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Call for papers

On the Threshold of a New Era

**Interdisciplinary Conference on the Beginnings
of the Czechoslovak Republic**

Date: 26th - 29th October 2018

**Venue: Czech Academy of Sciences (main building),
Národní třída 3, Prague 1 – Old Town**

**Organizer: Institute of State and Law of the Czech Academy of Sciences,
Research Centre for History of State and Law in partnership with
the Institute of State and Law of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, the Institute
of Legal History of the Faculty of Law, Charles University, the Institute
of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Art History
of the Czech Academy of Sciences**

*The conference is held under the auspices of Jaroslav Fenyk, Vice-President
of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic*



The conference “On the Threshold of a New Era” draws on the broader attention given to the breakthrough year of 1918 to open up space for critical thinking about historical events and processes connected with the formation of Czechoslovakia in the social, cultural, political and economic context of post-war Europe, and especially in the Central European region. We have selected either topics which have been neglected, or, on the contrary, those which have been generating extraordinarily lively and conflicting discussions and thus raising new questions and research opportunities. The primary objective of the conference is to bolster the dialogue of legal, social, political and economic historiography, history of arts, philosophy, anthropology, sociology and other disciplines.

Conference panels and focus areas

The conference will consist of panels organized into nine focus areas. The specializations of the individual panels can be found in the abstracts. In some cases, we have explicitly suggested which disciplines are expected to participate in order to encourage an interdisciplinary approach. However, these suggestions are not meant to be restrictive.

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Area A: Differences, interests, stratification

Panel A1: Social policy in Central European societies after World War One

The post-war years saw a dramatic rise in the importance of social policy. In this section, we would like to open up space for discussions on the topics of (dis)continuity with war-time measures, changes both in the context of the need to tackle the population’s health (secondary social and health impacts of the war) and in the context of the general left-right political dispute on the role of the state, society and the individual in the areas of healthcare, taking care of the elderly, and unemployment. Social policies were

no longer seen as mere solutions to existing problems, but also as preventive measures. This shift would also be an important topic for debate.

Jakub Rákosník (chair)

Panel A2: Housing and architecture in Central European post-war thinking

The war escalated the poor housing conditions of the pre-war times. In addition to deliveries of food and other basic consumer goods, housing became one of the key issues in the post-war years. Central European lawmakers decided on protective measures, especially in regards to the protection of tenants and rent regulation, and partly also in regards to the distribution of unused housing space, while more radical requests were rejected. There were conflicts about whether the state, regions or municipalities should be involved directly or simply stimulate building carried out by individuals and cooperatives. The building of municipal housing only achieved modest results in Central Europe at this time, with the exception of several cities. Many exceptionally interesting urban and architectural plans and visions of this era remained unimplemented. Nevertheless, this was still the first phase of society-wide thinking and discussions about housing availability and quality. This section is for critical discussion on topics connected with architecture, urbanism, housing and legal regulations and social views on housing.

Vendula Hnídková – Pavel Prouza (chair)

Panel A3: Work and disputes in labour law

The Czechoslovak Republic's early years saw the gradual birth of modern labour law. Despite symbolic political changes such as the law on the eight-hour work day, the law on child labour and Art. 427 of the Treaty of Versailles stating that "labour should not be regarded merely as an article of commerce", there were long-term social disputes on labour law. These issues included, for example, binding collective agreements, holiday compensation, etc. Many labour law proposals were never adopted and carried out. There were also polemics on how to approach labour law from the didactic point of view and whether it should be taught at faculties of law. Contributions from the areas of legal history, economic, social and political history, and cultural anthropology would be appreciated.

Ladislav Vojáček – Vladimír Kindl – Martin Štefko (chair)

Panel A4: Strikes, their causes, how they progressed and results

Strikes were an important tool of collective resistance at the time of the Czechoslovak Republic's formation and early years. This section is seeking for the causes of strikes, the ways participants and supporters were recruited and mobilized, how the strikes played out and their possible results, as well as both obvious and hidden opposition to strikes. It poses the question to what extent the strikes in the era after the WWI resembled those during and before the war. It also explores the public discussion of that

time about the right to strike and attempts to restrict them. It is possible to discuss methods and compare the situation with other Central European countries. Contributions from all areas of history, anthropology and philosophy would be appreciated.

