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Bayerisches Staatsministerium
für Wissenschaft und Kunst

Contact

Collegium Carolinum e. V.
Hochstraße 8
81669 München
+49 89 55 26 06-0
post.cc@collegium-carolinum.de
www.collegium-carolinum.de

Venue

Hotel Aurachhof
Bahnhofstraße 4
83730 Fischbachau
+49 8028 903-0

Bild:

<https://www.archiweb.cz/b/ceskoslovensky-pavilon-na-mezinarodni-vystave-umeni-a-techniky-v-modernim-zivote>

Interwar Czechoslovakia emerged in a post-imperial context marked by the establishment of new borders and barriers. Indeed, historians have characterized the interwar in Europe as a period of de-globalization between the two major waves of globalization that took place before 1914 and in the postwar period. However, the construction of Czechoslovakia was based not only on a narrative of national exclusiveness. Given their ethos of democracy and progress, Czechoslovak elites also championed cosmopolitanism and a sense of being open to the world. The construction of Czechoslovakia involved participation in the circulation of ideas, people, goods, and capital.

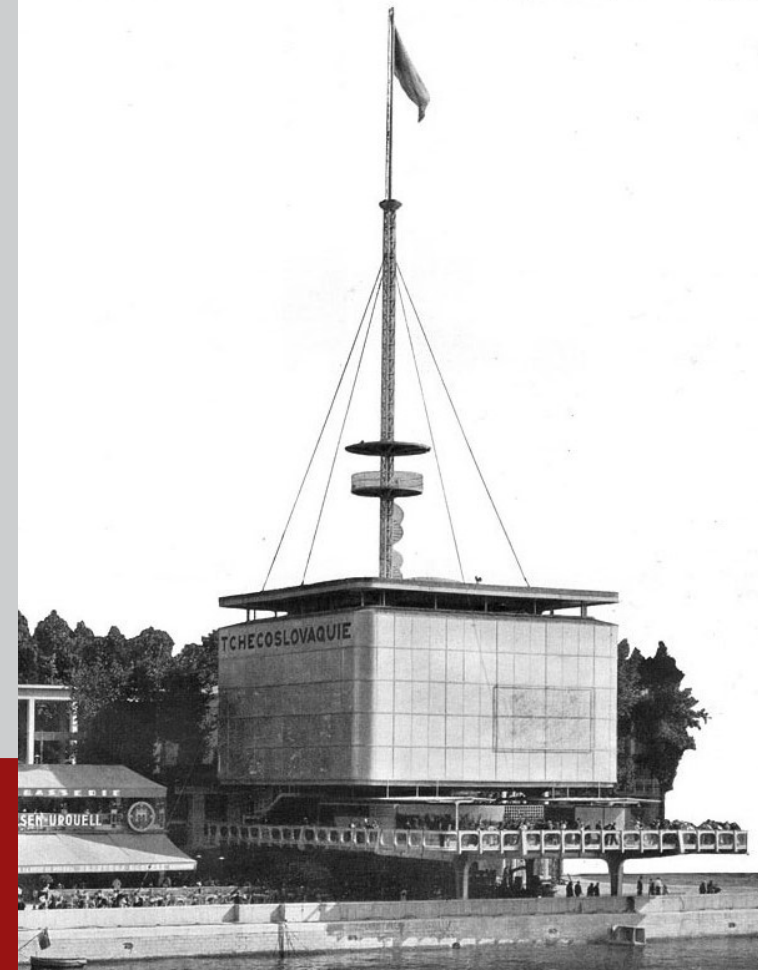
So far, historians have addressed these networks mainly from the perspective of bilateral relations or by comparing two case studies. Only very recently has the question of Czechoslovakia's complex transnational, international, and global entanglements become the object of scholarship. The aim of this conference is to provide a forum to this new research. We want to examine the extent to which, in what ways, and with what limitations Czechoslovakia was integrated into the globalized world during the interwar period – in terms of politics, economics, culture and representation.

