

**The Department of History of the Faculty of Arts of Pavol Jozef Safarik
University in Košice, in cooperation with the Slovak Historical Society at the
Slovak Academy of Sciences and the Historical Institute of the Slovak
Academy of Sciences, invite you to a conference**



MEETING OF YOUNG HISTORIANS XV.

Communication as the Driving Force of History

KOŠICE, 30.11 - 1.12.2026



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Communication as the Driving Force of History

Communication is the basic building block of every human society, and thus of history itself. It plays a key role in history not only as a means of understanding and exchanging information, but also as an element that is linked to a wide range of functions – it serves to shape societies and interpersonal relationships, preserve cultures and knowledge, create ideologies, acquire, spread and maintain power, transform ideas into actions, etc. Communication in the sense of infrastructures has acquired a special importance in history, and it had a significant impact not only on the development of transport and transportation, but also on social and economic development as such. It developed trade, economic structures and became the driving force of modernization. Communication thus affects all areas of human society and stretches through history like a red thread. According to Willard Rowland, the contemporary history of communication shows that *"communication patterns, systems, and technologies are not just important, but central and indispensable to human history."* (Rowland, 2019)

As a phenomenon with which historical science can work, communication has the potential for interdisciplinary overlaps and research at the border of several scientific fields – the intersections with sociology, linguistics, mass media, journalism, architecture, art, economics and religion are significant. Communication at various levels and in many meanings is currently becoming the subject of debates among professionals and the lay public. In the context of social networks, misinformation, populism and considerations about the post-factual era, we consider the issue of communication as the driving force of history to be very topical.

Within the framework of the 15th annual conference Meeting of Young Historians, we have decided to respond to a social need and, from a thematic point of view, base the conference on communication in its broadest sense. How did various social groups and individuals use communication to promote their interests? What influence did individual communication media have on historical development? What forms did communication take throughout history? The aim of our conference is to seek answers to these questions and contribute to expanding knowledge about communication and its importance not only in the past but also in the present. Given the broad thematic focus of the conference, we welcome original, thematically and methodologically diverse contributions with interdisciplinary overlap.

CONFERENCE THEMATIC AREAS

- *Communication (verbal and visual) as a means of manipulation, spreading propaganda and different ideologies*
- *Development of communication and communication media throughout history*
- *Communication in times of military conflict - intelligence networks, espionage, encryption*
- *Communication without words (non-verbal communication and its forms) and (non)communication - repression and censorship in history*
- *Oral history and private correspondence*
- *Public communication - laws, regulations and decrees*
- *Transport infrastructure - communication differently*
- *Voices of the powerful - communication of rulers and political elites*
- *Communication as a concept in cultural, social, economic history and urban history*
- *Historical source as a preserver of communication in history*
- *Religious and secular expressions of communication*

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The conference is intended for bachelor's, master's and doctoral students, providing them with a space to present the results of their own research. In the case of doctoral students, a recommendation from a supervisor is required for the conference paper, and in the case of bachelor's and master's degree students, a recommendation from a thesis supervisor or consultant is required. The organizers reserve the right to select papers. The output of the conference is conference proceedings, consisting of papers presented at the conference after peer review process.

Application form:



Contact:

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Conference fee:

30€

**Conference
languages:**

Slavic languages and
English

**Application
deadline:**

31.8.2026

**Deadline for
submission of
papers:**

16.10.2026