



Faculty
of Arts

Palacký University
Olomouc

Thursday, May 22:
*open round-table discussion
room 2.12*

*Department of Czech Studies
Křížkovského 10, Olomouc.*

**Friday, May 23: session closed to
public**

The project

The general idea of the project is not to study political books but to investigate how books – a. e. the physical thing itself, with its various forms and properties – carry, effect and mediate or bring about political and ideological meanings, how they do politics, how they intersect and interact with ideological values and the political aspects of culture and society. The condition of such an idea is the acknowledgement of materiality, and the conviction that it's not only us who do things with things, but that things actually do things with us too – they have effects on us and there is a constant interaction going on between us and the material world.

**Palacký University Olomouc
22–23 March 2018**

*Department of Czech Studies
Křížkovského 10, Olomouc
Room 2.12, 5 p.m.*

What do books do?

*Politics and the materiality
of communication*

Programme for Thursday:

Kristina Lundblad (University of Lund)

Keynote: "Books and Politics"

17.00

Books not only carry texts, they also produce meaning by virtue of their forms and materiality. The Books & Politics project examines how books do politics, how they intersect and interact with ideological values and the political aspects of culture and society.

Henrik Horstbøll (University of Lund)

"The Politics of the Format of Books. The Formation of Popular Print Culture in Denmark."

17.45

To take the format of books as a point of departure means to ask questions to the materiality of the book before asking questions concerning the political content of the text. The format of the book is not neutral to the message of the book. Questions of the format of books combines print and politics.

Arina Stoenescu (University of Lund)

"The Technical Editor and the Profession's Role in the Politics of Books"

18.00

The paper presents the case study of the technical editor profession, and to which extent the work of the technical editor contributed to the politics of books.

Birgitte Beck Pristed (Aarhus University)

"The Material Politics of Soviet Wall Newspapers"

18.15

The paper presents the material forms and transformations of Soviet wall newspapers (stengazety), situated at the intersection of Communist print culture, poster art and performance, to discuss their both affirmative and subversive political effects on stengazeta readers and writers.

Sophie Noël (Sorbonne Paris Cité Université)

"Independent Bookshops in France"

18.30

The way books are displayed in bookshops is never neutral and says a great deal about our relationship with physical books in an increasingly digital society. Independent bookshops in France represent a good terrain of observation as they tend to stage books in specific ways and materialize a certain vision of print culture.

Vladimír P. Polách (Filozofická fakulta Univerzity Palackého)

"What Heart Unites, the Sea Cannot Separate"

18.45

The project explores books as expressions of ethnicity, education, entertainment and politics while focusing on the symbolic exchange of books between the post-war Czechoslovakia and Czech émigré communities in USA.

Jiřina Šmejkalová (Filozofická fakulta Univerzity Palackého) & Roar Lishaugen (University of Oslo)

"Counter-culture, Escapism or the Economy of Shortage? Home Libraries in Pre-1989 Czechoslovakia"

19.00

Often built and expanded over generations, home libraries are examined as multileveled medium of cultural and intellectual continuity with the pre-totalitarian past, appropriated (Chartier) as a depository of social and cultural capital, as an escapist pathway from the public everyday life, and as a resource for circulating texts outside the state-controlled book communication circuit.

the timeline is subject to change...