Stanislav Knob (chair)

Panel A5: Quality of life and leisure

Among the important indicators of the quality of life of the general public were the amount of free time and especially opportunities for leisure activities. Quality of life as well as free time and how it is spent are closely related to the issue of consumption. The era after World War I brought with it numerous changes to the dominant consumer culture, and also many impulses to the discourse on consumerism – as opposed to the former representative consumption as seen with the high bourgeoisie and nobility and recently also the war-time nouveaux riches, now the ascetic approach and versatility of the modern democratic world were emphasized. This section will focus, among others, on the temperance (abstinence) movement, vegetarianism and other anti-consumerist trends. It also provides an opportunity to explore issues of quality of life and leisure from the perspective of the young state's social cohesion and its (in)ability to satiate the basic needs of Czechoslovak and other Central European societies. It is also possible to look at the area of collective and community life in connection with sport and exercise, “tramp” groups, hiking and spending time in the countryside, etc.

Martin Franc (chair)

Panel A6: Religion versus secularity

The political changes of 1918 were the first opportunity in Central European history to open up space for the transformation of the (up to that time) privileged status of religion in society. This section focuses on the conflict taking place on several levels – cultural, legal, educational and others. Attention should be given to the ways this social dispute was led on the actual political level, e.g., the form of the political parties which promoted and defended the interests of the Roman Catholic church as well as the collaboration of other political parties with secularist organizations and the secularist movement (e.g., *Volná myšlenka*, *Freidenkerbund für die Tschechoslowakische Republik*) and relations of the international headquarters of the Roman Catholic church, the Vatican, and the Czechoslovak Republic. Attention should also be given to issues of everyday life such as the role and influence of religion at schools (compulsory religious lessons), the introduction of legal opportunities for cremation, disputes on marriage law, registry offices, and church funding. However, topics can also cover the establishment of new religious organizations and Central European comparison.

Jaroslav Šebek – Jan Rataj – Antonín Kudláč (chair)

Area B: A cultural state?

Panel B1: Literature as a social practice

The understanding of the new state as, among others, a means for massive enhancement of the cultural life and quality of life for all citizens, created a unique opportunity to implement measures to have access, from the early days of the founding of Czechoslovakia, to books in any town or village. The law on libraries made municipalities build libraries, and the new network of public libraries also stimulated the taking over of older associational libraries. Noteworthy topics include the economic issues regarding the production, publishing, distribution and consumption of books, newspapers and magazines, the libraries of students' societies, commercial libraries as well as the "national resistance" library of Czechoslovak Germans (Bücherei der Deutschen). We would appreciate contributions taking into consideration literary censorship, readership in various social classes, literary sociability, representation of the cultural ambitions of the "state nation" (leading nation) and issues of German and other minority literatures, their institutionalization and needs.

Lukáš Borovička (chair)

Panel B2: New schools for the new world? Struggles for school reform and school experiments

A fundamental topic in the early Czechoslovak Republic was the effort to transform the educational system. There were discussions on the need to "de-Austrify" and "democratize" the school system and make it "republican" or even transform it gradually into a means for societal change. However, there was no consensus on the practical aspects of such transformation. There were stimulated efforts for transformation in the form of school alternatives and experiments, mostly as bottom-up initiatives carried out by enthusiastic teachers (e.g., Dům dětství – "Childhood Home", Volná škola práce – "Free School of Work", Pokusná pracovní škola – "Experimental Work School", etc.). Despite huge expectations, the attempts at school system reform resulted in no great success in this era, probably due to political reasons, and only the "lesser school act" was adopted. This section is limited to the early post-war years, e.g., before Václav Příhoda's reform efforts of the later period. We would also welcome Central European comparisons.

