

CHRONICLE

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MEETING OF YOUNG HISTORIANS X – BORDERS IN SPACE AND TIME
KOŠICE, 18–19 NOVEMBER 2020

On 18 and 19 November 2020, the tenth year of the Meeting of Young Historians conference was organized by the Department of History of the Faculty of Arts of UPJŠ in Košice in cooperation with the Slovak Historical Society. The theme of this jubilee conference was “Borders in Space and Time”, not only because the issue of borders is still more than current, but in 2020 we also commemorated the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Trianon, the content of which, among other things, declared the borders of the newly formed Czechoslovak Republic. The interdisciplinary nature of the issue of borders was also reflected in the composition of the event participants – in addition to doctoral students in the field of history, doctoral students from the Faculty of Political Science and International Relations of MBU in Banská Bystrica and the Department of Ethnology and Non-European Studies of the Faculty of Arts of UCM in Trnava also applied. As the borders are also closely connected with geography, RNDr. Stela Csachová, PhD from the Institute of Geography of the Faculty of Science of UPJŠ in Košice took care of the expert commentary for one section of the event.

The conference has a firm place in the annual program of the Department of History, but due to ongoing anti-pandemic measures, it was necessary to move it to an online space this year. The conference was held through a web conference system and was also streamed through the Facebook page of the Department of History.

The opening of the conference took place on Wednesday, 18 November, with a speech by the main organizers, Mgr. Dana Kušnírová and Mgr. Peter Pavonič, who welcomed all active and passive participants of the event. The introductory word was provided by prof. PaedDr. Štefan Šutaj, DrSc., who was present at the inaugural Meeting of Young Historians, and in this tenth year he provided an expert commentary on the contributions from the first section of the conference.

Mgr. Michal Petříček (Institute of History, Trnava University in Trnava) made the first contribution – entitled *Monetary Reform in Czechoslovakia in the International Context* – in which he compared the monetary reform in Czechoslovakia in 1919 with the monetary reforms of other successor states, such as Hungary and Romania. He came to the conclusion that Czechoslovakia was able to cope best with this situation. The second speaker was Mgr. Adam Bielez (Institute of History, Trnava University in Trnava) with a paper *Establishment of the Protection Zone in Slovakia*. In it, he focused on several areas that were affected by the establishment of the Protection Zone during the existence of the Slovak state – the army, police forces of the state, but also the daily life of the civilian population. The third was the presentation *Historical Development of the Borders of the Republic of Poland* by Mgr. Marianna Kmeťová (Faculty of Political Science and International Relations, MBU in Banská Bystrica). In her contribution, she presented the changes in Poland's borders during its three partitions in the eighteenth century and the later fourth partition of Poland during World War II.

The first section was closed by the contribution of Mgr. Dana Kušnírová (Department of History, Faculty of Arts, UPJŠ in Košice) entitled *Changes in the Borders of the City of Košice in the years 1945–1989*. As the name suggests, in her presentation the author mapped the development of the borders of the city of Košice after 1945. During the reign of the Communist Party, the city grew several times, which was the result of industrialization in three phases – first to the west, later to the adjacent villages and finally to the east. In her presentation, the author also reflected the changes in the structure of the city that occurred as a result of the aforementioned industrialization in Košice. At the end of the first part, we listened to the expert commentary of prof. PaedDr. Štefan Šutaj, DrSc. of the Department of History of the Faculty of Arts of UPJŠ in Košice and guests' questions were also taken.

After a short break, the second section of the conference followed, consisting of two presentations. Mgr. Jan Hrcán (Department of History, Faculty of Arts, MBU in Banská Bystrica) was the first to speak, with his contribution, *Idea, Title, Concept and Borders of Vojvodina*. The territory of Vojvodina in the north of Serbia is characterized by its diverse

national character, which was of course reflected in the presented article. The author introduced us to the historical development of the borders of Vojvodina from the middle of the nineteenth century until the establishment of the current form of Vojvodina in 1945. Mgr. Denisa Augustinová (Faculty of Political Science and International Relations, MBU in Banská Bystrica) made a presentation entitled *Argentina and its Borders*, in which she briefly introduced us to the geography of Argentina, and then she moved on to the historical milestones that affected its borders. The professional guarantor of the section that focused mainly on the geographical appearance of the borders was RNDr. Stela Csachová, Ph.D. from the Institute of Geography of the Faculty of Science of UPJŠ in Košice. After her comments, there was a space for discussion, questions for the speakers and also constructive criticism.

