

# Central European Literary Theory: Sources, Context, and Dissemination

## Brno, September 2–6, 2019

Department of Czech Language and Literature  
Faculty of Education, Masaryk University  
Galery RUV  
Poříčí 9, 603 00 Brno

Questions of what Central Europe is, where its borders are, and how we may characterize it, have been considered for a long time. A lot of prominent writers, historians, philosophers, and literary theorists have joined in debates of these topics in the last years and decades. According to many of them, Central Europe is not just an area spreading from Germany to Russia, and from the Baltic to the Adriatic seas, but primarily it is a space characterized by a specific cultural milieu. The countries, cultures and nations present in this space are connected by something we might call a shared historical memory, a cultural and political experience and, without doubt, shared experience of research activities. This is illustrated by numerous scientific findings, approaches and theories that were produced, developed and disseminated in the Central European space in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Focusing on literary theory and linguistics, which are inseparable in this context, one needs to admit that the Central European space was exceptionally prosperous in creating, disseminating and interconnecting new linguistic and literary theoretical concepts developed by the Vienna Circle, the Prague Linguistic Circle, the Bratislava Linguistic Circle, and others.

The Prague Linguistic Circle in particular was a sort of (Central European) scientific and sociocultural crossroads from its foundation in 1926. Czechs, Slovaks, Germans, Russians, Ukrainians and members of various other nations were present at its meetings. Ideas both domestic and foreign were exchanged. A lot of issues were discussed in the environment of the Circle, such as Ferdinand de Saussure's linguistics and semiology, functionalism, Russian formalism (Roman Jakobson, Viktor Shklovsky, and Yuri Tynyanov), phenomenology (Edmund Husserl, Roman Ingarden, and Gustav Shpet), the arts and culture, as well as findings, theories and methods of various disciplines of the social studies. This was the environment that gave birth to structuralism (Vilém Mathesius, Bohuslav Havránek, Jan Mukařovský, and Felix Vodička), phonology (Nikolai Trubetzkoy), and modern semiotics.

Some aesthetic and philosophical conceptions also played an important role in Central Europe. Among them, the aesthetic formalism of Johann Friedrich Herbart deserves a mention, as it connected Prague with Vienna, as well as Edmund Husserl's phenomenology, and philosophical conceptions of the Budapest School, namely Georg Lukács and his interpretation of Marxism and modern literature. Both Slovak (František Miko and Anton Popovič) and Polish (Michał Głowiński and Janusz Sławiński) schools of interpretation and semiotics have made an impact on the history of literary criticism.

The main aim of the conference *Central European Literary Theory: Sources, Context, and Dissemination* is to provide space to revise some of literary theory and criticism's findings, and for a more general discussion of particular literary theoretical and linguistic conceptions created and disseminated in the Central European space in the 20<sup>th</sup> century despite the complexities of its historical and political developments. The conference also aims to commemorate Roman Jakobson's departure from Brno and Czechoslovakia in 1939; linguistics and literary theory would be different today without his influence, energy, and creative initiative. This holds also outside the Central European space.

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### Programme

#### MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

- 09.00–09.45 Registration (Galery RUV)
- 09.45–10.00 Conference Opening
- 10.00–10.45 Assoc. Prof. Ondřej Sládek, Ph.D. (Faculty of Education – The Czech Academy of Sciences): The Rises and Falls of Modern Literary Theory in Central and Eastern Europe
- 10.45–11.00 Discussion
- 11.00–11.20 Tea & Coffee Break

#### 11.20–12.20 Panel Session I: From Formalism to Structuralism

- 11:20–11:40 Jessica Merrill, Ph.D. (Columbia University)  
Poetic Innovation and Everyday Language: The Moscow Linguistic Circle versus the Prague Linguistic Circle
- 11:40–12:00 Assoc. Prof. Valteir Vaz, Ph.D. (São Paulo State University)  
The First Hundred Years of the Shklovsky's Concept of Ostranenie (остранение)
- 12:00–12:20 Discussion
- 12.20–13.20 Lunch Break