Tomáš Kasper (chair)

Panel B3: Scientific and university policies

This section will focus on the policies of the Czechoslovak government in regards to university education and science. It will provide space for questions regarding various forms of state power and the academic environment, ranging from the rare symbioses of establishing new scientific and university institutions or the taking over of existing ones by the state, to negotiating plans and projects which were not implemented for various reasons, and critical discussions on curtailing the state's role towards universities

and science. Desired topics also cover new axes of international scientific collaboration (France, Yugoslavia, etc.) and their connection to international agreements and domestic scientific capacities. Space is to be given to formation of the scientific discourse in relation to topics supported by the government and the question of how scientific policies reflected the government's approach towards "non-state nations" and other minorities. Another suitable topic is private scientific institutions. Comparisons with Central Europe and other countries would be appreciated.

Karel Šima (chair)

Panel B4: Arts, the state and representation

The formation of a new state identity in Czechoslovakia's citizens in the early 1920s was supported by transformations of the surroundings in which public procurement in the areas of architecture, city planning, landscaping and arts in public space as well as applied arts design (e.g., stamps) were used. We will focus on how artists and arts institutions (art museums, publications, art schools, art criticism, the art trade) adapted/were adapted to the new situation. What was the effect on topics for exhibitions, museum collections, subjective choices of artistic topics, the focus of research in history of arts? The most interesting cases can be expected in the intersection of both situations as well as in intersectional questions (Czech – Slovak – German relations, foreign representations, etc.) Contributions from the areas of the history of arts, history, philosophy and cultural anthropology would be appreciated.

Milena Bartlová (chair)

Panel B5: Film as a pop-culture phenomenon and industry

Czechoslovakia was recorded by film cameras from its birth. Events perceived as important ones were often recorded on film reels for future generations. Still a relatively new type of entertainment, film soon became a mass phenomenon thanks to the increasing number of permanent cinemas being opened across Czechoslovakia. The early years of the Czechoslovak Republic were connected with the revival and embedding of regular national production, the formation of a local film star culture and fandom subcultures as well as the interest of avant-garde film-makers and the first projects with artistic ambitions. We would also welcome Central European comparisons.

Tereza Czesany Dvořáková (chair)

Panel B6: Preserving the republic: changes and visions in archival science and heritage preservation

The preservation and upkeep of the historic and cultural heritage is the intersection of archival science and historic preservation. The Czechoslovak Republic's early years saw fundamental challenges in these areas. An archive school was founded and separations of older archives as well as disputes on an appropriate model for the archive network took place. The field of care for monuments also faced challenges when searching for its new

model, and there were disputes over the law on historic heritage. The form and priorities in both of these areas were significantly affected by the process of land reform, restrictions on the export of artwork and archive documents and also by imperfect registers and inspections. At the same time, there were attempts to make fundamental reforms in both archives and heritage preservation which were followed by ideas and visions for their further development. Contributions can also focus on Central European comparisons.

Eva Drašarová – Kristina Uhlíková (chair)

Area C: Borders – centre – periphery

Panel C1: Brother, investor, or colonist? The east of the Czechoslovakia – approaches and reflections

The relationship between the power centre (Prague) and the eastern parts of the republic presents a specific issue worth exploring. Did the former periphery of Upper Hungary simply become the new periphery of Czechoslovakia? What were the ideas of those who formed and implemented the plans to involve Slovakia in the economic and political structures of the new state? What cultural and symbolic frameworks did these concepts define? What type and intensity of conflicts and which of their representatives can we name? What were the plans and proposals for modernization and public investment in Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia which were not carried out? It is desirable to research the approach of non-state parties, such as rent-seekers. Areas to be covered include the nature of investment in Slovakia and the ways of utilizing a cheaper, less qualified and less union-organized labour force or cheaper natural resources.

Miroslav Michela (chair)

Panel C2: Transformation of borders of the economic space and road networks: movement and energy on new routes

A primary task for the Czechoslovak state's future was to transform transportation networks mostly oriented on Vienna and Budapest and adapting them to new traffic and general economic needs as well as the country's strategic and military requirements. We wish to cover topics regarding new connections, the planning and building of new roads (in the broader sense) and networks (electrical, telegraph). A special question is that of building the strategic infrastructure in Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia. The research should focus on their economic as well as symbolic and political (or power) importance. Attention is also to be given to plans which were not carried out and to the discussions of the time. Contributions from the areas of economic, social and legal history and other disciplines will be appreciated.

