

## ARTICLES

**History of Polish Studies at Czech Universities  
(Current State of Research)<sup>1</sup>**

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*The current state of research regarding the history of the Polish studies at Czech universities is mainly reflected in collective monographs, published to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their founding. The conducted analyses revealed the current state of the Czech Polish studies, traditionally developing in academic centres in Prague, Brno, Olomouc and Ostrava, and of specific determinants that the entire foreign Polish studies are subject to. Debate on further development of Czech interdisciplinary studies of Poland was held also within the framework of the 1<sup>st</sup> Congress of the Czech Polish Studies. The authors believe that further research should pay more attention to the genesis of Czech institutionalized Polish studies, especially on the period when their precursors were active. It is also necessary to put the research in the context of the interest in the language, literature, history and culture of the Slavs, which started to emerge in the period of the Czech National Revival.*

Key words: Czech Polish studies; history of Polish studies; Charles University; Masaryk University

Polish studies in Czech lands have been traditionally on a very good level, suffice to mention such names as e.g. professor Karel Krejčí or associate professor

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<sup>1</sup> The paper herein was prepared as part of the grant funded project: *Česká univerzitní polonistika do roku 1939 (od polonofilství k systematickému bádání o dějinách polského jazyka a literatury) / Czech University Polish Studies before 1939 (from polonophilia to systematic research on the history of Polish language and literature)*, Grantová agentura České republiky / The Czech Science Foundation, No. 19-09017S.

Václav Žáček. The current state of science bows generously to this tradition and does not reflect on the needs of comprehensive cooperation of both countries and of learning about each other's culture.<sup>2</sup>

Young students of Polish studies need to replace two generations of specialists in the field – the pre-war generation with very much missed Charles University professors, Marian Szyjkowski and Karel Krejčí, and the post-war generation with researchers respectfully following in their footsteps. The young should continue and strengthen cooperation with Polish centres, they must keep up with the development of the Czech Polish studies, while not losing sight of the need to cooperate with historians, as well as art and culture historians.<sup>3</sup>

The quotes mentioned in the very beginning refer to the early 1990s and the situation that the Czech Polish studies found itself in. After years of stagnation and various ideologically motivated restrictions stemming from the so called post 1968 Czechoslovak normalization, representatives of the older generation of scholars from Polish studies who managed to protect their field in difficult times, together with young academics were now able to begin stabilizing and modernizing their area of expertise. Together with the ongoing process of reconstructing the field, a need for a broader debate on the scope, objectives and prospects of Polish studies and studies of Poland arose.<sup>4</sup>

The 90th anniversary of opening the Czech, or rather the Czechoslovak Polish studies<sup>5</sup> marked in 2013 seemed like a fit occasion and an impulse to start an in-

<sup>2</sup> Maur, E. (2009). Činnost stálé společné česko-polské komise humanitních věd v letech 1993–2005. In M. Borák, R. Gładkiewicz (Eds.), *Česká polonistika a polská bohemistika na přelomu století*. Praha: Ministerstvo školství, mládeže a tělovýchovy ČR, p. 19.

<sup>3</sup> Damborský, J. (2009). Język i literatura. In M. Borák, R. Gładkiewicz (Eds.), *Op. cit.*, pp. 208–209.

<sup>4</sup> Fragments of the paper presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Polonists in Katowice in 2016 were used in this text. Cf. Madecki, R. – Baron, R. (2018). Czeskie studia polonistyczne w kontekście porównawczym. In J. Tambor, A. Achteлик, K. Graboń (Eds.), *W kręgu (głotto)dydaktyki*. Katowice: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego, pp. 623–643.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. Krejčí, K. (1953). Tricetiletí polonistických studií na Karlově universitě. *Slovanský přehled* 39, 9, pp. 285–286; Řeháček, L. (1964). Přehled dějin české polonistiky na Karlově universitě v Praze. *Acta Universitatis Carolinae. Historia Universitatis Carolinae Pragensis* 5, 1–2, pp. 233–249; Krejčí, K. (1977). Založení stolice polského jazyka a literatury na Karlově univerzitě v Praze. In T. Bešta (Ed.), *Padesát let polonistiky na Univerzitě Karlově v Praze*. Praha: Univerzita Karlova, pp. 18–33; Kardyni-Pelikánová, K. (1996). Polonistika česká w latach 1945–1995. *Pamiętnik Literacki* (ZPPnO Londyn) XXI, pp. 37–60; Eadem. (2003). W osiemdziesiątolecie utworzenia Katedry Języka i Literatury Polskiej w Pradze. Zarys dziejów czeskiej polonistyki literackiej. *Slavia* 72, 4, pp. 421–444; Eadem (2003). *Uwiedzeni przez polską literaturę. Czeska polonistika literacka*. Warszawa: Instytut Badań Literackich PAN; Eadem. (2004). Rycerze hermeneutyki i „ciemni wykładowcy“ (Czeska polonistika literacka: kierunki rozwoju, metodologie, gatunki historycznoliterackie ujęć literatury polskiej. In L. Štěpán (Ed.), *80 let české polonistiky*. Brno: Masarykova univerzita, pp. 13–36.

