

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>

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### 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-

ciology was taught by figures from the Czech branch of sociology. It was mainly thanks to Štefánek's personal intervention that first professor Josef Král came to Bratislava (he taught there in the years 1924–1932 and focused on social development and progress and introducing the works of the classic authors in sociology, Durkheim and Spencer). Král was later replaced at Comenius University by the empirically oriented Otakar Machotka.

Further promising co-operation between Czech and Slovak sociologists, which started up again after 1945, was forcibly interrupted in the Czech lands and Slovakia by the onset of the communist regime after 1948. A joint protest staged by figures in Czechoslovak sociology – I. A. Bláha, E. Chalupný and A. Štefánek – was of no help. Sociology was declared a 'bourgeois pseudo-science' and in both lands was completely abolished, or at best replaced by historical materialism.

The revival of sociology in the mid-1960s took place amidst close co-operation between Czech and Slovak sociologists. The most important sociological event to occur at that time – Machonin's research on social stratification, the results of which were published under the title 'Československá společnost' (Czechoslovak society) in 1969 in Bratislava – involved the participation of a joint Czech and Slovak research team. This research however was struck by the same fate in both lands; after 'normalisation' at the start of the 1970s the work was branded by the powers at that time as an expression of right-wing opportunism in Czechoslovak sociology, and both authors of the work were politically persecuted.

In the period of the 1970s and 1980s Czech and Slovak sociology evolved quite similarly – the main feature of both was the ideological constraints they were under. The consequences of normalisation had an impact on the level of sociological thought which in both lands had been developing so promisingly. Certain differences expressed themselves only in terms of the degree to

which prohibited sociologists were existentially persecuted – in Slovakia normalisation for various reasons took a somewhat milder course than in the Czech lands, where almost an entire generation of sociologists were banned from publishing and an almost exclusively rigid and orthodox Marxism took over. But in both the Czech lands and Slovakia sociology became isolated from developments in the world.

Following the democratisation of conditions after 1989, sociology in Czechoslovakia began to develop freely and renewed contacts with world sociology. After the emergence of independent Czech and Slovak states in 1993, however, the mutual contacts between Czech and Slovak sociology began to diminish. In the second half of the 1990s only a few joint bilateral projects were being conducted, scientific co-operation in both republics was oriented more towards the countries of Western Europe and at the research programmes of the European Union. Communication and co-operation between national sociologists in Central Europe has now received a boost from the German project GESIS, which provides information on the web ([www.gesis.org](http://www.gesis.org)) about research studies, and has issued a publication entitled 'Three Social Science Disciplines in Central and Eastern Europe. Handbook on Economic, Political Science and Sociology (1989–2001)'.

An attempt at breaking down the growing bilateral isolation came with the first Slovak-Czech Sociology Days, which were held 15–16 April 1999 in Bratislava. The organisers of this meeting were the Slovak Sociological Society at SAV and the Masaryk Society of Czech Sociology, and considerable help was also provided by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung foundation in Bratislava. The event was aimed primarily at the issues of changes stemming from the transformation in the Czech lands and Slovakia. More than fifty Czech and Slovak sociologists took part in this conference and presented information on their research and on opportunities for further co-operation. At the conclusion of the