

Program

Refugee Protection in the Plural. East-Central European “Unlikely Refuge” in Global Comparison

Prague, 18-20 June 2025

Venue: Czech Academy of Sciences (Main building), Národní 1009/3, 110 00 Prague

Room: 206

Day 1 (18 June 2025)

14:45-15:00 Registration

15:00-15:15 Welcome by **doc. Dr. phil. Rudolf Kučera Ph.D.**, the director of the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences

15:15-16:00 Keynote speech

Michal Frankl (Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences/ERC “Unlikely Refuge”)

Unlikely and Likely Places of Refuge in Global Comparison: The Unlikely Refuge? Project and Beyond

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-18:00 Panel 1: Interwar Refugee Regimes in Global Perspective

Chair: **Ágnes Kelemen** (Jewish Theological Seminary – University for Jewish Studies, Budapest/ERC “Unlikely Refuge”)

Charis Marantzidou (Columbia University)

From Victims to Threats: Russian Refugees and the Politics of Security in the Wake of the Russian Revolution

Nikolaos Mavropoulos (Hong Kong Baptist University)

East European Refugees in the First Half of the 20th Century: The Greek Case Study in China

Maksym Snihyr (National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy/Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)

Legal Status of Refugees from Soviet Ukraine in Romania in the Early 1930s

18:00-19:00 Reception

Day 2 (19 June 2025)

9:30-11:00 Panel 2: Alternative Actors and Solidarities

Chair: **Michala Jandák Lônčíková** (Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences/ERC “Unlikely Refuge”/Faculty of Arts, Charles University)

Karina Khasnulina (Leipzig University/Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, GWZO)

Refugees from Empire: Russian Émigrés in China, the Orthodox Church, and the Politics of Repatriation (1945-1955)

Nagothu Naresh Kumar (Independent researcher)

‘The Maharaja wishes to award a medal’: Monarchical Codes and Refugees in Indian Princely States (1940-1975)

Sebastian Willert (Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow)

Unconventional Refugee Protection. From Jewish Solidarity to Global Assistance in Forced Academic Migration

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13:00 Panel 3: State Socialist Refugee Regime(s) I

Chair: **Thomas Loy** (Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences)

Yevhenii Monastyrskiy (Harvard University)

“Reaching the Land of the Freedom”: Political Migrants, Forced Citizenship and Regimes of Belonging in the Soviet Union

Nikola Tohma (Masaryk Institute and Archives, Czech Academy of Sciences/ERC “Unlikely Refuge”)

State Socialist “Asylum” as an Alternative System of Refugee Protection: The Case of Czechoslovakia

Mioara Anton (Institute of History, Romanian Academy)

Socialist Solidarity and the Chilean Refugee Crisis

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:00 Panel 4: Cold War Refugees in between the Bloc Logic

Chair: **Julia Reinke** (University of Jena/Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences/ERC “Unlikely Refuge”)

Francesca Rolandi (University of Florence/ERC “Unlikely Refuge”)

Balancing between the East and the West: Yugoslavia’s Refugee Policies in Cold War Europe

Luciana M. Jinga (The Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile, IICCMER; University of Bucharest)

Analyzing Refugee Movements: The Dynamics of Romanian Emigration and International Legal Responses during the Communist Era

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-17:00 Panel 5: Spaces and Temporalities of Refugee Management

Chair: **Piotr Filipkowski** (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences/Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences/ERC “Unlikely Refuge”)

Margaux Baudoux (Université Lumière Lyon 2/University of Łódź)
A Safe Home among the Abandoned Factories: The Declining City, a Place of Refuge in Poland?

Emma Dal Mas (European University Institute)
German Refugees in Austria: Insights from a Plural Management

Doina Anca Cretu (University of Warwick/ERC “Unlikely Refuge”)
Temporalities of Refugee Encampment in Wartime Austria-Hungary

19:00 Dinner

Day 3 (20 June 2025)

9:30-11:00 Panel 6: Postcolonial Solidarities and Tensions

Chair: **Františka Schormová** (Institute of Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Sciences/University of Hradec Králové)

Ana Guardiola (University of Florence)
Decolonization and the Extension of Refugee Protection beyond Europe: The Cases of Algeria and Angola (1950s-1960s)

Rajesh Prasad (University of Delhi)
Fugitive Refuge: Vernacular Solidarities, Shadow Systems, and the Politics of ‘Unlikely’ Asylum in Postcolonial South Asia (1947–1971)

Muhammad Ala Uddin (University of Chittagong)
Rohingya Refugees and the Politics of ‘Imperfect Refuge’: Statelessness, Ethnic Tensions, and Humanitarianism in Bangladesh

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-12:30 Panel 7: State Socialist Refugee Regime(s) II

Chair: **Maximilian Graf** (Austrian State Archives/ERC “Unlikely Refuge”)

Jo Laycock (Manchester University)
Soviet Settlements: Armenia and the Beginnings of a Soviet Refugee Regime

Sara Cosemans (KU Leuven)
Chileans Ex Romania. UNHCR’s Reaction towards Chileans’ “Second Escape” from Romania

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:30 Panel 8: Media and Narrative Constructions of Refugees

Chair: **Anna Pilát** (Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences/ERC “Unlikely Refuge”)

Endre Sik (HUN-REN CSS), László Kiss (HUN-REN Recens), Veronika Kaszás (Masaryk Institute and Archives, Czech Academy of Sciences), Judit Tóth (University of Szeged); all ERC *Unlikely Refuge?*

Different Narratives for Different Flows - East German and Transylvanian Refugees in the Hungarian Press in 1988/1989

Avishek Ray (National Institute of Technology Silchar)

Shamed by Sight: The Power of Alan Kurdi’s Image in Redefining Refugeehood

14:30-15:30 Panel 9: Refugee Protection after State Socialism

Chair: TBC

Veronika Kaszás (Masaryk Institute and Archives, Czech Academy of Sciences /ERC “Unlikely Refuge?”)

Model or Outlier? Hungary’s Asylum Policy and its Reception by the UNHCR in the Early 1990s

Christoph Sperfeldt (Macquarie University)

Refugee Protection after Conflict and State Socialism in Cambodia

15:30-16:00 Closing remarks



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