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MEETING OF YOUNG HISTORIANS XI: KNOWLEDGE, SOCIETY, HISTORY
KOŠICE, 19 – 20 OCTOBER 2021

Gradual changes in changing knowledge systems have prompted historians to look at the past in new ways. They have aroused an increase in interest in the history of knowledge, an area of historical science covering all known knowledge of human society, acquired or discovered throughout history. The history of knowledge has brought a new approach to the study of natural sciences and crafts, as well as of knowledge contained in the humanities and social sciences. Those in the field have researched not only all the great theories and discoveries of human civilization, but also everything that mankind has so far invented, created and perfected. And so to the eleventh edition of the annual doctoral conference Meeting of Young Historians. The conference, aimed at Slovak and foreign doctoral students, is organized by the Department of History of the Faculty of Arts of Pavel Jozef Šafárik University in Košice in cooperation with the Slovak Historical Society at the SAS. The aim of the conference is to provide a space for the presentation of the latest results of scientific research, professional discussion, networking, the development of cooperation and the mutual exchange of experiences of the wider historical community. The conference offered space for Slovak and foreign doctoral students to take a broad look at the past of knowledge and understanding.

The individual papers were presented in five peer-reviewed thematic sections, devoted to the history of educational institutions, the development of historical and philosophical knowledge, industry and useful knowledge. Funded comments on the lecture blocks were prepared by experts from the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, UPJŠ and the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Due to the continuing pandemic situation caused by the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 viral disease, the conference was held in hybrid, some participants joining online and some attending the conference in person, subject to strict pandemic measures. In contrast to last year's tenth anniversary of the Meeting of Young Historians, which had to be held exclusively online due to the pandemic situation, most participants were able to attend this year's conference in person. The conference was held through a web-based conference system and was also streamed via the Meeting of Young Historians and the Department of History Facebook page. The implementation in the online space also made it possible to join doctoral students and guarantors from Berlin, Prague and Bratislava, thus confirming the international dimension of the conference.

On the first day of the conference, it welcomed all active and passive participants as well as guarantors on behalf of the organizational team Mgr. Miriam Filčáková. She gave the introductory word to doc. ThDr. Peter Borza, PhD., Vice-Dean for the Quality of University Studies at the Faculty of Arts, UPJŠ, who welcomed those present on behalf of the Department of History of the Faculty of Arts, UPJŠ and Mgr. Adam Hudek, PhD., who gave an introductory speech on behalf of SHS SAS. The interest in the conference was also reflected in the international participation, the conference being attended by 13 participants from leading Slovak and foreign institutions: nine participants from Slovakia, three colleagues from the Czech Republic and one from Germany. All active participants presented their research with an emphasis on the objectives and methodology and considering the central theme of the meeting.

The first section presented contributions following the development of institutional knowledge under the political influence of the Communist Party. In his first contribution, "Teaching religion in Slovakia in the years 1948–1953 on the example of city of Košice" (Mgr. Peter Pavonič), also close to researchers in the field of urban history, the author presented the power of state regime interventions in the process of teaching religion in schools in Czechoslovakia in 1948–1989. The original contribution was mainly the analysis of the development of the mentioned events on the example of the city of Košice. The second was the paper, "Pavel Jozef Šafárik University in Košice in the context of the political history of knowledge" (Mgr. Miriam Filčáková), which by applying the approaches of the political history of knowledge recorded decisive moments related to the establishment of this educational institution regarding political, cultural and industrial

circumstances at the time of its creation. Expert commentary on the first block was presented by PaedDr. Alžbeta Śniežko, PhD. (Department of History, UPJŠ).

