

Die „Prager Vorträge“ der Prager Außenstellen des Collegium Carolinum und des Deutschen Historischen Instituts Warschau sowie der Deutsch-Tschechischen Plattform GWZO Prag FLÚ wenden sich in erster Linie an tschechische Fachhistorikerinnen und -historiker. Sie sollen helfen, einen Begegnungs- und Kommunikationsort (nicht nur) zwischen tschechischen und deutschen Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftlern zu bilden.

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

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## Veranstalter



## Partner



## 14. Juni 2023, 17:00 Uhr

Veranstaltungsort: Valentinská 1, 3. Stock

Undine Ott (Leipzig)

## Climate Crisis and Food Security. How the Black Death Traveled from the Black Sea to the Middle East.

In the mid-14th century, the so-called second plague pandemic reached the Middle East as well as Europe. It arrived from Central Asia and the Northern shores of the Black Sea. How it got to Egypt, Syria and the Hejaz, the territories which, at the time, constituted the Mamluk sultanate, remains unclear, though.

As has recently been demonstrated with regard to Europe, a massive climate crisis in the 1340s formed the background upon which the spread of the Black Death on the continent needs to be understood. The climate anomaly of the 1340s affected the Middle East, too, but has, so far, gone unnoticed in research on the region. The years 1343 and 1345 to 1347 witnessed an accumulation of locust infestations and extreme weather events, especially during the winter months, a crucial period for agriculture.

The lecture will combine epidemic, climate and economic history to shed some light on plague transmission routes that have, so far, largely remained in the dark: A fatal chain of climate crisis, harvest failures, famine and the sultan's efforts to secure food supply in his territories culminated in the biggest calamity in the 14th-century Mideast: the plague wave that hit Egypt, Syria and the Hejaz in 1348 and 1349 and exacted an unparalleled death toll on the region's population.

Undine Ott is a doctoral candidate at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in the ERC project "Mobility, Empire and Intercultural Contacts in Mongolian Eurasia" and at the Alexander von Humboldt Kolleg for Islamic Intellectual History at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn. Her Ph.D. topic is "Erinnerungsort Grab. Funktionen muslimischen Totengedenken in Zentralasien im 12./6. bis 14./8. Jahrhundert". She was researcher at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen and at the GWZO project "Early Medieval Centres on the Danube". Since April 2020 she is a research assistant at the GWZO in the junior research group "Dantean Anomaly".



# Prager Vorträge

## März – Juni 2023



■ **15. März 2023, 17:00 Uhr**

Veranstaltungsort: Valentinská 1, 3. Stock

Dr. **Alexandr Osipian** (Leipzig)

## ***Armenian Merchant Networks and Long Distance Trade Between Early Modern Poland-Lithuania, the Ottoman Empire, Persia, and Russia.***

The globalizing of trade and the spread of merchant networks were important features of the early modern world. For a long time, the phenomenon was studied through prism of the trans-Atlantic trade and the East-India joint-stock companies. The current project approaches Eastern Europe and the Middle East not as a periphery of the West but as self-sufficient region without clearly defined roles of “dominant” and “subordinate. The great deal of the long-distance trade in the region was done by stateless diasporas – Armenian, Greek, and Jewish. Armenian trading diaspora was particularly successful since it operated in the whole region. The current project focuses on the formal and informal conditions of the caravan trade between early modern Poland-Lithuania, the Ottoman Empire, Persia, and Russia. The aim is to analyse Armenian merchant networks on the three-dimensional level – as operating long-distance trade (logistics and legal infrastructure), consolidating the “network of trust and credit” inside the diaspora, and establishing “protection network” with the holders of power (protection-in-exchange-for-services).

**Alexandr Osipian** studied history at the University of Chernivtsi, Ukraine. He was visiting scholar at the George Washington University, Washington D.C., the University of California, Berkeley, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, University of Halle-Wittenberg, Free University of Berlin. In 2014-2015 he took part in the Harvard University research project “From Riverbed to Seashore. Art on the Move in Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean in the Early Modern Period”. He served as a Visiting Professor of History at the Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, Germany. Since December 2022 he is Research Fellow at the GWZO.

■ **3. April 2023, 17:00 Uhr**

Veranstaltungsort: Valentinská 1, 3. Stock

Prof. **John Connelly** (Berkeley)

## ***The Problem of Continental Imperialism: German and Russian Empires in Comparative Perspective.***

The lecture will probe a thesis in comparative imperial history: whether deep historical similarities help explain why Germany and Russia became totalitarian regimes, unleashing unprecedented violence upon the planet. Both countries shared an unusual history: the attempt to make nation state and empire coincide. Arguably, efforts to turn a variety of peoples – Czechs were supposed to be Germans and Ukrainians Russians for instance – into unified nations created explosive energies, but also challenges to legitimacy in a time of supposed national self-determination. Hannah Arendt called these unusually predatory edifices, perennially feeling threats from all directions within and without, “continental empires.” Empire (Reich) was the central organizing concept of all German states attempted after 1806, including the Weimar Republic, and including all the space of the old Reich, but Germany was forced to break with its imperial tradition after 1945. Russia, however, did not, to the contrary. Precisely because of Russia’s supposed central role in destroying the German Reich – the epitome of historical evil – the legacy of a virtuous and necessary Russian Empire survives into our day.

