsmithing, iconography, transcription, and book printing)
- The attitude of the ruling elites towards foreigners from a legal point of view (edicts, privileges, etc.)
- Intercultural exchange in the customs (gastronomy, brewing, clothing, and hygiene)
- The anthroponymic reflection of interethnic contacts

Conference Papers

The Conference will be organised in English, Czech, Polish, Slovak, and Ukrainian. The papers can be presented in either any of these languages or any other Slavic language. Proposals are invited for 20-minute papers. The simultaneous interpretation of the papers will not be possible. There is no conference fee. Participants are expected to travel at their own expense. They will be informed about the accommodation fees and meals in advance.

Please submit a brief **abstract** in the language of the paper along with its title, author's name and affiliation by 30 September 2024. The preferable form of participation (in-person/online) should be indicated. Acceptance notifications will be sent out shortly after the deadline.

Emails for Proposal
Submission



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Time and Venue

The conference will take place in a hybrid format at the Faculty of Arts of the Masaryk University in Brno from Thursday 31 October to Saturday 2 November 2024. The online participants will be able to join the conference via the Zoom platform.



Faculty of Arts MU,
Arna Nováka 1/1, Brno
(Czechia)

Articles

In case of successful peer review, the presented papers will be subsequently published in a thematic issue of *Studia historica Brunensia*. The articles should be submitted by the end of January 2025. They should not be longer than 15 standard pages. All studies must meet the formal editing rules and citation standards of the SHB journal. The editors accept the articles in any Slavic language, English, German, and French.

The guidelines for authors are available at: <https://journals.phil.muni.cz/studia-historica-brunensia/about/submissions>



Organising Committee:

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