#### 13.20–14.40 Panel Session 2: Russian Formalism and Czech Structuralism

- 13.20–13.40 Prof. Zhu Liyuan, Ph.D. (Fudan University) – Zhang Yunxian, Ph.D. (Shanghai Tech University)  
On the Characteristics of Prague School's Literary Theory. Take Jakobson and Mukarovsky as Examples
- 13.40–14.00 Prof. Zhou Qichao, Ph.D. (Zhejiang University)  
Interdisciplinary and Cross-cultural Modern Slavic Literary Theories: on the Exploration of Roman Jakobson's Literary Theory

- 14.00–14.20 Prof. Ilaria Aletto, Ph.D. (La Sapienza – Roma Tre Universities)  
Between “contiguity” and “pars pro toto”: R. Jakobson and S. Eisenstein
- 14.20–14.40 Discussion
- 14.40–15.00 Tea & Coffee Break
- 15.00–16.00 Mgr. Zdeněk Janík, M.A. Ph.D. (Masaryk University)  
Faculty of Education and Masaryk University
- 16.00–16.10 Tea & Coffee Break
- 16.10–17.20 Prof. Peter Steiner, Ph.D. (University of Pennsylvania)  
What Is Central Europe?
- 17.30 Welcome Drink

## **TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER**

### **09.00–11.00 Panel Session 3: Russian Formalism and Roman Jakobson**

- 9.00–9.20 Sun Ye, Ph.D. (Sun Yat-sen University)  
Roman Jakobson and Yuri Tynjanov in Prague: A New Perspective On Literary History from the Perspective of Linguistics (Co-authorship of “Problems in the Study of Language and Literature”)
- 9.20–9.40 Mgr. Vít Gvoždík, Ph.D. (The Czech Academy of Sciences)  
Roman Jakobson on the Concept of Subcode
- 9.40–10.00 Prof. Jiang Fei, Ph.D. (Anqing Normal University)  
On Roman Jakobson’s “Dominant” Poetics
- 10.00–10.40 Galina Babak, M.A. (Charles University)  
To the Problem of Reception of Russian Formalism in Ukraine: Roman Jakobson’s “On Realism in Art” and “Über die Heutigen Voraussetzungen der Russischen Slavistik”
- 10.40–11.00 Discussion
- 11.00–11.20 Tea & Coffee Break

### **11.20–12.40 Panel Session 4: The Prague School and Jan Mukařovský**

- 11.20–11.40 Manlin Sun, M.A. (Chongqing University)  
Functional Aesthetics and Social Construction in Prague School

- 11.40–12.00 Xiaofang Yang, M.A. (Chongqing University)  
The Prague School Aesthetics: The Case of Jan Mukarovsky
- 12.00–12.20 Prof. John Pier, Ph.D. (University of Tours – Center for Research in the Arts and Language  
at the CNRS)  
Jan Mukařovský in France
- 12.20–12.40 Discussion
- 12.40–13.40 Lunch Break

13.40–15.20	<b>Panel Session 5: The Metamorphoses of the Prague School</b>
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- 13.40–14.00 Mgr. Michal Kříž, Ph.D. (Palacký University)  
Standard and Poetic Language as a Problem of Linguistics and Literary Theory
- 14.00–14.20 PhDr. David Kroča, Ph.D. (Masaryk University)  
Literary Conception of Drama in the Work of Jiří Veltruský
- 14.20–14.40 Mgr. Marek Lollok, Ph.D. (Masaryk University – The Czech Academy of Sciences)  
Sylvie Richterová's (Conception of) Czech Literature
- 14.40–15.00 Prof. PhDr. Bohumil Fořt, Ph.D. (Masaryk University – The Czech Academy of Sciences)  
Lubomír Doležel and Structural Poetics
- 15.00–15.20 Discussion
- 15.20–15.40 Tea & Coffee Break