depth (interdisciplinary) discussion. Its leading theme was the state of the Polish studies research in the Czech academic environment to date. The main goal of all undertakings in this area was an in-depth reflection on the work of the predecessors (both on the individual and global level), diagnosis of the current condition of the given academic field and studies, as well as an attempt to present in detail key research postulates from the current perspective, including multiple barriers and impediments of institutional, personal and financial nature. A (generally scarce) group of Czech humanities representatives pursuing mainly such fields of studies as the Polish language, literature, history and culture decided to focus on these and many other issues.<sup>6</sup>

One should note that the mentioned anniversary refers to the birth of three university units for Polish studies in the then Czechoslovakia. In 1923 the Department of the Polish Language and Literature opened at Charles University in Prague. It is worth mentioning that it was the first independent department of Polish studies outside of Poland. It was headed by a Polish literary scholar from the Jagiellonian University in Cracow (a Lvivian by birth), professor Marian Szyjkowski (who led the department from 1923 to 1939 and from 1945 to 1952), an expert in Western European Pre-Romanticism and in the history of the Polish theatre.<sup>7</sup> In the same academic year Polish language courses opened at Masaryk University in Brno and Comenius University in Bratislava (in both cases they were newly established universities which opened in 1919), which later transformed into full-fledged departments. The first Polish language teacher in the unofficial Moravian capital city was a native Czech, a Moravian to be precise, from the Moravian-Slovak borderland, a secondary school teacher in Ostrava and Brno, Dr. Maxmilán Kolaja (he performed his teaching duties from 1923 to 1939 and from 1945 to 1960) who soon became known also as a keen polonophile, especially in his role as the first and longstanding president of the Czechoslovak-Polish Club in Brno.<sup>8</sup> The first teacher of Polish in Slovakia at the time was Dr. Jerzy

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<sup>6</sup> Cf. Kardyni-Pelikánová, K. (2015). Polonistyczna jesień 2013 r. w Pradze. *Pamiętnik Literacki (ZPPnO)* XLIX, pp. 39–50.

<sup>7</sup> Benešová, M. – Rusin Dybalska, R. – Zakopalová, L. (2013). *90 let pražské polonistiky – dějiny a současnost / 90 lat praskiej polonistyki – historia i współczesność*. Praha: Univerzita Karlova; Baron, R. (2014). Profesor Marian Szyjkowski oczami historyka. Z rozważań nad przyszlą biografią twórcy czeskiej polonistyki uniwersyteckiej. In M. Benešová, R. Rusin Dybalska, L. Zakopalová et al. *Proměny polonistiky. Tradice a výzvy polonistických studií*. Praha: Univerzita Karlova, pp. 20–26.

<sup>8</sup> Madecki, R. (2009). Maxmilán Kolaja – zakladatel brněnské polonistiky (K 85. výročí otevření lektorátu polštiny v Brně). In M. Pančíková (Ed.), *85. výročí polonistiky na Univerzite Komenského v Bratislave*, Bratislava: Stimul, pp. 197–204; Idem. (2008). *Polský jazyk v Brně (průkopníci a pokračovatelé)*. In R. Madecki, L. Štěpán, *Poláci v Brně / Polacy w Brnie / a na jižní Moravě*. Brno: Středoevropské centrum slovanských studií, SvN Regiony, pp. 51–62; Štěpán, L. (2008). *Literárněvědná polonistika v Brně (několik poznámek k historii*

Pogonowski from the Jagiellonian University in Cracow (1924–1926), who returned to Poland after a few semesters. After a two-year break Dr. Władysław Bobek (1928–1939) took over; a Jagiellonian University graduate who also had a short teaching episode in a secondary school in Katowice and who went on to pursue his broad academic, research and popularizing activities (in 1934 he earned his postdoctoral title at the Jagiellonian University).<sup>9</sup>