Ivan Jakubec – Jan Štemberk (chair)

Panel C3: Migration – citizenship – asylum

What was the practical impact of legally-regulated affiliation with a certain geographical entity (citizenship, domicile) on people's everyday lives? An important phenomenon of that time was both voluntary and non-voluntary (directly or indirectly forced) relocations of people within the borders of the new state. On the territory of the new state, there were tens of thousands of people with no citizenship ("stateless persons") with many of them being refugees, mainly from Russia and Poland. There was also both spontaneous and controlled immigration of former economic migrants and other people with local roots to the "old homeland(s)", whether from Austria, Germany, Poland, Russia, the USA or other countries. What were their legal and social statuses, how did the discussion on the legal characteristics and requirements for citizenship or residence in Czechoslovakia develop and what forms of repression were used in regards to refugees and migrants? How did internal migration within the state develop, e.g., between industrial and rural areas or between the German borderlands and Czech inland, and what was the role of the domicile?

Vít Strobach (chair)

Area D: Legal, economic and administrative structures

Panel D1: A republic of lawyers? The legal professional world

How did legal professions change after the establishment of Czechoslovakia? We will discuss whether there were distinct regroupments among individual types of legal professions, how attractive working for the new state offices was, and what were the consequences of rise of number of law graduates. How did professional chambers, associations and unions act? What were the requirements and attempts to reform individual professions (e.g., the judiciary) of that time? Other areas which should not be ignored are the social capital of lawyers and the extent to which it was utilized in public, especially in political and organizational activities, and reoccurring career paths (the "inheritability" of legal professions). We will also focus on disciplinary decisions in relation to certain legal professions and the accessibility of legal services including legal aid for the poor. Central European comparisons and contributions from the areas of legal, social, political and economic history will be appreciated.

Jozef Vozár – Stanislav Balík – Martina Gajdošová (chair)

Panel D2: Local power at the beginning of the republic between continuation and change

To what extent did the notional reins of power remain in the municipalities, districts and countries of the existing power groups and to what extent were there changes? How did the situation progress inland and what was it like in the German-speaking districts?

We would like to explore the way in which local power structures in Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia progressed, as well as the effect and impact of founding national committees and the ways in which central state measures towards local governments manifested themselves in the hands of national groups. Research into these and related questions can help us understand the way, and extent to which, the year 1918 did or did not change life in municipalities, districts and countries.

Martin Rája (chair)

Panel D3: Unification of the law – early years

One of the important problems of the successor states was unification of the law. The unification processes emerged from the very beginning, firstly ad hoc, and then later, more systematic ones. Unification also made it possible to update some of the old, often obsolete, regulations, to reach solutions differing from the existing solutions in both areas to be harmonized. Considerable inequalities in the negotiating positions of the territories which were supposed to be unified made the process very complicated. However, it was often the case that one territory was forced to adopt the existing legal solution of the other territory, and the solution selected was more obsolete. We are interested in unification in all areas of law, especially in those which tended to be neglected. Attention should also be given to arguments for the selection of possible solutions and the methods of communicating changes to the general public. This section will be limited to the early years of unification (1918-25). Contributions from the areas of legal, social, political and economic history would be appreciated.

Jozef Beňa – Tomáš Gábriš – Ondřej Horák (chair)

Panel D4: Economic self-reliance and economic nationalism

The formation of an independent Czechoslovak state provided new opportunities for opposition against foreign capital of the formal Central powers, especially from Vienna and Budapest, which was vastly present, such capital could now be subject to domestic taxation, as well as against the competition of cheap foreign products, food and raw materials. Nostrification measures forced foreign companies to relocate their economic management and registered offices to the republic or to found subsidiaries there. Requirements of residence in Czechoslovakia and other standards and recommendations changed the situation in the bodies of business organizations. Nostrification resulted in considerable transfers of capital and a significant rise of the home capital, especially of the capital owned by Czechs (increases of capital, repatriation of shares). In relation to the orientation of foreign trade, there was a rather complicated conflict between proponents of protectionism and those supporting free trade in the early days of the republic. Contributions can also include Central European comparisons; they can possibly explore – in a more general way – economic self-reliance and dependence and legal-political measures enabling shifts on the scale of (in)dependence.

