

teaching students of sociology at the Faculty of Social Sciences. He is a very popular teacher. Students are perhaps capable of recognising more quickly than others what kind of person is standing before them and they appreciate the personality of the teacher as well as the quality of the lectures themselves. We, the colleagues of Michal Illner who have had a chance to work with him for a longer period of time, can confirm the students' observations. We wish Michal Illner much professional and personal success in the years to come. We hope that we will have many opportunities to continue to meet with him as scientist, teacher or simply a human being. He is the sort of true gentleman that is quite rare nowadays.

Tomáš Kostecký

Czech-Slovak Sociology Days in Prague

Czech-Slovak Sociology Days was a three-day conference held in Prague on May 10–12 at the Vila Lanna and at the Library of Sociology of the Institute of Sociology AS CR. The organisers of the conference were the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, the Institute for Sociology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and the Masaryk Society of Czech Sociology. The aim of the conference was to contribute to strengthening Czech-Slovak co-operation in the social sciences. Several meetings ran simultaneously at the conference, including a meeting of sociological societies from both countries, a meeting of representatives from academic journals published in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia and a meeting at which scientific publications published by the research institutes and other materials were presented to participants. The event provided ample space for closer discussions between institutions from the two countries. The programme of the conference was structured as outlined below:

Thematic Blocks:

- Social Structure (chaired by Milan Tuček, SOÚ AV ČR)
- Infrastructure of Research (chaired by Jindřich Krejčí, SOÚ AV ČR)
- Regions and Local Politics (chaired by Peter Gajdoš, SÚ SAV)
- Family and Gender (chaired by Alena Křížková, SOÚ AV ČR)
- Public Policy (chaired by Zuzana Kusá, SÚ SAV)
- Citizenship (chaired by Monika Čambáliková, SÚ SAV)
- Which Methodology in Contemporary Sociology? (chaired by Hynek Jeřábek, FSV UK)
- Public Opinion Research (chaired by Adéla Seidlová, SOÚ AV ČR)
- Programme for the Future (chaired by Michal Illner, SOÚ AV ČR)

Other Items on the Programme Agenda:

- A meeting of the Masaryk Society of Czech Sociology and other sociological societies (chaired by Jiří Buriánek, FF UK)
- A meeting of doctoral students (chaired by Petra Rakušanová, SOÚ AV ČR)
- A meeting of departments (chaired by Jiří Buriánek, FF UK)
- A meeting of editorial personnel from the sociological journals (chaired by Marek Skovajsa, SOÚ AV ČR)

Abbreviations:

- FF UK – Faculty of Philosophy and Arts of Charles University, Prague
- FSV UK – Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University, Prague
- SOÚ AV ČR – Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
- SÚ SAV – Institute for Sociology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

The conference was met with considerable interest – the figure of 116 registered partici-

pants exceeded original expectations by the event organisers. In addition to researchers from the organising institutions others participating in the conference included researchers from the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava, the Faculty of Social Studies of Masaryk University in Brno, the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts and the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University in Prague, the Faculty of the Humanities of Trnava University and members of other research and teaching institutions from both countries. In attendance were representatives from the boards of each of the two academies of science. There were also a large number of doctoral students at the conference.

The individual thematic blocks were allotted a relatively short period of time, between 1.5 and 2 hours, which made it impossible to focus on any particular study in great depth. But it met the aim of overcoming the barriers to communication between researchers. Although Czech and Slovak sociologists often know one another personally, their knowledge of one another's projects and research results rarely goes beyond the more narrowly defined area of the research interests of the individual. Although there exists a long tradition of joint research between the two countries, a similar institutional organisational structure and a similarity of languages, after the division of Czechoslovakia the amount of co-operation between Czech and Slovak researchers seriously waned, along with any interest in such co-operation. While colleagues from Czech and Slovak research institutes began then to meet one another in international projects, purely bilateral co-operation fell by the wayside.