Annual Conference of the Collegium Carolinum 2025
in cooperation with the Masaryk Institute
and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences
and the Department of East
and Southeast European History,
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Organized by Felix Jeschke and Václav Šmidrkal

Globalizing Interwar Czechoslovakia:

The First Republic and its Entanglements
with Europe and the World



Fischbachau
13 to 16 November 2025

Thursday, 13 November 2025

18:00-18:20

Felix Jeschke (Munich) / Václav Šmidrkal (Prague): Introduction

18:20-19:30

Mark Cornwall (Southampton): From Vladivostok to Munich: The Latitude and Limits of Global Czechoslovakia (keynote lecture)

20:00

Dinner

Friday, 14 November 2025

09:00-10:15

Panel 1: Economic globalization (first part)

Chair: Máté Rigó (Munich)

Gregor Feindt (Mainz): Shoes for the World: Representations of the Global in the Bata Shoe Company, 1905–1941

Johannes Gleixner (Munich): Economic Nationalism as a Globalizing Strategy: Trade and Monetary Policy in Interwar Czechoslovakia

10:15-10:45

Coffee break

10:45-12:00

Panel 1: Economic globalization (second part)

Adéla Jünová Macková (Prague): Czechoslovak Penetration to the Oriental Markets – a Case Study

Kristýna Kaucká (Prague): The Bohemian Forest in a Changing World: Economic Transformation of a Transnational Territory in the 1920s

12:00-14:00

Lunch

14:00-15:45

Panel 2: Czechoslovakia in transnational experts' networks

Chair: Rudolf Kučera (Prague)

Tomáš Gecko (Prague): Experts, Networks, and Economic Espionage: Technical-Economic Foreign Service in Interwar Czechoslovakia

Vojtěch Pojar (Vienna): From Post-Imperial Legacies to a Regional Framework: Czechoslovakia's Public Health Experts, Transnational Philanthropy, and the Reshaping of Symbolic Geographies in the 1920s and 1930s

Gabriela Dudeková Kováčová (Bratislava): State Interests over Feminism? Czechoslovak Feminists in Interwar Transnational Women's Networks

15:45-16:15

Coffee break

16:15-18:00

Panel 3: Globalizing universalism: Czechoslovakia in the international communist movement
Chair: Václav Šmidrkal (Prague)

Daniela Kolenovská (Prague): "Please advise, comrades: How to write a letter home?" Migration from Interwar Czechoslovakia to the Soviet Union

Molly Pucci (Dublin): The International Search for Class Justice: the KSČ and Interwar Legal Activism

Jakub Vrba (Prague): (De-)Globalizing Tendencies in the Czechoslovak Communist Movement

18:30

Dinner

Saturday, 15 November 2025

09:00-10:15

Panel 4: Globalizing particularism: Transnational political networks of nationalists (first part)
Chair: Martina Winkler (Kiel)

Miguel Cabo Villaverde (Santiago de Compostela): Transnational Farmers: The International Agrarian Bureau / Mezinárodní Agrární Bureau (1921–1938) and its Parallel Diplomacy

Jakub Drábik (Prague): Integrating Czechoslovak Fascism into Global Fascism: The National Fascist Community in Transnational Perspective

10:15-10:45

Coffee break

10:45-12:00

Panel 4: Globalizing particularism: Transnational political networks of nationalists (second part)

Ondřej Holub (Prague): The Companions of Populist Radicality: Czech National Socialists, the "Radical International" and the Internalization of Interwar Social Liberalism

Jaroslav Ira (Prague): Interwar Czechoslovak Regionalism in European and Global Connections, Contexts and Comparisons

12:00-14:00

Lunch

14:00-15:45

Panel 5: Representing the state
Chair: Felix Jeschke (Munich)

Norman Domeier (Prague): The International Image of Czechoslovakia between the World Wars in the Writings of Elizabeth Wiskemann

Marta Filipová (Brno): Global Folk Art? The Paradoxes of Czechoslovak International Exhibitions

Dagmar Hájková (Prague): The Involvement of Anglo-American Intellectuals in the Representation of Czechoslovakia: Networks, Motivation and Opportunities

15:45-16:15

Coffee break

16:15-18:00

Panel 6: Students and sport

Chair: Mikuláš Zvánovec (Hradec Králové)

Stanislav Holubec (Prague): Czechoslovak and German Winter Sports Associations as International Politics: Interethnic Cooperation and Competition

John Paul Newman (Maynooth): Late Pan-Slavism? The Czechoslovak Sokol Association in a Global/International Context

18:00-18:30

Concluding Remarks

19:00

Dinner

Sunday, 16 November 2025

Breakfast and departure