Eduard Kubů (chair)

Panel D5: How were Czechoslovak offices formed and where did their clerks come from?

The new republic formed its central administrative structures and adopted the structures of lower administrative levels and local authorities. This section will focus on institutional and personnel continuity and discontinuity, and in the case of the central structures, it will also take the central offices of Cisleithania and Transleithania into consideration. We are interested in the career paths, education and origin of Czechoslovak clerks and the significance of the local authorities as a personnel pool for the young republic's state administration. Although the new state stepped into the monarchy's old shoes and to a considerable extent, it also adopted its administrative structure as well as laws related to the status of clerks, the plans for administrative reforms and unified division of the state administrative space became a popular topic in the long run. On the other hand, promises of democratization, "de-Austrification" and decentralization were a rather short-term phenomenon, yet a quite interesting one in the early days of the republic.

Pavel Mates – Jiří Šouša ml. (chair)

Panel D6: Economic power, its structure, interests and dynamics

This interdisciplinary topic will focus on the way economic elites acted in the context of the economic, legal, cultural and especially social development in Czechoslovakia. Using contemporary representations of symbolic capital, social connections, interactions and changes in legal regulations, we will follow the interests and stands of the economic elites and their relation to emerging national and international economic connections and to the changing state economic policy. A key question is in what way the business lobby had both direct and indirect effects on the young state's developing legislation. Contributions from the areas of social, economic and legal history as well as social geography and anthropology would be appreciated.

Martin Marek – Petra Skřejpková (chair)

Area E: Disputes on domination and emancipation

Panel E1: "Politically, socially and culturally equal?" The difficult emancipation of women in post-war society

The Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence, a political programme document prepared in fall of 1918, promised, among others, that "women will be politically, socially and culturally equal to men". Except for several changes, mostly implemented right after the war (election right, opportunity to divorce, abolition of forced celibacy for female teachers, admission to certain fields of study and jobs which had been forbidden to women previously), the political programme in this area remained largely unimplemented. This section will focus on the question of which specific political

processes or political and social forces were in favour of or against the improvement of the position of women and their political, social and cultural emancipation in individual Central European countries. Subtopics include women's work and demobilization from jobs they took during the war, political activation of women and radical forms of emancipation as well as theoretical and programme discussions and plans or visions which were not carried out. Contributions comparing the situation in individual Central European countries would be appreciated.

Dana Musilová – Jana Burešová (chair)

Panel E2: The question of nationality – discourse, reflection and conflicts of the time

Czech and Slovak historiography has overcome the phase of uncritical defence of the narrative of inter-war Czechoslovakia being an island of democracy, and it is currently capable of deeper reflections on German, Polish, Hungarian and other national movements, and their ambitions and goals. From rather general topics, we have selected the methodology of research of national movements and analyses of national identification in various social classes and reflection on texts on the “nationality question”. In particular, comparative contributions across the spectrum of national movements, and analyses of their social structure and internal conflicts among various opinion streams would be highly appreciated. Contributions can also focus on critical reflection on subtopics such as the activities of irredentist members of parliament in the National Assembly of German Austria, Czech – German disputes on district and land self-government, the role of German districts in the political and economic life of the country (emergence of “new peripheries”), the activity of administrative committees nominated by the Czechoslovak government, autonomous bodies, and the activities of Hungarian nationalists during the Hungarian and Slovak Soviet Republics.

Thomas Oellermann – Piotr M. Majewski (chair)

Panel E3: Sexual reform: liberated emotions, liberated bodies

In the republic's early years, various social movements aimed at changing the approach of the state and society towards sexual and reproductive life made their voices louder in the public space. This effort towards “sexual reform” responded to international efforts of that time and was concerned with sexual education, contraception and prostitution, among others. As early as the first half of the 1920s, Czechoslovakia saw attempts to abolish the criminality of abortion and homosexual intercourse in the context of the new criminal code that was being prepared, as the respective articles of the old criminal code were considered as the oppression of innocent people in the perspective of the proponents of reform. In this section, we would welcome contributions focused on the activity of movements or their protagonists in this era, analyses of their methods, as well as the activities and arguments of their opposition or the general public debate on these topics in Central Europe.

