

## Programme

# **Migrant Work beyond Categorization: Migrants and Refugees at Work in the 20th-Century East Central Europe**

Prague, 19-20 November 2025

Venue: Masaryk Institute and Archives, Gabčíkova 2362/10, 182 00 Prague (Conference Room B -110)

*The workshop is organized by the project “Migration and Us: Mobility, Refugeeedom and Border from the Humanities Perspective (MyGRACE)”, registration number CZ.02.01.01/00/23\_025/0008741, supported by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic within the Jan Amos Komenský Operational Programme (OP JAK), and co-financed by the European Union.*

## **Day 1 (19 November)**

14:00-14:15 Opening

**14:15-16:00 Migrants and Refugees as Fluid Categories in Regional, National and International Labor-Related Contexts**

Chair: **Michal Frankl** (Institute for Czech Literature, Czech Academy of Sciences / Leibniz GWZO Prague)

**Neja Blaj Hribar** and **Oliver Pejić** (Institute of Contemporary History; Ljubljana)

*Between State-Imposed Solidarity and Popular Resentment: Refugees and Forced Migrants in the Social Hierarchy of Interwar-Yugoslav Slovenia (1918–1941)*

**Pavel Kladiwa** (University of Ostrava)

*Between Economic Ties and their Political Instrumentalisation: The Case of Optants, Seasonal Workers and Commuters from the Hlučín Region in Interwar Germany*

**Kaja Kumer-Haukanömm** and **Hanna-Riin Karu** (Tartu University)

*The Significance of Categorising and Defining People during World War II, Illustrated by the Example of Estonian Refugees in Europe*

**Benedetta Fabrucci** (Independent Researcher)

*Crossing Borders and Shifting Labels. Refugees and Asylum Seekers between Italy and Yugoslavia in the Early Decades of the Cold War as a Case Study on the Reception Practices and the Categorisation Process*

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

16:30-18:00 **Institutionalized Labor Migration in (Post)Imperial Contexts: Between Voluntariness and Coercion**

Chair: **Andrea Pokludová** (University of Ostrava)

**Bohuslav Rejzl** (Prague City Museum)

*Beyond the Categorization of Galician Seasonal Labour Migrants in Late Austria-Hungary*

**Jakub Štofaník** (Masaryk Institute and Archives, Czech Academy of Sciences)

*State Institutions and Labour Migration between Czechoslovakia and France in Interwar Period*

**Mariya Romanova** (University of Vilnius)

*The Ukrainian labor migration's aims in the context of France's industrialization*

19:00-21:00 Dinner

## Day 2 (20 November)

9:30-11:00 **Labor Migrants at Flight and Refugees at Work: From Early to Late Cold War Perspectives**

Chair: **Jakub Štofaník** (Masaryk Institute and Archives, Czech Academy of Sciences)

**Sarah Knoll** (University of Vienna)

*Political Refugee or Economic Migrant? Refugees in Austria between Cold War Politics and Labor Demands, 1950s – 1980s*

**Tom Drechsel** (University of Jena)

*Does the Source Decide about Racism and Exploitation in the Past? Oral History Interviews with the GDR's Mozambican Labour Migrants*

**Julia Reinke** (University of Jena)

*Migrant Labor in State Socialism beyond "Contract". Greek Civil War Refugees in the German Democratic Republic at Work*

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-12:30 **Socialist Labor Integration of International and Co-Ethnic Refugees**

Chair: **Ekaterina Shashlova** (Faculty of Humanities, Charles University / Masaryk Institute and Archives, Czech Academy of Sciences)

**Nikola Tohma** (Masaryk Institute and Archives, Czech Academy of Sciences)

*The Ability of Those Disabled: Social Rights and Labor Integration of War Invalids, Chronically Ill Patients and Retirees among Greek Civil War Refugees in Socialist Czechoslovakia*

**Veronika Kaszás** (Masaryk Institute and Archives, Czech Academy of Sciences)

*Romanian Refugees and Their Labor Integration in Late Socialist Hungary: Between State Policy and Informal Practices*

12:30-13:00 Concluding remarks

13:00-15:00 Lunch



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