In order to maintain certain balance and narrative structure one must not forget to mention by name a number of Polish language teachers at the Czech University of Charles Ferdinand and the Czech Charles University in Prague in the interwar period.<sup>10</sup> In the times of the Austria-Hungary it was Adolf Černý (1901–1920), a renowned Czech polonophile, a Slavonic scholar, the founder and the editor of the *Slovanský přehled* review, a diplomat, a translator and a poet (pseudonym Jan Rokyta), and after Czechoslovakia was formed, it was Miroslav Zelenka (1923–1933), a Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs employee and a scholar studying Czech and Polish cultural relations, born in Nieznanowice (near Bochnia) in the then Galicia, and a Lviv born specialist in Polish studies, Iza Horowitz, married name Šaunová (1930–1960).<sup>11</sup> Apart from the above mentioned, the academics who contributed profoundly to the development of Czech institutional Polish studies in the early days were especially Jiří Horák (Brno, later Prague), Frank Wollman (Bratislava, later Brno), and – last but not least – the student and the successor of Szykowski, namely Karel Krejčí (Prague).<sup>12</sup>

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a současnosti). In *ibidem*, pp. 43–50; Baron, R. (2013). Maxmilián Kolaja i „jeho“ klub. In *idem*, *Ambasadorowie wzajemnego zrozumienia. Niedocenieni twórcy pomostów między polską i czeską kulturą (XIX–XXI w.)*, Toruń: Adam Marszałek, pp. 119–152.

<sup>9</sup> Pančíková, M. (Ed.). (2009). *85. výročí polonistiky na Univerzitě Komenského v Bratislave*. Bratislava: Stimul 2009; Eadem. (2016). *Polonistika w Bratisławie obchodzi 90 lat!* Retrieved December 28, 2016, from <http://www.bristol.us.edu.pl/nawosci.php?a=37>; Ivaničková, H. (1974). *Polonistika na Uniwersytecie Komeňského w Bratisławie (Słowacja)*. *Przeszłość – Teraźniejszość – Perspektywy*. *Biuletyn Polonistyczny* 17, pp. 53, 57–69.

<sup>10</sup> Until the end of the world war two a parallel German Charles University coexisted in Prague, where Polish language was also taught. Cf. Chvíla, J. (2014). *Vývoj a osobnosti pražské univerzitní polonistiky do roku 1939 / Development and Personalities of Polish Philology Department at Prague's University till Year 1939*, Univerzita Karlova, Praha (an unpublished BA thesis written under the supervision of Petr Kaleta, an associate professor). In the studies of the history of (Prague) German Polish studies one should also include such names as Franz Spina, Gerhard Gesemann, Josef Pfitzner and Edmund Schneeweis.

<sup>11</sup> Kudělka, M. – Šimeček, Z. et al. (1972). *Československé práce o jazyce, dějinách a kultuře slovanských národů od r. 1760*. *Biograficko-bibliografický slovník*. Praha: Státní pedagogické nakladatelství, pp. 75–77, 450, 522–523.

<sup>12</sup> Cf. Kardyni-Pelikánová, K. (2005). Horák Jiří. In J. Starnawski, *Słownik badaczy literatury polskiej*, t. VII, Łódź: Uniwersytet Łódzki, pp. 69–70; Eadem. (2007). *W poszukiwaniu istoty (eidos) Słowiańszczyzny. Literatura polska w badaniach Franka Wollmana*. In eadem, *Pokłosie komparatysty*, Brno: Masarykova univerzita, pp. 206–226; Janaszek-Ivaničková, H.

The discussion a few years back, inspired by the approaching next anniversary of the Czech Polish studies, resulted in a number of workshops, conferences and publications on history of individual Czech centres of Polish studies, such as Prague, Brno, Olomouc or Ostrava, sometimes also with an overview of the accomplishments and challenges in the field as a distinctive whole.<sup>13</sup>

At the same time, ideas regarding the qualities, and even the need to undertake activities as part of foreign Polish studies aimed at integrating various aspects of the broadly defined Polish studies came to the fore. In other words, it was another way of addressing current challenges of modern humanities in the area of Poland-related studies, such as educating students of Polish studies departments in the Czech Republic, also in the comparative format, especially with reference to the Central Eastern Europe. One should also bear in mind that already 20 years had passed since the capital modernization of the Czech school of Polish research and studies after political changes in the early 1990s. An interdisciplinary international research project was selected as the format to fulfil above defined tasks, and it eventually earned a sufficiently high place and approval in two stages (in 2013 and 2014) to qualify for funding in the grant competition of the Czech–Polish Forum operating under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. The representatives of the Prague Polish studies applied in the same grant competition with Centre for Polish Language and Culture in the World (The Jagiellonian University, Cracow) and the Polish Institute in Prague as main partners. Thus, the ministerial programme for supporting Czech–Polish relations on the level of grassroots cultural, academic, educational etc. initiatives contributed also in a difficult to overestimate way to the proper celebration of the Czech Polish studies anniversary, which is perceived here as an important link in Czech and Polish relations, but most of all a way to strengthen mutual understanding, literally and metaphorically.<sup>14</sup>