Jan Seidl (chair)

Panel E4: Health, social hygiene and disability

Even after it was over, the war remained present in society in the form of long-term or permanent consequences ranging from injuries, disfigurements and health problems, to epidemics and the generally weak health condition of the population, among others as a result of malnutrition. Health problems were also connected with social consequences. This section provides the opportunity to research the concepts of health in relation to modernization, nationalism and establishment of the social order in inter-war Czechoslovakia. We would welcome contributions on awareness and social hygienic movements (eugenics, the temperance movement, social medicine, etc.), and transnational expert networks and their impact on healthcare policies in Central Europe. There is a wide range of possible perspectives on the given era; we would mainly appreciate contributions on treatment, rehabilitation and modernization as well as the formation of relations between the centre and the periphery and the establishment of power hierarchies and social relations (among classes, nations, cultures, etc.).

Filip Herza – Kateřina Kolářová (chair)

Panel E5: The Roma and the Jews: repression, emancipation and possibilities for comparisons?

The ethos of Czechoslovakia as a victorious, modern state built on the principles of humanity and democracy, which was connected with the international political situation, was also projected in changes to the legal term of “minority”. In which way did the new state’s ideological and to a certain extent also legislative framework manifest itself in the approach of the state offices to Roma and Jews and in their everyday lives? Is it possible to compare the causes and forms of physical or symbolic repression (or integration efforts) towards these two groups? What do the differences or similarities in the approach of the government, local authorities, social movements and other agents tell us of that time? And what does the difference in interest in today’s historians in either the Jewish or Roma minorities of that period tell us?

Pavel Baloun (chair)

Area F: Legal theoretical, philosophical and political frameworks

Panel F1: New constitutional solutions in Central European constitutions and in practice in the 1920s

Dramatic state and political changes initiated in the autumn of 1918 led to a number of new constitutional laws, at first often formulated as temporary ones, later as long-term ones. These new constitutions brought with them many new constitutional law solutions which often had no direct predecessors on the territories of Central European countries. Many solutions were – with various adaptations – inspired by the constitutions of other

countries, typically republican ones, or from older proposals, scholarly and political publications, and political programmes. In addition to general considerations on whether to have a republic or maintain a monarchy, there was the important topic of looking for ways of transforming the legal competences of a hereditary head of state to a republican system. Another important question that emerged was the one of the mutual relationship between the government and the parliament, and possibly the question of maintaining, and the type of election for, the upper chamber. The claims for democratization resulted in efforts towards the stronger participation of citizens in the decision-making process (e.g., citizens' initiative, referendum). Also the judicial decisions underwent new developments. This section is open especially for legal history, history and political science.

Ivan Halász – Václav Pavlíček (chair)

Panel F2: Law through the perspective of Central European legal theory and legal philosophy of the 1920s

For legal theory and philosophy, the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries was the era of emancipation and of finding ways out of natural law thinking, and this manifested itself in various new approaches. Social development after World War One was a huge impulse mainly for rational legal concepts. The influence of the then German legal theory saw a favourable response with many Czech philosophers and legal theoreticians who found a suitable institutional background with the establishment of new Czech universities. However, new directions in legal theory were not accepted univocally and many looked at them with criticism. Tensions between various theoretical legal approaches became a long-term part of the inter-war jurisprudence in Czechoslovakia and Central Europe. This section will primarily focus on these topics and other questions connected with the Czech and Central European reception of Kantian and neo-Kantian philosophy in the philosophy of the 1920s and legal philosophy, normative legal theory and its critique in Czechoslovakia and Central Europe at that time, and also the position of the Brno school of legal theory and its influence on formation of the new Czechoslovak legislation.

