

TOPIC 1

Faculty: Faculty of Law

Institute/department: Department of Civil Law

Title of the Topic: Gaps in procedural justice

Annotation: The aim of this postdoctoral research is the identification and detailed analysis of "gaps in procedural justice" from two contrasting perspectives – the perspective of the lay litigant, who faces (among others) linguistic and financial barriers, and the perspective of the court and legal counsel, who face legislative, temporal and adjacent constraints. The notional space between these barriers is what we refer to as „gaps in procedural justice“. This research combines comparative legal analysis of procedural reality in Central European countries with empirical findings. The overall findings aspire to contribute not only to the academic discourse on access to justice, but also – through de lege ferenda proposals – to the practical empowerment of the litigant's position in civil proceedings.

Host professor: prof. JUDr. Peter Molnár, PhD.

Email address: peter.molnar@upjs.sk

Supervisor: prof. JUDr. Peter Molnár, PhD.

Email address: peter.molnar@upjs.sk

Professional requirements/candidate criteria:

- PhD university degree in law
- publication activity in the field of civil procedural law in domestic and international scientific journals and proceedings
- participation in scientific research projects
- active participation in international scientific conferences
- completion of foreign study or research stays
- international recognition of research achievements
- language proficiency – English minimum level C1
- active knowledge of at least two Central European languages and one additional world

TOPIC 2

Faculty: Faculty of Law

Institute/department: Department of Constitutional Law and Administrative Law

Title of the Topic: Legal Challenges in Protecting Democracy Against Extremism in the Context of Hybrid Threats in the Online Environment

Annotation: The digital environment is fundamentally transforming the nature, dissemination, and societal impact of extremism. Extremist content increasingly represents not only an expression of radical ideologies but also a tool of hybrid threats aimed at undermining democratic institutions and public discourse. These developments raise complex legal questions related to the protection of democracy. The postdoctoral researcher will examine extremism in the online environment as a component of hybrid threats and assess whether existing legal frameworks (criminal, administrative, and constitutional) adequately reflect its evolving nature. Particular attention will be paid to the European regulatory context, including the DSA and its

concept of systemic risks. The project will also, to a limited extent, address the use of AI in the detection of extremist content, highlighting the related legal challenges. The research will result in de lege ferenda proposals aimed at improving the legal regulation of the digital environment in order to better protect individuals and society from the threats posed by extremism, while ensuring the preservation of digital rights in the online space.

Host professor: prof. JUDr. Sergej Romža, PhD.
Email address: sergej.romza@upjs.sk

Supervisor: prof. JUDr. Radomír Jakab, PhD.
Email address: radomir.jakab@upjs.sk

Professional requirements/candidate criteria:

- third-cycle (PhD.) higher education in the field of Law,
- publication activity related to the topic,
- at least 3 publications indexed in WoS/SCOPUS,
- recognition of research outputs by an external institution or by university bodies,
- active participation in scientific conferences,
- experience in conducting research projects,
- contribution to the development of the university through participation in development activities of the university/faculty or in the bodies of the university/faculty,
- active proficiency in at least one foreign language.

TOPIC 3

Faculty: Faculty of Arts

Institute/Department: Department of History

Title of the Topic: Catholic Intellectuals in Slovakia: Between Loyalty and Dissent (1945–1989): Political Thought, State Power, and Cultural Strategies

Abstract: The postdoctoral project will focus on analyzing the political thought of Catholic intellectuals in Slovakia from the end of World War II to the Velvet Revolution. The research into their intellectual world will take into account a broader range of Catholic actors (priests, laypeople, publicists, philosophers, and historians) and the various forms of their relationship to the postwar and socialist state. The project examines how the Catholic intellectual elite coped with the transition from democratic pluralism to an authoritarian and totalitarian regime, and what political, moral, and cultural strategies they adopted in the process.

Main Research Questions

- What concepts of the state, power, democracy, and social order did Catholic intellectuals in Slovakia articulate after 1945?
- What elements of continuity and discontinuity can be observed between Catholic political thought in the interwar period, the Slovak State, postwar democracy, and the socialist regime?
- What role did religious arguments play in legitimizing cooperation, passive adaptation, or resistance to state power?
- To what extent can one speak of a specific “Slovak” Catholic intellectual discourse within the Central European context?

Methodological Framework

The project combines methods from the intellectual history, history of political thought, and social history of the intellectuals. It draws on the analysis of archival sources (personal collections, church archives, state repressive files), contemporary journalism, samizdat texts, and theological-philosophical works. A comparative perspective (Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary) will also be an important component.

Expected Contribution

The project will contribute to a deeper understanding of the dynamics of the relationship between Catholicism, politics, and state power in modern Slovak history. At the same time, it will enrich research on intellectual history by analyzing actors who navigated the intersection of religious identity, political realism, and moral reflection under authoritarian regimes.

Host professor: Prof. PaedDr. Martin Pekár, PhD.

Email address: martin.pekar@upjs.sk

Supervisor: Prof. ThDr. Peter Borza, PhD.

Email address: peter.borza@upjs.sk

Professional requirements/candidate criteria:

- A completed doctoral degree (PhD) in history or a related humanities field with a focus on modern and contemporary Slovak history,
- demonstrable professional specialization in the history of Catholicism, church history, or the political or intellectual history of the 20th century,
- publications in the field of modern Slovak history
- experience with archival research (state and church archives, personal collections) and working with sources from the postwar and socialist periods,
- knowledge of the methodology of intellectual history, the history of political thought, or cultural and social history,
- active knowledge of English (minimum B2 level) and the ability to present research findings in a foreign-language academic environment; knowledge of another foreign language is an advantage,
- ability to conduct independent scholarly work, think analytically, and formulate research conclusions,
- expectation of active participation in the department's scientific research projects and in publications with international impact.