The final section of the first day of the conference was devoted to a paper focused on social and thinking boundaries. One of the most anticipated contributions of the conference was clearly the contribution *Sexual Renunciation as a Boundary between the Spiritual and the Secular in the Christian Tradition* by Mgr. Martin Vincurský (Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno), which opened this section. In the presentation, the author addressed the issue of sexuality and related celibacy – as it was understood not only in the times of the creation of the New Testament, but also in the recent past, which is related to the fact that in the early days of Christianity, its ideology was interpreted differently. The second article was entitled *Borders and Imagination: Reflections on the Penetration of New Thought Concepts into Social Thought at the Turn of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries on the Example of Slovak Nationalist Discourse*, by Mgr. Blažena Križová (Department of Slovak History, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava). The article dealt with the so-called bordering, and analysed the process of mental demarcation in the Slovak national emancipation movement. The author relied mainly on research conducted on the periodical press, on the basis of which she presented the conflict between the intellectuals grouped around the magazine Hlas and the conservative intellectual elite at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The third contribution of this section – and the second contribution devoted to the city of Košice – was taken care of by Mgr. Katarína Hromuláková (Department of History, Faculty of Arts, UPJŠ in Košice). The aspect of borders in her presentation *On the Border of Poverty: Unemployment in Košice in the years 1930–1938* is the concept of centre–periphery, which plays an important role in the paper. The author introduced us to what the care for the poor and unemployed looked like in Košice, and analyses the shortcomings of this assistance in the 1930s, which is paradoxically perceived as the golden age of the Czechoslovak Republic. Apart from the fact that Košice in the 1930s became the intellectual, cultural and tourist centre of the eastern part of the republic, the city had to take care of a large number of unemployed and poor people, who were concentrated mainly in the peripheral areas of the city.

The last contribution of the third section was *Communism between Political Ideology and Religion* by Mgr. Peter Pavonič (Department of History, Faculty of Arts, UPJŠ in Košice), who focused on the perception of communism throughout history – while in the nineteenth century it was not understood to be other than (political) ideology, today communism can be defined as an alternative religion. The professional commentator of this section was Mgr. Mikuláš Jančura, PhD, from the Department of History of the Faculty of Arts of UPJŠ in Košice. After his comments on the presented papers, there was a space for discussion, which closed the first day of the conference Meeting of Young Historians X.

On Thursday morning, the conference continued with the fourth section, which was dedicated to education. The first to speak was Mgr. Miriama Filčáková (Department of History, Faculty of Arts, UPJŠ in Košice) with her presentation *The Development of Higher Education in the Context of World Bipolarity*. In her presentation, she focused on the development of higher education during the Cold War, emphasizing the models adopted by Eastern and Western European universities, and analysing the similarities and differences in the adopted reforms. The second presenter was Mgr. Anna Lomen (Department of General History, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava) with the contribution *Borders as a Social Construct – the Case of Yugoslav and Serbian National Identity in History Textbooks against*

the Background of State Disintegration. The presentation focused on how the current political situation has affected the terms “we” and “the others” in Serbian history textbooks for the eighth grade. The professional guarantor of the section was doc. PhDr. Slávka Otčenášová, PhD from the Department of History of the Faculty of Arts of UPJŠ in Košice.

The last section of the conference was opened with the presentation of Mgr. Ludmila Luňáková (Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno/The Institute of History, Czech Academy of Sciences), which was one of the few to deal with older history. Thanks to the article *Meetings at the Borders. Negotiations between Czech princes and the Piasts and Arpads* the participants at the conference learned that these medieval rulers chose border territories as their meeting places, preferably “no man’s lands”. The author also focused on finding an answer to the question of where “campus Lucsko”, a place where the Czech prince and the king of Hungary signed an armistice, is located. The second speaker in this section was Mgr. Michal Celnar (Department of Archiving and Auxiliary Sciences in History, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava) with his presentation *Borders and Borderlands in the Context of the Ottoman-Hungarian Wars of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*. In the presentation, he focused on an extremely interesting period of Ottoman expansion and tried to analyse the border area, which was the site of frequent military clashes, as well as peace negotiations, and emphasized the impact of this situation on the local population.