Tatiana Machalová (chair)

Area G: Czechoslovakia: an international project

Panel G1: International provision of the establishment of the state and the origins of its diplomacy

What were the political views held by the Great Powers at the end of the First World War, and how were these views changing? What were the wider international contexts of the establishment of Czechoslovakia and other successor states, and how were the efforts to secure their international status in the early post-war years (until 1926) effectuated? In addition to these questions, this section focuses on the peace conference in Paris, the international recognition of Czechoslovakia, and the relations

of Czechoslovakia with the victorious and defeated Great Powers and other successor states. Attention should also be paid to Czechoslovakia's pursuit of economic and political stability in Central Europe in the post-war years and the establishment of the Little Entente, the Locarno Conference, and the related change of power relations in Europe. We will also inquire about the quality of this stability, or more precisely, its power and geopolitical foundation.

Petr Prokš (chair)

Panel G2: Foreign revolutions on the horizon

The revolutionary situation in certain countries (Russia, soviet republics in Central Europe, etc.) influenced other countries both directly and indirectly. The fear of the political and economic elites of revolution undoubtedly facilitated the enforcement of a number of other difficult-to-enforce measures in the areas of social and labour legislation or land reform. The monitored period also brought a number of stimuli due to the radicalization of the opinions of part of the population of the Czechoslovakia and other Central European countries. The opinions of some resulted from their personal experience with the war (the Red Legionaries and internationalists, participants in military insurrections), while others based them on their experience resulting from their background. It also led to a rise and a spread of fear of revolution among groups of people, who perceived it as dangerous (e.g. large part of the political representation, cultural elites and the media). What actors participated in creating and interpreting the image of "revolution on the horizon"? What development in this direction do we record in the years 1918-1925, and to what extent did the idea of revolutions contribute to the legitimizing of, and later, also the maintaining of the status quo in, post-war Czechoslovakia? These are just some of the questions we wish to deal with in this section.

Emil Voráček – Jan Lomíček (chair)

Area H: Punishment, violence and the armed forces

Panel H1: Transformation and reform of criminal law

The post-war years of 1918-1925 saw significant shifts in the area of discipline and the punishment of citizens both in comparison with the wartime era with its repressions bordering on terror, and the pre-war period from which it moved away dramatically. The state, with two different legal areas, including the criminal, had the urgent task of the unification and modernization of criminal law. At the same time, there were claims for the transformation of criminal law which would be in better harmony with the requirements of humanity, democracy and also have a preventive effect. Some of these efforts were successful (suspended sentences). However, there were also new repressive measures (the act on protection of the republic). A committee of professors for the preparation of the new criminal code, which was convened in this

period, eventually presented a new outline of this material in 1925. Contributions may focus on key disputes regarding the changes in criminal law and criticism of them, ideally in comparison with the relevant development in other Central European countries. Contributions in the areas of legal, social and political history, anthropology and philosophy would be appreciated.

Ladislav Soukup (chair)

Panel H2: Transformation of the armed forces of the state

The new state needed new armed forces for reasons of stability, whether the army, gendarmerie or police. We are interested in the background and education of their members and the ways they were further trained for their careers (training, foreign training, etc.), their economic status and political opinions (among others, in the context of attempts to restrict the right of soldiers and gendarmes to vote) as well as forms of deployment, careers and promotions of former legionaries and members of the former Austro-Hungarian army. Other topics to be studied include the questions of management of these forces and agenda transfers (transfer of the gendarmerie agenda to the Ministry of the Interior) in the power structure of that time and the ways these forces used violence, e.g., through the perspective of investigation of service offences, adjourned complaints and military justice. Another topic which should not be neglected is the ethnic structure of the armed forces and bullying (including its perception), and alternative visions of the armed forces, such as militia, election of officers, and other features of army democratization which were in conflict with traditional views.

