



FACULTY
OF HUMANITIES
Charles University



FACULTY OF ARTS
Charles University

F Institute of Philosophy
Filosofický ústav AV ČR

Keeping Track of People on the Move - Archival and Methodological Challenges

Workshop

Only relatively recently have historians become more aware of the inadequacy of dominant national frameworks, presuppositions of cultural homogeneity and territorial rootedness. The study of movements, flows and circulations across borders is not only now attracting increased attention but also often seems an outward necessity and at the same time a useful tool to destabilize the established lines of historical interpretation.

The long underestimated complementary perspective of people and objects in motion entails certain problems that now seem of more pressing relevance than before. This workshop encourages scholars to explore what impact various forms of mobility had on record keeping and artefact preservation. What materials did administrative authorities and institutions produce to document and discipline people in motion? How did historical actors themselves take the initiative to leave traces, frame their experience, justify their causes and gain support? Did the records produced by people on the move reach archives via the established administrative channels or did they follow rather unusual paths? What other items (such as books or images) moved along with people and how did they reach present-day collections? Was the communication axis between homeland(s) and host land(s) of fleeting or rather of long-lasting nature?

What possibilities and limits of interpretation do these sources pose? What questions do they raise and what analytical categories can be particularly useful in tackling them? Moreover, how do we extract knowledge from historical records in the age after the linguistic turn, which questioned the referentiality of our sources? How do we access the lives of migrants on the basis of material that is often fragmentary or highly narrative, formulaic and repetitive? How do we reconcile these cognitive restraints with the need to have the voices of displaced people heard, represented and recognized?

The workshop invites scholars to address these shared problems of both pragmatic and epistemological nature, which result from travelling, dispersed or fragmentary archives (in the broad sense of the word). Explicit reflections on archival, conceptual and methodological challenges can provide valuable insights into the historian's craft and the ways individual scholars work.

Date and Place: September 24th 2019

Prague, Czech Academy of Sciences,

Institute of Philosophy, Jilská 1

meeting room, first floor.



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Programme:

09.45 Welcome and Introduction

10. 00 – 11. 30

Marie-Elizabeth Ducreux (EHESS, Paris): *Early Modern Mobilities: an Epistemological Challenge Rather Than a Well-Defined Research Topic?* (keynote lecture)

11. 30 – 12. 00 discussion

12. 00 – 13.00 lunch break

13.00– 14.30

William O'Reilly (Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge): *Stuck in Migration. Waiting and In-Betweenness in Early Modern Movement*

Vladimír Urbánek (Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague), *Innovation Through Migration? Transfer of Knowledge, Search for Patronage and Self-Representation of the Bohemian Exiles*

Ewa Kowalská (Institute of History, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava): *Hungarian Priests and Their Complicated Ways into and from Exile (1670-1700)*

14.30 – 15.00 tea and coffee break

15.00– 16.00

Pavel Himl (Faculty of Humanities, Charles University, Prague): *Masterless, Passportless, Stateless. Attribution of Identity between Authorities' and Historians' Practice*

Alena Volrábová (National Gallery, Prague): *How an Artist Can Bring Home the Bacon: Wenceslaus Hollar and His Life Routes*

16.00– 16.30 tea and coffee break

16.30 – 17.30

Veronika Čapská (Faculty of Humanities, Charles University, Prague): *Voices in Distress. Interrogation Protocols as Sources on Early Modern Migration*

Markéta Křížová (Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague): *“Born of Turkish parents”: The Jesuit Andreas Neuhaus between the Balkans and America*

19.00 dinner



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