

HABILITATION THESIS ABSTRACT

The habilitation thesis titled *The Processes of Internationalization of Ethnological Research in the Czech Lands in the 20th Century* consists of a collection of published articles accompanied by an extensive commentary. The work analyses the history of the field in the 19th and 20th centuries, and its main contribution lies in its thorough placement of the development of Czech ethnology within a broader international context.

The author critically transcends methodological nationalism and emphasizes the processes of internationalization as well as the involvement of domestic researchers in European scientific networks. The central theme of several texts is the analysis of the formative influence of Swedish and Swiss ethnology on the development of the field in Central Europe. These regions are understood as specific “laboratories” whose research culture enabled the emergence of modern concepts of comparative European ethnology (Sigurd Erixon) and structural-functional analysis (Richard Weiss). These approaches offered, particularly in the 1960s, a conceptually sophisticated and non-national alternative to both romanticizing ethnography and dogmatic “Marxist” ethnography. Using specific cases from the development of ethnocartography and research on agrarian culture, the thesis analyses various types of international collaboration between Czech and Slovak ethnologists on both specific topics and large-scale projects such as the Ethnological Atlas of Europe.

The work demonstrates that despite existing socio-political and ideological barriers during the so-called Cold War, individuals (e.g., Jaroslav Kramářík) were able to maintain communication with so-called Western scholarship through informal personal ties, particularly in the study of traditional material culture. A contrast to this development is the so-called ethnography of the working class, which, despite political support, remained internationally isolated and theoretically conservative.

This collection of studies is based on original archival and oral history research and aims toward a transnational conception of the history of science, which is essential for a deeper self-reflection of the discipline within the contemporary research landscape.