The third presenter was Mgr. Pavol Krajčovič (Department of Ethnology and Non-European Studies, Faculty of Arts, UCM in Trnava), who in his contribution, *Malé Karpaty and Považský Inovec as a living space of German-speaking woodcutters – Huncokars*, introduced an interesting and non-traditional topic dedicated to German mountain woodcutters who lived in the Malé Karpaty and Považský Inovec from the eighteenth century until the middle of the twentieth century. The author described their settlements, customs and traditions, but also the daily life of the Huncokars and their isolation from the rest of the population, which led to a mutual lack of knowledge, with each side associating the other with various stereotypes. The fifth section and at the same time the whole conference was closed by Mgr. Oliver Zajac (Historical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava) with a paper entitled *Natural Borders, Historical Borders, Political Borders: A Discourse on the Future Form and Nature of Independent Poland in the Conditions of the Great Emigration until 1861*. The author focused on the analysis of the concepts of the future Poland, as presented by the representatives of Polish exile during the nineteenth century. An expert commentary on this section was given by Mgr. Patrik Kunec, PhD from the Department of History of the Faculty of Arts of MBU in Banská Bystrica, and this was followed by a final discussion.

Despite the lack of direct contact between active and passive participants of the event due to the virtual form of the conference, the jubilee tenth year of the Meeting of Young Historians conference received positive responses. It was attended by 16 participants from Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Several guests highlighted the qualitative level of contributions; a characteristic feature of the conference is traditionally high-quality professional commentary by scientists from various institutions. A collection of papers from the tenth year of the conference has been published and the eleventh year of the Meeting of Young Historians, which will take place in October 2021, is currently being prepared.

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HISTORY IN THE DIGITAL ERA
KOŠICE, 21 APRIL 2021

On 21 April 2021, an online meeting of the Czech-Slovak Commission of Historians took place, this time under the organization of the Department of History of the Faculty of Arts, UPJŠ and the State Archive in Košice. The event, entitled History in the Digital Era, was intended primarily for the addressed experts, members of the Czech-Slovak Commission of Historians and employees of organizing institutions. All participants in this workshop presented their research with an emphasis on the objectives and methodology with regard to the central theme of the meeting. The meeting was opened by Martin Pekár (Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University of Košice), who justified the symbolic form of the conference on the MS Teams application due to the still persistent pandemic situation. Historians Ján Rychlík (Institute of Czech History, Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague) and Roman Holec (Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava/Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences) also opened the meeting with their speeches. While Ján Rychlík stated that the ongoing pandemic, which many did not expect in the twenty-first century, has made us operate even more within the online world, from which the humanities can certainly benefit, Holec emphasized the still burning and current issue of the slow progress of digitization in Slovakia. However, both have expressed ambivalence over the role that traditional archival research will play in the future.

The first professional entry into the topic, certainly interesting for researchers in the field of urban history, was the contribution of Juraj Šedivý (Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava): Comprehensive Memory Portal PamMap.sk.¹ Šedivý presented the online meta-archive project, which combines elements of e-archives, e-galleries, e-museums and e-libraries. At the same time as archival digitization, its goal is to make the history of Slovakia accessible through historical sources originating mainly from the territory of Slovakia. The portal, which is currently still a trial version, makes digitized historical sources on the history of cities available to both the professional and lay public. At present, the applicant can filter the sources to those regarding the cities Bratislava, Košice, Banská Bystrica and Turzovka, and the village of Lozorno. Šedivý also outlined the direction of the current research technique, which is increasingly moving into the online space, and which is also becoming a kind of common European standard. Nevertheless, in Slovakia it still finds its limits mainly in material and technical support and equipment, as well as in limited human resources.

