

Die „Prager Vorträge“ der Prager Außenstellen des *Collegium Carolinum*, des *Deutschen Historischen Instituts Warschau* sowie der deutsch-tschechischen Forschungs- und Vermittlungsplattform *leibniz GWZO prague* wenden sich in erster Linie, aber nicht nur an tschechische Fachhistorikerinnen und -historiker. Sie sollen helfen, einen Begegnungs- und Kommunikationsort zwischen tschechischen und deutschen Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftlern zu bilden.

Darüber hinaus bieten die Vorträge auch geschichtswissenschaftliche Informationen und Anregungen für die interessierte Öffentlichkeit. Auf der Grundlage neuer Ansätze und Forschungsthemen mit entweder regionalem, europäischem oder globalem Bezug soll die Veranstaltungsreihe ein fortlaufendes Diskussionsforum bieten. Alle Interessierten sind herzlich willkommen.

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■ **11. Juni 2024, 17:00 Uhr**
Veranstaltungsort: Valentinská 1, 3. Stock

Dr. Johannes Gleixner (München)
New Currency or Bad Money? Popular Reactions to the Introduction of a New Czechoslovak Currency after the First World War

The currency reform of 1919, usually attributed to Alois Rašín, is regarded as a stunning success by the young state of Czechoslovakia, enabling it to escape the turmoil of inflation in Central and Eastern Europe. However, two circumstances deserve closer examination: firstly, a transitional phase began immediately after the introduction of the new currency, during which the old (Austro-Hungarian) banknotes were no longer fully valid, but were not invalid either. Moreover, the validity of a new currency depends not only on its emission as such, but on its acceptance by the public. In the Czechoslovak case, the general populace dealt with the ambiguity of transition in its way. In particular, the question of which banknotes (and cash reserves) were still valid or legal sparked conflicts and negotiations that tell us a lot about the difference between money as an economic quantity and money as part of cultural practice.

Johannes Gleixner is a researcher at Collegium Carolinum – Research Institute for the History of the Czech Lands and Slovakia. He is interested in the history of non-religion and secularist movements in East and East Central Europe during the late 19th and early 20th century, focusing amongst others on socialist and communist freethought in Czechoslovakia and Soviet Russia. Other interests include the monetary history of Central Europe in the 20th century as well as Historical Network Analysis of letter correspondence.

Veranstalter



Partner

Max Weber
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Geisteswissenschaftliche
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Prager Vorträge

Sommersemester 2024



■ **3. April 2024, 17:00 Uhr**

Veranstaltungsort: Valentinská 1, 3. Stock

Dr. Timm Schönfelder (Leipzig)

Hunting Practices on Display. Sustainability and Blood Sports in Fin de Siècle Europe through the Lens of the Environmental Humanities.

Hunting is among humanity's oldest cultural practices. It is a prism for progress in science and technology, for attempts to control nature, gender issues, and social change. Based on rigid rules and traditional values, it reflects status, power, and social belonging. While hunters are often considered mediators between the animal kingdom and the human world, the dualism of nature and culture has clearly revealed itself as a central sign of modernity during the past centuries.

In all of this Eastern Europe is usually considered as being arrested in catch-up development. But just as in the West, hunting practices increasingly carried here an urban understanding which focused less on subsistence than on sport, leisure and trophy hunting. Hunting societies were a major driving force in this. They also preferred modest activities like stalking (Pirschjagd) to the extravagant par force on horseback or the canned hunt which did not correspond to the supposedly bourgeois ethical code of 'Waidgerechtigkeit'. These and other activities mediated the vivid discourse on sustainability, predator control and hunting ethics transpired between East and West at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The first International Hunting Exhibition in Vienna in 1910 marks the pinnacle of this exchange before the onslaught of the Great War. The trajectory of these discourses will be the focus of this presentation.

Timm Schönfelder is a postdoc researcher at the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) in Leipzig, Germany. In 2019, he defended his dissertation on Soviet agromeliorative infrastructures in the North Caucasus at the University of Tübingen, where he worked for the DFG-funded Collaborative Research Center 923: 'Threatened Orders. Societies under Stress'. He has published on Russian and Soviet environmental history, the history of science and technology, trade, agricultural policies, and political propaganda. For his second book, he investigates the manifold sociocultural implications of hunting practices in Eastern and Central Eastern Europe during the 19th and 20th centuries.

■ **24. April 2024, 17:00 Uhr**

Veranstaltungsort: Valentinská 1, 3. Stock

Dr. Gregor Feindt (Mainz)

Baťa's People: Rationalisation, Social Engineering and Categorization in Company Town Zlín, 1918–1939.