**John Connelly** is the Sidney Hellman Ehrman Professor at the University of California, Berkeley. He studied Russian and East European Studies at the University of Michigan and International Relations at Georgetown University and received his PhD in History from Harvard University. He is the author of *From Peoples into Nations: A History of Eastern Europe* (Princeton University Press, 2020), *From Enemy to Brother: The Revolution in Catholic Teaching on the Jews* (Harvard University Press, 2012), and *Captive University: The Sovietization of East German, Czech, and Polish Higher Education, 1945-1956* (University of North Carolina Press, 2000).

■ **18. April 2023, 17:00 Uhr**

Veranstaltungsort: Valentinská 1, 3. Stock

Dr. **Martin Zückert** (München)

## ***Erschließen, bewahren, gestalten? Zielsetzungen und Folgen staatlicher Strukturpolitik in den (tschecho-)slowakischen und österreichischen Bergregionen nach 1945.***

In vielen europäischen Bergregionen verdichteten sich im Verlauf des 20. Jahrhunderts gegensätzliche Entwicklungen: Während viele Fachleute vor dem Rückgang der Landnutzung und vor Bevölkerungsabwanderung warnten, wurde umgekehrt in bestimmten Regionen eine touristische Übererschließung bis hin zu Urbanisierungsschritten konstatiert. Debatten über weiträumige Naturschutzgebiete standen Überlegungen zur Kulturlandschaftspflege, aber auch zur Nutzbarmachung von Wasserkraft gegenüber. Eingebettet in eine übergeordnete Betrachtung der Entwicklung europäischer Bergregionen nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg untersucht der Vortrag vergleichend am Beispiel der österreichischen Alpen und der (tschecho-)slowakischen Karpaten, wie staatliche Politiken in den Bergregionen wirkten und versuchten, durch räumliche Planung und sektorale Politikansätze auf strukturelle Probleme und Nutzungskonflikte zu reagieren. Die Gegenüberstellung der Vergleichsbeispiele dient dabei nicht allein dazu, Ähnlichkeiten und Unterschiede staatlicher Strukturpolitik zwischen Ost und West herauszuarbeiten; vielmehr geht es auch darum, Ansätze der historischen Alpenforschung mit Untersuchungen zur Karpatenregion in Beziehung zu setzen.

**Martin Zückert** studierte Geschichte, Soziologie und Europäische Ethnologie in Freiburg und Wien. Seine Promotion erfolgte 2003 in Freiburg. Seit 2004 ist er wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter am Collegium Carolinum. Seit 2006 ist er dort Geschäftsführer, derzeit freigestellt für das DFG-Projekt „Grenzen der Erschließung. Staatliche Strukturpolitik in zwei europäischen Bergregionen im Systemvergleich (1945–1989).“ Zuletzt erschien von ihm: *Die Evakuierung der Deutschen aus der Slowakei 1944/45. Verlauf, Kontexte, Folgen*, (Göttingen 2019, gemeinsam mit Michal Svarc und Martina Fiamová).

■ **15. Mai 2023, 17:00 Uhr**

Veranstaltungsort: Valentinská 1, 3. Stock

Prof. **John Deak** (Notre Dame)

## ***A Death in Davos: Austro-Hungarian Military Culture and Honor on Trial in Switzerland, 1909.***

In March 1909, in a hotel in Davos, Switzerland, Oberleutnant Josef Bartunek shot dead the Dutch composer Jules Mulder in front of all the other guests. What had happened was one of the last cases of Ehrennotwehr, or urgent-defense-of-honor, committed by a member of the Habsburg military before the First World War. But, unlike cases in Austria, where officers expected to receive a pardon, this event happened in the resort of Davos, in a foreign country, and against a non-Austrian citizen. It was a European event, one that exposed increasing fault lines in bourgeois and military culture, as well as ideas about honor and expectations of comportment. Most importantly, it exposed the Habsburg military to criticism about its own positioning vis-à-vis the rule of law. The presentation will discuss this case and, in the process, take on an exploration of the cult of honor and the peculiar world of Davos in Europe on the eve of the First World War.

**John Deak** is an associate professor of European history in the Department of History at the University of Notre Dame. His research interests lie in the history of European political culture from the Enlightenment to the twentieth century, particularly in the region broadly defined as Central Europe. His publications include: *Forging a Multinational State: State Making in Imperial Austria from the Enlightenment to the First World War* (Stanford 2015) and the edited volume *The Central Powers in Russia’s Great War and Revolution* (Slavica Publishers 2020), co-edited with Heather R. Perry and Emre Sencer.