A similar project is the Czech Historical Atlas portal, presented by Jiří Cajthaml, Tomáš Janata, Jiří Krejčí and Petra Jílková (Czech Technical University in Prague). It is an electronic map portal dedicated to Czech and Czechoslovak history in an international context based on modern cartography.² The freely accessible portal consists of map files supplemented by text comments and images. Those interested have the opportunity to clearly filter the maps not only chronologically from the Middle Ages to the present, but also according to borders, regions, military conflicts, historical milestones or population structure. It is also possible to compare the maps on the portal.

Adam Górka (Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice) also gave an interdisciplinary presentation devoted to Historical Geography Information Systems (HGIS). This contribution was devoted to the understanding of morphological changes in post-socialist cities using digital spatial tools (using a case study of the city of Košice).

1 The presented portal is available at the web address www.pammap.sk.

2 More information in English can be found at <https://cha.fsv.cvut.cz/en/>. An Atlas in printed form is also available SEMOTANOVÁ, Eva et al. *Český historický atlas. Kapitoly z dějin 20. století*. Praha: Historický ústav AV ČR, 2020, p. 297.

In his presentation on the example of the city of Košice, Gôrka distinguished three levels of analysis consisting of the background context, the context of the whole city and the in-depth analysis of selected areas. In his research, the author used a wide range of researched sources, which included, for example, archival and digital maps, cadastre, archival planning documents, pictography, written documents and also fieldwork. The author's greatest contribution is the digital maps of the city made by GIS, presenting the urban structure of the city before 1952, between 1952 and 1989 and after 1989. Gôrka also indicated that the greatest benefit of HGIS lies in a new perspective on historical research and interdisciplinary approaches. On the other hand, he mentioned that HGIS has limitations based on the characteristics of the tool and the sources.

Katarína Hromuláková and Miriama Filčáková (FF UPJŠ) made a contribution in the field of history education in the digital era. The presentation focused on the current challenge in the form of digitization of education in Slovakia. The authors also pointed out the biggest problems and difficulties associated with the digital transformation of schools in Slovakia. One of the projects that is currently trying to relativize the problems caused by the low rate of digitization of Slovak schools is the IT Academy project – Education for the twenty-first century.³ The aim of the project is to create a model for the education and training of young people for the current and future needs of the knowledge society and the labour market, with a focus on informatics and ICT. The authors responded to this current didactic challenge by creating their own web portal, in preparation for the IT Academy project, in which they focused on the effort to develop research teaching in history. It is one of the constructivist-tuned teaching applications that focuses on the historical transformations of the city of Košice in time and space. The learning application *City in the Changes of Time and Space* is intended for the education of fifth grade elementary school students based on the thematic unit *Humanity in the Changes of Time and Space* (according to the Slovak curriculum).⁴ Through the analysis of historical sources (postcards), students gain an idea of the transformations of their city and personalities of regional as well as national history in time and space. Pupils learn to work with historical time and space, with historical facts, events and phenomena in the search for relevant information by verifying historical facts, all through interactive tasks.

In addition to the above-mentioned contributions, which dealt with the history of cities, there were also other stimulating presentations. Ján Hlavinka (Holocaust Documentation Center) gave a detailed presentation on the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) project, aimed primarily at connecting and creating a community of researchers and experts in the field of Holocaust research across different countries of the world.⁵ At the same time, EHRI offers access to a variety of Holocaust-related resources through the EHRI web domain. The final two contributions offered an insight into the digitization of archival documents in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Eva Ptáčníková (Security Services Archive, Prague) introduced the E-research room application, which enables and facilitates access to archival documents of the Security Services Archive, which processes funds and collections from the security services of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and National Front organizations.⁶ Lucia Tokárová (State Archive in Košice) presented the Electronic Archive Information System, which is a central repository of electronic archival documents digitized for the needs of electronic research. Users of the Electronic Archive have the opportunity to search in individual collections and archival aids, as well as submit requests for access to archival documents.

3 More information about the project is available at www.itakademia.sk.

4 The learning figure is free available at www.dejinoviny.sk/mesto-v-premenach-casu/.

5 Visit portal at: <https://portal.ehri-project.eu/>.

6 E-research room is also available in English version at www.ebadatelna.cz

The addressed experts, as well as the invited guests and moderators of the meeting sections, led a constructive discussion on the future of history in the online space. All the mentioned articles will be subsequently published in the upcoming new format of the Czech-Slovak Historical Yearbook.

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