On the eve of the Second World War, the Baťa company produced affordable shoes for the world market, as well new men and women. The company comprehensively rationalised industrial production in its Zlín factories and applied these organisational principles to its personnel management and the development of an efficient and loyal workforce. Baťa trained workers and employees in company-run schools, rewarded them according to their work performance and offered them the opportunity for significant social advancement with high wages and comfortable company housing. In addition to hard work, Baťa demanded loyalty and a rational lifestyle from its employees. In this way, the company created a specific sense of identification as Baťovec that was adopted, modified and, especially in retrospect, nostalgically glorified by long-term employees.

The talk will discuss the personnel and social policy of the shoe company Baťa as a private and capitalist project of social engineering. In the inter-war period, Baťa and the Baťovci contributed to a global discourse of radical social reform that included Fordism and totalitarian attempts to create the new man and made their own contribution to global development. Ultimately, Baťa's ideas also influenced the further development of Czechoslovakia after 1948.

Gregor Feindt is a researcher at the Leibniz Institute of European History in Mainz, Germany. His work focuses on the cultural and social history of East-Central Europe in the twentieth century and European memory. For his project on social engineering in the Baťa shoe company, he received a grant from the German Research Foundation. His most recent publications include the book chapter "Making the new man: Baťa, Batism and the Sacralisation of Social Engineering in Inter-war Czechoslovakia" (Open Access).

■ **14. Mai 2024, 14:00 Uhr**

Veranstaltungsort: Valentinská 1, 3. Stock

Alicia Wolff, M.A. (Heidelberg)

Lists as the Main Tool for Organizing, Saving, and Sharing Knowledge in Medieval Pilgrimage Reports.

In the past, historians have exclusively paid attention to the narrative passages of the pilgrimage reports, while the numerous lists in the texts received little attention. These include, for example, lists of traveling companions, medicines or ship contracts, calculations, itineraries, and glossaries. Many of these lists did not even make it into the critical editions. These omissions may seem sensible at first glance. Many of the lists are very similar in content and monotone in style. A closer inspection, however, reveals them to be a hidden treasure for historians. Lists are the main tool for organizing, saving, and sharing knowledge in the accounts. The focus of Alicia Wolff's dissertation is on pilgrimage reports from the German-speaking world and the period between the beginning of the 14th century and the Reformation. She is interested in the complexity of lists and the processes involved in their compilation and usage.

Alicia Wolff (Lohmann) is a research associate at the University of Heidelberg. Before joining the chair of Medieval History at Heidelberg (Professor Romedio Schmitz-Esser) in 2020, she attended FU Berlin between 2015 and 2020, where she obtained a master's degree in History and Political Science. From 2018 to 2020 she worked as a student research assistant at the Leibniz-Edition project of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the chair of High and Late Medieval History (Professor Thomas Ertl) at FU.

■ **22. Mai 2024, 17:00 Uhr**

Veranstaltungsort: Valentinská 1, 3. Stock

MMag. Marie-Noëlle Yazdanpanah (Wien)

"We Will Not Rest Until Our Goal of Being a Stage For All the World Is Achieved". The Magazine Die Bühne between Budapest, Vienna, and Prague

Particularly in the early years, Die Bühne (= stage) claimed to be a platform for the widest possible readership and explicitly took a cosmopolitan (and quite grand) perspective. With an eye on international developments, the magazine presented a modern, urban lifestyle.

In the 1930s, Die Bühne reduced its popular cultural diversity but, unlike other Austrian magazines, remained (largely) true to its open, liberal-democratic stance. This was largely due to the contributors, editors, and owners: The magazine was founded in 1924 and published by Hungarian journalist and emigre Imre Békessy, widely known for his disputes over unethical practices, but at the same time instrumental in the introduction of modern journalism in Austria. After his resignation in 1926, the Austrian government became involved in the Vernay publishing house, which printed Békessy's media. Around this time until 1938, the Czechoslovak Orbis publishing house became the – more or less silent – majority owner as part of a government strategy.

The lecture examines how the Bühne's claim to be up-to-date and cosmopolitan developed over the years, from pre-depression democratic Austria to the Dollfuß-Schuschnigg regime, focusing on the possible influence of the respective ownership structures and contributors. What, e. g., did the Czechoslovak government expect from its involvement in the Vernay publishing house – and a Lifestyle magazine?

Marie-Noëlle Yazdanpanah is a cultural historian in Vienna, focusing on visual history, and urban and gender history with an emphasis on the 1920s and 1930s. Since 2010 researcher at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History in Vienna (i.e. for the "Red Vienna Sourcebook" and in the project "Practices of Educational Film in Austria", funded by the Austrian Science Fund). She is also active in exhibitions and educational projects (i.e. "Red Vienna", Wien Museum 2019). Currently, she is working on "Visual Culture in the Illustrated Magazine Die Bühne".

Recent publications: *Gut Weekend. The weekend without men? Staging gender roles* in the magazine Die Bühne, in Zeitgeschichte 1/2023; *Through Ice and Snow. Mountain Films as Educational Films in the 1920s and 1930s*, in TMG – Journal for Media History 1/2023.