



FACULTY OF ARTS  
Charles University

**LANGUAGE CONTACT  
AND  
THE EARLY SLAVS**

Prague, Czech Republic

**19th–22th October 2017**

organized by  
the MIndME research group



Humanities Research Centers

## THE WORKSHOP

The workshop addresses one of the most controversial issues in contemporary medieval studies, which is the extremely fast expansion of the Slavic language(s) across great parts of Europe in the Early Middle Ages. While traditional scenarios assume unity of language, ethnicity, and material culture, leading alternative models emphasize the active role of material culture, through which ethnic identity was constructed to mobilize linguistically extremely heterogeneous population. The traditionalists explain the spread of the Proto-Slavic language by migrations in the 6th-7th century and associate that with specific material culture and with early mentions of ethnic Slavs in written sources. The alternative hypotheses attribute the same material culture and written references to linguistically and genetically very varied communities and associate the subsequent spread of the Proto-Slavic with its status as an 'official' language or 'koiné'. In other words, early ethnic Slavs did not speak Proto-Slavic, no Slavic 'Urheimat' did exist, and Slavic speakers may not have common roots.

## MINDME RESEARCH GROUP

FACULTY OF ARTS, CHARLES UNIVERSITY

In the last decades, there have been radical shifts in our understanding of ethnicity, religion, and their dialogic relationship. Ethnicity, similar to religion, is not viewed as a biologically or culturally stable identity, but as a behavior – as a cultural construct created, transmitted, and maintained by discourse and practice and in effect expressed both by language or/and non-verbal semiotic means, such as material culture. However, there is a lack of knowledge of interaction and substitutability of language and material culture in this process under various social, economic, and demographical circumstances. The *MIndMe research group* aims to advance the research in how ethnicity was constructed in the specific situation of migration or cultural and language contact in Early Medieval Europe. In addition, the research will focus on links between ethnicity and other kinds of identities, especially religion.

In order to achieve these objectives, the project (1) includes various disciplines, territories, and contact situations, (2) advances comparative approaches and new methods, and (3) organizes several international conferences and workshops. The first one is '*Language contact and the early Slavs*'.

**THURSDAY, 19th October \***

09.15–9.30 Welcome  
Representatives of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University  
Organizers

**Panel 1:**

9.30–10.05 *Boček, Vít*  
The rise and expansion of Slavic in the light of Zimmer's model of Indo-Europeanization

10.05–10.40 *Novák, Lubomír*  
Relative Chronology of Slavic Language Contact

Coffee Break  
10.40–10.55

10.55–11.30 *Andersen, Henning*  
On the formation of the Common Slavic koiné

11.30–12.05 *Rejzek, Jiří*  
Linguistic comments to Curta's making of the Slavs

12.05–12.40 *Lindstedt, Jouko*  
How the early Slavs existed: A short essay on ontology and methodology

Lunch  
12.40–14.00

14.00–14.35 *Paliga, Sorin*  
Albanians, Romanians, Slavs – ethnicity, change and politics in the 2nd half of the first millennium C.E.

14.35–15.10 *Gvozdanović, Jadranka*  
Slavic ethnogenesis: continuity and contact

Coffee Break  
15.10–15.25

**Panel 2:**

15.25–16.00 *Gvozdanović, Jadranka – Blažek, Václav*  
Celto-Slavic Lexical Parallels

16.00–16.35 *Bichlmeier, Harald*  
New methods in etymologizing the oldest layers of river names in  
Central Europe – and some thoughts on the celticity of the place-name  
Kadaň/Kaaden

Coffee Break  
16.35–16.45

16.45–free Remarks and discussion to the Panel 1

Late Afternoon

Walking around Prague

Evening

19.00 Dinner

**FRIDAY, 20th October \*\***

**Panel 3:**

9.25–10.00 *Felix Biermann*  
Transformation vs. Migration – Archaeological Perspectives on the Early  
Slavic Settlement in Eastern German Territory

10.00–10.35 *Štefan, Ivo*  
Beginnings of Slavs in Central Europe as cultural change: Viewpoint of  
archaeology

Coffee Break  
10.35–10.50

10.50–11.25 *Klír, Tomáš*  
Language, Ethnicity and Material Culture: North-Eastern Bavaria in the  
Early Middle Ages

**Panel 4:**

11.25–12.00 *Danylenko, Andriy*

The Church “Roofing” and Finno-Ugric Supremacy: on the Grammaticalization of the Periphrastic Perfect in Slavic

12.00–12.35 *Vukovich, Alexandra*

Language, Elites, and Identity in Early Rus

Lunch

12.35–14.00

14.00–14.35 *Ivanova, Mirela*

From Byzantine Philosopher to Apostle of the Slavs: St Constantine Cyril in the 9–12th centuries Balkans

14.35–15.10 *Dynda, Jiří*

The religion with no voice: Literary construction of Slavic Paganism

Coffee Break

15.10–15.25

15.25–free Final remarks and discussion

**Main conference closes**

Late Afternoon

Walking around Prague

Evening

19.00 Dinner

**SATURDAY, 21th October**

All-day

9.30

**Excursion**

19.00

Dinner

**SUNDAY, 22th October**

**End of conference and departure**

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**Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> October**

The main building of the Faculty of Arts,  
Charles University, room no. 18,  
Jana Palacha Square 2, Prague 1

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**Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> October**

Sweerts-Špork's Palace, Faculty of Arts,  
Charles University, Attic (room no. 303),  
Hybernská 3, Prague 1

**Contact person:**

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