Zdenko Maršálek (chair)

Panel H3: Building the state and the question of physical violence

The change in Czechoslovakia of October 1918 is traditionally seen, especially in international comparison, as a basically successful process with a rather peaceful change of power and rapid formation of the new state. This perspective is largely built on events taking place in the centre of the new state, and possibly in the peripheral areas where introduction of the new regime had no distinctive marks of physical violence. This section provides the opportunity to scrutinize this thesis by exploring less known peripheral regions and connections grounded in different points and lines of conflict than the traditional Czech-German one. We would thus welcome mainly contributions focused on conflicts based along religious lines or the conflicts between the Czech winners of the war and the other non-German nationalities present in the new state. Other appreciated contributions would be those describing the resistance of the “Green Corps” (“Grüne Kader”) groups and other participants standing in opposition to the emerging structures of the new state, as well as contributions studying various forms of collective violence.

Rudolf Kučera (chair)

Area J: Past and future: politics of memory, philosophy of history, and the idea of innovation

Panel J1: Czechoslovakia as a realization of the philosophy of Czech history?

The origin of Czechoslovakia was not only the result of a certain historical compromise. Its founders also saw it as the beginning of the realization of the philosophy of Czech history. In *The Czech Question*, Masaryk expressed the idea of Czech history in the following way: humanity as an ideal of universal and thus transnational fraternity, which blends with the social question. In a unique way, Masaryk conceived the particularism of certain national histories as a genesis of a universal supranational idea. However, in many ways, the interwar Czechoslovakia was not able to solve the "social question". We would welcome contributions that bring forward ongoing discussion of "the meaning of Czech history", and its ideological and social context, from the perspective of Czechoslovak, as well as foreign actors.

Michal Hauser (chair)

Panel J2: Newly created and vanished places of memory – physical and symbolic spaces

Every community that perceives itself as such – including the newly formed states after 1918 – creates a system of phenomena that help to anchor its identity. Whether we call them places of memory, symbolic centres, identification patterns, or otherwise, these can be to some extent identified in the given epoch. Was the process of creating such "places of memory" in the Czechoslovak Republic, an uninterrupted continuation of the "conflicting community" or an entirely new "invented tradition"? And how did this process differ from, or consist with, the surrounding states of the Central European area? In this section, we will attempt to look for answers to these and other questions.

Vojtěch Kessler (chair)

Panel J3: Imagination and self-creation – new ways of thinking in Central Europe in the 1920s

What role did imagination play in the life of post-war Central European society? The experience of war-time and upheavals, which ushered in new republican establishments, shifted the boundaries of the imaginable and possible. In the post-war era, a new function was gained by art. Emphasis was put on its effect on people, their development and emancipation. Literary fiction, from theatre plays to utopian novels, became more socially engaged. The challenge of human self-development fluctuated between visions of liberation, ethical introspection, and ascetic self-perfection, whether individual or collective. From the Central European avantgarde artists, through the nonconform economists, political scientists and philosophers to the forgotten authors of utopian novels, a new emphasis on imagination, the possibility of self-creation, and the transformation of the world significantly influenced the society of the time.

We welcome contributions from philosophy, literary science, history, political science and anthropology.

Joseph Grim Feinberg (chair)

How to apply

Submission of a paper: The topic of the conference paper is to be selected in line with panels. In the application form (see download link below), please fill in the name of the panel in which you wish to submit your paper, the name of the paper, the name and institution of the author and an abstract of 200-250 words. Send the application to 1918-2018@ilaw.cas.cz. The deadline for applications is on **31st August 2018**.

The authors of conference papers that are accepted will be informed at the beginning of September 2018.

The length of your conference paper should not exceed 15-20 minutes. Discussion will follow after every paper, as well as at the end of a panel.

The official languages of the conference are Czech, Slovak and English. Papers in other languages might be allowed after consultation with the organizers in advance.

The detailed **conference programme** will be distributed in September 2018.

No conference fees.

The conference will result in a reviewed collective monograph. The deadline for the submission of a written paper is 30th November.

The venue is barrier-free (accessible via a ramp and a lift).

Up-to-date informations, possible changes and application download (for submission of a conference paper, or for participation without a conference paper) are available at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hyn7un9hcw3c2kj/AACMEjVTMzEfMlbnqjLNx8pva?dl=0>

or: bit.ly/2MX9UQA

On behalf of the Conference organization council

Jan Kober and Vít Strobach