The second block, covered by the expert commentary of Mgr. Adam Hudek, PhD. (Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences), laid its thematic focus on topics connecting the fields of the history of knowledge and urban history. The paper “City of Metallurgists and Miners: Industrialization of Eastern Slovakia and Development of Education in Košice 1945–1970” (Mgr. Dana Kušírová) analysed the way in which the industrialization of Eastern Slovakia influenced the development of education at all levels in Košice. The influence of industrialization on the construction of schools proved to be an important urban element of Košice in the given period. The major reorganization of schools in the city, the significant increase in their number and the differentiation of their foci depended mainly on the nature of the city’s industrial enterprises. To the field of urban history was also devoted the paper “The unrealized interpretation of the history of Soviet architecture of the USSR and socialist Europe through the documents of the IRS in Erkner” (Aliaksandr Shuba, MA), which offered a critical analysis of a forthcoming monograph on Soviet history of architecture through preserved archival documents. The initiative for publications on the history of urban planning was represented by Soviet academic elites operating at research institutes in Moscow and Warsaw, which gave the interpretation of urban planning a distinctive Soviet character. The last contribution of the second block, “Persecution of the historian Daniel Rapant at the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University after 1948” (Mgr. Mária Rímešová), covered the persecutions of educators and respected professors, such as the historian Daniel Rapant.

The final part of the first day of the conference contained contributions following philosophical concepts for looking at the history of knowledge. The first paper, “Useful Knowledge and the Great Divergence” (Mgr. Adam Štverka), placed special emphasis on the dissemination of knowledge, developed mainly by the Enlightenment intellectual sphere. In the article, the author introduced the concept of Useful Knowledge and outlined the limits and possibilities of this specific approach to viewing knowledge. The paper “Positivism: a philosophical direction that offered an ideological basis for lay morality” (Mgr. Kristína Pakesová) presented several philosophical positions in individual authors’ periods and outlined a dispute between lay natural morality in opposition to religious morality during the first Czechoslovak Republic. An expert commentary on the above contributions was presented by Mgr. Mikuláš Jančura, PhD. (Department of History, UPJŠ), together with discussion that closed the first day of the conference.

The second day again brought several interesting and high-quality contributions. The first of the two blocks were of contributions from older history. The higher nobility living in the territory of today’s southwestern Slovakia was dealt with in the article “The higher nobility in the Nitra County until 1301” (Mgr. Kristína Danková). Determinants who helped recatholicize and form the parish network, as well as forms of counter-reformation used by local parish administrators and landowners were discussed in the contribution “Recatholization of the Ung county in the first half of the 18th century (comparison of the centre and outskirts)” (PhDr. Vavrinec Žeňuch). The development of trade, crafts and agriculture was also directly related to the development of knowledge in the past. The third contribution of the first block was devoted to the glass-making families as bearers of knowledge in the early modern period, which ensured the continuity of the then glassmaking – “Glassworks and families of glassblowers as an environment of knowledge and craft production in early modern period (on example of Stebnická Huta)” (Mgr. Ondrej Šály). A comparable interest in industrial development and the circulation of scientific knowledge of international importance in France on the example of the Society for the Encouragement of National Industry was presented by the paper “Institutional support for industry and business in Napoleonic France (1801–1832)” (Mgr. Michael Dudzik). The expert commentary was presented by PhDr. Eva Kowalska, DrSc. (Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences) and Mgr. Mária Fedorčáková, PhD. (Department of History, UPJŠ).

The last section of the conference was opened with the paper “Lost cause as a pseudo-historical phenomenon” (Mgr. Petr Khás), approaching this phenomenon as an important topic

in relation to the history of (un) knowledge. The author of the article presented the dogmas of this phenomenon, events which represent it and whether they should really be described as myth or as based on historical facts. The final contribution of the conference, "The operation of the German army in the Protection Zone in the context of everyday life" (PhDr. Adam Bielesz), presented an analysis of everyday life. Expert commentary of the final section, presented by Mgr. Maroš Melichárek, PhD. (Department of History, UPJŠ) and the following constructive discussion closed the eleventh edition of the doctoral conference Meeting of Young Historians XI.

Despite the limited direct contact between active and passive participants of the event, due to the virtual form of the conference, the conference received a positive response. Several guests highlighted the quality of the papers, which were mainly characterized by an interdisciplinary approach to research, confirming the traditionally high quality of papers presented and professional comments. The starting point of the conference is the annually published peer-reviewed proceedings, which consists of publication outputs of active participants. Preparations are currently underway for the 12th annual Young Historians Meeting.

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