

COMMENTARY TO HABILITATION THESIS¹

This commentary provides an overview of the papers included in the habilitation thesis titled *The Processes of Internationalization of Ethnological Research in the Czech Lands in the 20th Century*. The thesis consists of a collection of published articles with an extensive introductory text, in which the individual articles are first placed within the broader context of the development of ethnology in our region, the current state of research and the source base are evaluated, and subsequently the main findings of the individual articles are summarized, with an emphasis on the processes of internationalization of ethnological research in the 20th century. The thesis also contains extensive individual commentaries on the articles themselves, which are organized into thematic clusters, as well as a concluding summary.

The seven included papers are the result of systematic research into the history of ethnology and related disciplines in the Czech Republic and Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries. The texts of the studies form a coherent body of work, both thematically and empirically, and, in particular, conceptually. All texts are based on original archival and oral history research and focus on the development of ethnology as a specific academic discipline, or discursive field, with an emphasis on situating the development of Czech (in the territorial sense) and Czechoslovak ethnology within an international context. The innovative linking of the development of the discipline in our country – which had been conceived as entirely “autonomous” for over a century – with the development of ethnology in regions formative for the discipline (Scandinavia, Switzerland, Austria, Germany) has made it possible to uncover surprising connections and differences in the contemporary development of disciplinary theory and methodology, in terms of personal contacts, and in overcoming the social, cultural, and ideological-political barriers of the time. The emphasis on previously overlooked processes of internationalization and the involvement of Czech ethnologists in international scientific networks can be considered the main contribution of this collection, which thus overcomes the previous ethnocentrism and methodological nationalism of the discipline’s history and demonstrates that the internationalization processes typical of the field after 1989 were already inherent to ethnology in our country during certain earlier stages of its development, though they unfolded under specific circumstances and with specific consequences. This applies both at the level of “official” science and within the environment of so-called “niches” of academic freedom, characteristic particularly of the second half of the 20th century.

[1]²

WOITSCH, J. Od folklivsforskning k evropské etnologii, antropologii a zpět: švédská etnologie v 19. až 21. století. *Národopisná revue*. 2017, 27(3), 224-235. ISSN 0862-8351. E-ISSN 2570-9437.

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

¹ The commentary must correspond to standard expectations in the field and must include a brief characteristic of the investigated matter, objectives of the work, employed methodologies, obtained results and, in case of co-authored works, a passage characterising the applicant’s contribution in terms of both quality and content.

² Bibliographic record of a published scientific result, which is part of the habilitation thesis.

The study summarizes the main personnel, institutional, and theoretical-methodological trends and milestones in Swedish (and, more broadly, Scandinavian) ethnology, with an emphasis on those phenomena and processes that influenced the development of the field in the Central Europe. Particular emphasis is placed on the conceptual definition of so-called European ethnology in the 1950s and 1960s.

[2]

WOITSCH, J. Vlastní cestou? Švýcarská etnologie v 19. a první polovině 20. století. Národopisná revue. 2019, 29(1), 15-29. ISSN 0862-8351. E-ISSN 2570-9437.

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

The study summarizes the main personnel, institutional, and theoretical-methodological trends and milestones in Swiss ethnology, with an emphasis on those phenomena and processes that influenced the development of the discipline in the Central Europe. Particular emphasis is placed on the distinctiveness of Swiss ethnology, which – although predominantly German-speaking – developed differently from the discipline in Germany and Austria.

[3]

WOITSCH, J. Mezi ruchadlem a Českou chalupou. (Ne)objevení „lidové“ invence v 19. století a jeho důsledky pro výzkum tzv. lidové kultury. In: MACHALÍKOVÁ, Pavla, PETRASOVÁ, Taťána, WINTER, Tomáš, eds. Zrození lidu v české kultuře 19. století. Sborník příspěvků z 39. ročníku mezioborového sympozia k problematice 19. století: Plzeň, 28. února - 2. března 2019. Praha: Academia, 2020, S. 15-28. ISBN 978-80-200-3066-5.

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

The study examines various ways of defining “folk” and folk culture in ethnological research during the 19th and 20th centuries. Based on an analysis of a wide range of published ethnological texts, the study documents the significant influence of a leading Swiss theorist in the field, Eduard Hoffmann-Krayer, on the ways in which “folk” was defined in Central European ethnology.

[4]

WOITSCH, J. Etnokartografie ve 20. století: Od národních atlasů k atlasu evropskému a zpět. In: WOITSCH, J., JÚNOVÁ MACKOVÁ, A., eds. Etnologie v zúženém prostoru. Praha: Etnologický ústav AV ČR, 2016, S. 183-225. ISBN 978-80-88081-10-4.

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
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100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
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The comprehensive study provides a complete account of the history of European ethnocartography from its beginnings to the present day, based on an examination of archival sources and published literature. Ethnocartography is characterized as a specialized field that has achieved the highest degree of internationalization on a European and even global scale, and in the Czech lands it significantly contributed to the integration of Czech ethnology into European research networks.

[5]

WOITSCH, J. The Comparative Study of Material Culture in the 1960s. From Personal Friendships to the Internationalisation of Czech Ethnology. In: EGGMANN, S., JOHLER, B., KUHN, K. J., PUCHBERGER, M., eds. *Orientieren & Positionieren, Anknüpfen & Weitermachen: Wissensgeschichte der Volkskunde / Kulturwissenschaft in Europa nach 1945*. Basel: Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Volkskunde, 2019, S. 229-250. Culture, 9. ISBN 978-3-908123-02-6.

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

The study provides a detailed account of the involvement of certain Czech (J. Kramář) and Slovak (J. Podolák) ethnologists in comparative research on traditional agriculture, folk architecture, and transportation. It demonstrates that, in certain areas of ethnological research, Central European ethnology played a pivotal and formative role in pan-European scholarship. However, excessive reliance on personal connections and political obstacles led to the decline of this research specialization in the 1970s and later.

[6]

WOITSCH, J. Kam zmizela etnografie dělnictva? In: HLAVAČKA, M., ŘEPA, M., eds. *X. sjezd českých historiků*. Ostrava 14.-16. 9. 2011. Ostrava: Filozofická fakulta Ostravské univerzity v Ostravě, 2013, S. 111-128. ISBN 978-80-7464-350-7.

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
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The study analyzes the development of ethnological research on factory workers and miners in the Czech lands and situates it within the broader context of changes in the field across Europe. From the 1950s onward, this was an ideologically framed yet thematically exceptionally modern research direction, which, however, never connected with similar research specializations behind the Iron Curtain and remained theoretically conservative.

[7]

WOITSCH, J. Etnologie studené války v České republice: témata, přístupy, metody. *Národopisný věstník*. 2016, 75(2), 5-30. ISSN 1211-8117.

Experimental work (%)	Supervision (%)	Manuscript (%)	Research direction (%)
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The study summarizes and analyzes opportunities for ethnological and related research on the Cold War period (both in a historical sense and in terms of contemporary representations in memory and so-called heritage). It highlights the lack of internationalization in existing research on these topics in the Czech Republic and proposes ways to overcome this (e.g., in folklore research on security forces and the study of dissonant heritage).