

PRAGUE AS REPRESENTED SPACE

Prague has long been the subject of popular attention and scholarly research. This is quite understandable given the city's exceptional role in the history of the Czech Lands and Central Europe, its urban and architectural fabric, and last but not least, its location as a crossroads of a variety of ethnic groups and intellectual currents.

We expand upon this research by organizing a conference that rethinks Prague in terms of represented space, where "represented" pays respect to standard assumptions about cultural studies as a discipline of representation, and "space" is open to both literal and figurative readings, in which the literal reading of urban space is always linked to its socio-cultural quality.

We assume that the construction of represented space is a dynamic process of negotiation ranging over the broadest possible array of procedures and results. An impressionistic survey suggests that the city's represented space can be approached in terms of its seemingly "weighty" sides as defined by its architectural and urban structures, as well as in terms of more "dynamic" aspects that occur through events and happenings in its public spaces.

Turning to specific media, we would like to give room to any medium that makes a contribution to this process, ranging from architecture, through visual representation, both traditional and modern, such as film and photography, through the medium of street events and enactment, to literary or musical imagination. We assume in all cases that significant points emerge whenever Prague ceases to be a background prop and assumes a substantive role in the construction of its space.

TIME AND PLACE

May 27-28, 2011
Conference Hall, Philosophicum (PT 3.o.79)
University of Regensburg
Universitätsstraße 31
93053 Regensburg
Germany

CO-ORDINATORS

Jindrich Toman
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
University of Michigan
ptydepe@umich.edu

Marek Nekula
Bohemicum / Institut für Slavistik
University of Regensburg
marek.nekula@sprachlit.uni-regensburg.de

CONFERENCE ASSISTANTS

Sara Dostal
Sara1.Dostal@stud.uni-regensburg.de

Jaroslava Petrnouskova
j.petrnouskova@seznam.cz

SPONSORS

Universitätsstiftung Hans Vielberth
Fritz Thyssen Stiftung
Themenverbund Ost-West-Transfer
Bohemicum

Prague as Represented Space

May 27-28, 2011



Universität Regensburg
FAKULTÄT FÜR SPRACH-, LITERATUR-
UND KULTURWISSENSCHAFTEN
BOHEMICUM / INSTITUT FÜR SLAVISTIK

PROGRAM

Conference Hall, Philosophicum (PT 3.0.79)

FRIDAY, MAY 27

9:30-9:45 WELCOME ADDRESS

TOPOGRAPHY

9:45-10:20

Chad Bryant, University of North Carolina
Before the Flâneur: Prague Walks and Topographies of Prague in the Early Nineteenth Century

10:20-10:40 COFFEE BREAK

THE CENTER SPACE

10:40-11:15

Jindřich Vybíral, UMPRUM Praha
Prague's Imperial Representation: The Castle

11:15-11:50

Christopher Long, University of Texas, Austin
Plecnik and King Minos: Archaism and Meaning in the Prague Castle Stair

11:50-13:30 LUNCH BREAK

DESIRE

13:30-14:05

Nancy Wingfield, Northern Illinois University
Mapping Prague as a Site of Sexual Desire in Late Imperial Austria

14:05-14:40

Derek Sayer, University of Lancaster
Surreal(ist) Prague

14:40-15:00 COFFEE BREAK

MOVIE SPACES

15:00-15:35

Ines Koeltzsch, NYU Prague
Going to Movies in Prague: Early Cinemas and Prague's Urban Space

15:35-16:10

Michal Bregant, FAMU Prague
Prague as a Space of Fiction in Early Documentary Films

16:10-16:30 COFFEE BREAK

EMPTINESS

16:30-17:05

Cathleen Giustino, Auburn University,
Shadows on an Empty Plain: Czechoslovakia's Missing Parliament Building and the Resistance of Space

17:05-17:40

Cynthia Paces, The College of New Jersey
The Theme of Emptiness in Post-Communist Prague Monuments

20:00 Dinner for participants

* * *

SATURDAY, MAY 28

ACTION SPACES I

9:30-10:05

Marek Nekula, Universität Regensburg
Constructing Slavic Prague Through Funeral Festivities

10:05-10:40

Claire Nolte, Manhattan College
Celebrating Slavic Prague: Festivals and the Urban Environment, 1891-1912

10:40-11:00 COFFEE BREAK

ACTION SPACES II

11:00-11:35

Otto Urban, NYU Prague
Velvet Transgressions: Subversive Art in Prague Streets after 1989

11:35-12:10

Peter Stachel, Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien
Political Spaces: Wenceslas Square in Prague, Hősök tere in Budapest and Heldenplatz in Wien

12:10-13:30 LUNCH BREAK

SPACES LIVED AND IMAGINED

13:30-14:05

Kimberly Elman-Zarecor, Iowa State University
Sídliště as a constructed environment and a lived experience in metropolitan Prague

14:05-14:40

Veronika Tucker, Columbia University
Village in the City: Prague's Jubilee and the Ethnographic Exhibitions

14:40-15:00 COFFEE BREAK

JEWISH SPACES

15:00-15:35

Michael Miller, Central European University, Budapest

Out of the Ghetto: Jewish Vulnerability in Prague's Tandelmarkt

15:35-16:10

Jindřich Toman, University of Michigan/Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung
Making Sense of a Ruin: The Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague

16:10-16:20 COFFEE BREAK

16:20-17:00 GENERAL DISCUSSION

19:00 Dinner for participants

The event is open to the University's community. We are looking forward to seeing you at the conference!