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Migration and Us: Mobility, Refugees, and Borders from the Perspective of the Humanities

The project aims to bring new knowledge about forms of migration in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and the impact of migration on society through interdisciplinary collaboration. Its five work packages explore exile, race and language, impact of states on transnational migration, labor migration, and the dynamics of borders.

Who? Michal Frankl (PI), five interdisciplinary teams/ work packages led by Františka Schormová (WP1), Stephanie Rudwick (WP2), Jarmila Ptáčková (WP3), Nikola Tohma (WP4), and Jan Malura (WP5)

What? A four-year grant, Operational Programme Jan Amos Komenský (OP JAK) **Where?** Institute of Czech Literature of the CAS, Institute of Ethnology of the CAS, Masaryk Institute and Archives of the CAS, Oriental Institute of the CAS, University of Ostrava **When?** January 2025 – December 2028 **Where to find more?** <https://ucl.cas.cz/en/migration/>

WP 1: Constructing Exile: From Exile to Migration

Aims: This work package aims to critically reflect on the concept of exile and exile literary and communication practices through a historical and theoretical reconsideration of this phenomenon, mapping of actors excluded from the previous scholarship, reflection on the construction of memory and narratives of exile and migration, and situating exile in the transnational contexts of mobility within the long 20th century.

Geography: In the framework of this research area, we predominantly look at exile and migration between the Czech lands and Europe, North America, and Asia. Within the European context, our team members cover a diverse range of issues and areas, ranging from interwar Russian-speaking migration to the Czech lands, the Czechoslovak exile government in London,

Czech-Polish literary exile connections, the music production of the Czech minority in Vienna, cultural mediators between Czech and German with a migration background, and others.

Team members: Lucie Antošíková (ICL), Marie Brunová (ICL), Anna Gnot (ICL), Pavel Horák (Masaryk Institute), Michal Jareš (ICL), Petra Loučová (ICL), Thomas Loy (Oriental Institute), Julia Miesenböck (ICL), Pavel Nevyhoštěný (ICL), Aneta Podhradská (University of Ostrava), Michal Přibáň (ICL), Alena Přibáňová (ICL), Ekaterina Shashlova (Masaryk Institute), Ondřej Sládek (ICL), Zita Skořepová (Institute of Ethnology), Petr Šámal (ICL), Ondřej Vimr (ICL)

Our plans for 2026: This year, our plans include a special issue of the journal *Česká literatura* on the female experience of migration and its literary reflection, put together by Lucie Antošíková, three panels at the Seventh World Czech Studies Congress this summer, and a roundtable on exile as a term in the framework of literary studies in the fall.

We are interested in a debate on exile and migration, be it from the perspective of literary scholarship or other disciplines, and also in debates taking place outside of Czechia, as we try to see the migration to and from the Czech lands in broader transnational contexts.

Contact:

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