15.40–17.20	<b>Panel Session 6: Social Roles of the Men and Women of Knowledge</b>
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- 15.40–16.00 Dr. hab. Przemysław Pietrzak (University of Warsaw)  
In and Out of the Academy. Jan Baudouin de Courtenay and His Community Awareness
- 16.00–16.20 Prof. Dr. hab. Danuta Ulicka (University of Warsaw)  
Jakobson and the Poles. From Warsaw to New York and Back Again
- 16.20–16.40 Dr. Artur Hellich (University of Warsaw)  
Janusz Sławiński as a "Scholar"
- 16.40–17.00 Dr. Joanna Jeziorska-Haładaj (University of Warsaw)  
Aniela Gruszecka: Narrative Theory and Practice
- 17.00–17.20 Discussion
- 19.00 Conference Dinner at Restaurant Sheringham

## WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

### 09.40–11.20 **Panel Session 7: Phenomenology**

- 09.40–10.00 Prof. Michał Mrugalski, Ph.D. (Humboldt-Universität)  
Intuition vs. Instrumentalism. On the Use and Abuse of Phenomenology for Modernist  
Literary Theory
- 10.00–10.20 Prof. Xiao Jingyu, Ph.D. (Guandong University)  
The Hermeneutic Phenomenology of G. G. Shpet
- 10.20–10.40 Gao Shubo, Ph.D. (Sichuan University)  
Intentionality: A key Jargon of Jan Mukarovsky and Roman Ingarden
- 10.40–11.00 Mgr. Jan Tlustý, Ph.D. (Masaryk University)  
Traces of Phenomenological Thought in the Works of Milan Jankovič
- 11.00–11.20 Discussion
- 11.20–11.40 Tea & Coffee Break

### 11.40–12.40 **Panel Session 8: Mikhail M. Bakhtin**

- 11.40–12.00 Prof. Wang Hongzhang, Ph.D. (Fudan University)  
Bakhtin's Theory of the Novel as a Dialogue with Lukács, Shpet and Others
- 12.00–12.20 Assoc. Prof. Tao Chen, Ph.D. (China Women's University)  
Chronotope: Bildung of Bakhtin's Phenomenology
- 12.20–12.40 Discussion
- 12.40–13.40 Lunch Break

### 13.40–15.20 **Panel Session 9: György Lukács and Beyond**

- 13.40–14.00 František A. Podhajský, Ph.D. (The Czech Academy of Sciences)  
Lukács's Historical-Systematic Method and Its Intellectual Context
- 14.00–14.20 Prof. Chen Liang, Ph.D. (Fudan University)  
Reception of George Lukács' Literary and Artistic Theory in China (1935–2019)
- 14.20–14.40 Assoc. Prof. Yinhui Wang, Ph.D. (Henan University)  
The Translations and Studies on Lukács in Contemporary China

14.40–15.00 Jie Ding, M.A. (Fudan University)  
Studies of Lukács in China

15.00–15.20 Discussion

15.20–15.40 Tea & Coffee Break

<b>15.40–17.20 Panel Session 10: Narrative and Narration</b>
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15.40–16.00 Mgr. Richard Změlík, Ph.D. (Palacký University)  
Spatiality of fictional narrative: the model of multi-variant analysis

16.20–16.40 Mgr. Adam Veřmiřovský, Ph. D. (Masaryk University)  
Philological Interpretation of Dramatic Text: Pavese's The Mountain.

16.40–17.00 Chen Weng, Ph.D. (Fudan University)  
A Feminist Study of the C-E Translation of Mustard Seed Garden Manual of Painting.  
Based on Narrative Theory and Hermeneutics

17.00–17.20 Discussion

<b>THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER</b>
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09.40–12.00 **Round Table Panel Discussion: Central European Literary Theory: Sources, Context, and Dissemination** (Chair: Prof. Peter Steiner, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania)

12.00–13.00 Lunch Break

14.30–16.30 Villa Tugendhat

<b>FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER</b>
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8.30–16.30 **Special Session: Social and Cultural Values of South Moravia** (Venue: Lednice, Valtice)

16.30 Conference Ending