The continuing transformation of the scientific sphere in both countries and the shared issues of integration into the European research space have now evoked a new wave of demand for Czech-Slovak co-operation. Shared interests are surfacing with increasing frequency. On both sides of the bor-

der similar problems are being addressed in the area of the institutional and financial infrastructure of research. Moreover, mutual support between Czech and Slovak researchers in participating in international research projects within the programmes of the European Union may present them with a significant advantage. Last but not least, the unique relationship shared by the two countries and their societies and its transformation over time represents a rich source of important research subjects for comparative study.

In all aspects indicated the conference produced a good deal of more or less concrete outcome. Among the results, for example, are intentions to organise future joint conferences, with plans of this type emerging in the thematic block on Family and Gender and in the meeting of the sociological societies. Agreements were also reached on exchanges of information about research projects, on an exchange of publications and published work, on establishing co-operation between departments in organising study programmes, and on organising student and teacher exchanges between the countries and for the purposes of organising lectures by guests from abroad. There were discussions and a sharing of experiences in relation to specific international projects within EU programmes which involve Czech and Slovak participation and in relation to projects that form part of the ISSP international comparative study and the European Social Survey.

Representatives from the *Polish Sociological Review*, *Sociológia/the Slovak Sociological Review*, *Sociologický časopis/the Czech Sociological Review* and from the Institute of Political Science of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences discussed the possibility of setting up a new, Central European review of sociology.

The meeting of doctoral students from various universities and research institutions in the field of sociology and other social sciences (e.g. political science, demography

etc.) offered an interesting view of both the conditions surrounding doctoral study and the participation of doctoral students in teaching and research. Various possibilities for study abroad and for financing research projects were discussed. The main target of the students' criticism however was the lack of possibilities for financing doctoral research projects at some universities.

The contribution the conference made to the field stemmed from more than just the positive results from the discussions between institutions and researchers. The presentations were also intended for a broader audience and offered comprehensive information on the breadth and depth of the concepts of research in the individual fields in both countries, and on project research, publications and data files, which individual participants at the conference are able to access and use in their own research. A publication on the conference proceedings is being prepared. A detailed programme, further information on the course of the conference and materials gathered from the conference presentations in the individual thematic blocks are available in electronic format at the following web address: <http://www.soc.cas.cz/cssd>

Jindřich Krejčí

The History of Czech-Slovak Mutual Relations

Czech sociology and Slovak sociology have been influencing one another for more than a century and continue to do so today. However, to date this relationship has always been considerably asymmetric. For Slovak sociology, Czech sociological thought was very often not only a source of inspiration but also a direct influence, and it frequently served to mediate the introduction of theoretical initiatives from around the world. Conversely, the influence of Slovak sociology on the Czechs has been relatively minor.

Even the very beginnings of Slovak sociological thought were directly initiated from the Czech lands and were associated with the name of the classic Czech sociologist, T.G. Masaryk. It was Masaryk who at the turn of the 20th century was directly behind the emergence of *Hlas*, the journal around which gathered the young Slovak, liberally oriented intelligentsia. Masaryk inspired the *Hlas* movement's liberal and modernising project for Slovak society, the by-product of which was the promulgation of sociology. From this perspective, Masaryk's contribution to the institutionalisation of sociology in Slovakia seems to have been under-appreciated to date. The *Hlas* movement played a key role in the early stages of sociology in Slovakia, not only in terms of promoting the subject matter itself, but also in terms of people – as individual figures from the *Hlas* movement eventually established themselves as important Slovak sociologists. One such example in this connection is Anton Štefánek, the first Slovak professor of sociology.

It was through Masaryk that the classics of sociology were first introduced and spread in Slovakia and sociology became a science that was intended to aid and guide the process of Slovak national self-determination. Masaryk tried to give direction to this process with a project for 'Czech-Slovak reciprocity', and later also with the construction of a unified Czechoslovak nation, which was understood primarily in political-territorial terms. While in the end this attempt failed, and independent Czech and Slovak emancipation processes proved stronger, it did help bring about the emergence of Czechoslovakia as a unified state.

After the emergence of Czechoslovakia Anton Štefánek backed and asserted the introduction of sociology as a taught discipline at the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University in Bratislava. As at that time the national intelligentsia was not very large and there was no degree-holding sociologist in the country, up until 1938 the seminar in so-