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(1987). Karel Krejčí, czyli o komparatystycznym budowaniu mostów zrozumienia i przyjaźni. In eadem, *Misjonarze i konsumenci. Literatura i wartości w krajach słowiańskich*, Katowice: Śląsk, pp. 18–35; Krystyna Kardyni-Pelikánová, K. (2006). O warsztacie naukowym Karola Krejčeho (1904–1979) na przykładzie literatury polskiej. In I. Pospíšil, M. Zelenka (Eds.), *Karel Krejčí a evropské myšlení*, Brno: Slavistická společnost Franka Wollmana, pp. 21–37; Matějková, V. (2012). *Komparativní přístupy Karla Krejčího v jeho pojetí české a polské literatury*, Univerzita Karlova, Praha (an unpublished Ph.D. thesis).

<sup>13</sup> Apart from publications referred to in the footnotes above, the following collective monographs and synthetic overviews should be mentioned: Pospíšil, I. – Madecki, R. et al. (2012). *Česká polonistika: nové výzvy, nová témata*. Brno: Masarykova univerzita; Sobotková, M. – Szulz, I. – Zakrzewska, M. – Starzyńska, A. – Kvapilíková, K. – Dobrotová, I. – Jeništa, J. (2014). *Polonistika v Olomouci v minulosti a dnes / Polonistyka w Olomuńcu dawniej i dziś*. Olomouc: Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci; Benešová, M. – Rusin Dybalska, R. – Zakopalová, L. et al. (2014). *Proměny polonistiky. Tradice a výzvy polonistických studií*. Praha: Univerzita Karlova.

<sup>14</sup> Cf. Benešová, M. – Rusin Dybalska, R. – Zakopalová, L. (2013). *Op. cit.*, pp. 10, 85.

The first of the projects in question, *90 let pražské polonistiky [English: 90 Years of Polish Studies in Prague]*<sup>15</sup> by Michala Benešová, Renata Rusin Dybalska and Lucie Zakopalová, was prepared by The Department of Central European Studies, Charles University in Prague, where currently Polish studies operate. It represented a strictly linguistic approach, with the main objective to celebrate this respectable round anniversary of the department, which as a sort of natural consequence of the already developing Poland-related research in Prague, became also an institutional germ of the Polish language studies in the Czech Republic. Since the first head of the department was professor Marian Szyjkowski, the Jagiellonian University became the natural Polish partner for the presented project, and more specifically, its Centre for Polish Language and Culture in the World, with which the Prague school of Polish studies has been cooperating throughout its entire course of existence on different levels.<sup>16</sup> The second member of the project executive team was the Polish Institute in Prague which as a well proven partner of the Prague Polish studies, and which contributed not only with its experience in organizing cultural events, but also provided its own space for the purposes of the project.

The first anniversary event was the bilingual edition of the Czech–Polish monograph by Michala Benešová, Renata Rusin Dybalska and Lucie Zakopalová in September 2013 published by the Karolinum Press called *90 let pražské polonistiky – dějiny a současnost / 90 lat praskiej polonistyki – historia i współczesność [English: 90 Years of Polish Studies in Prague – Now and Then]*.<sup>17</sup> It is not the first book to be published to celebrate the anniversary of the Polish studies in Prague.<sup>18</sup> The earlier publications, however, accompanied usually anniversary conferences of the national scope, so they were rather post-conference journals in their nature. The presented monograph comprised of three parts. The first part, *Krátká historie pražské polonistiky [English: A Short Story of Polish Studies in Prague]*, presents the history of the Prague Polish studies

<sup>15</sup> Projekt *90 Years of Polish Studies in Prague* – decision No. 01\_2013\_czpl\_FFUK, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Czech-Polish Forum.

<sup>16</sup> This includes both academic cooperation that resulted in Polish language course books for Czechs (Pösingerová, K. – Seretny, A. (1992). *Czy Czechów jest trzech?* Kraków: Uniwersytet Jagielloński; Pösingerová, K. – Seretny, A. (1997). *Coraz bliżej Polski*. Praha: Karolinum.), or research stays of academic workers from both universities and exchange visits of language teachers.

<sup>17</sup> Benešová, M. – Rusin Dybalska, R. – Zakopalová, L. (2013). *90 let pražské polonistiky – dějiny a současnost / 90 lat praskiej polonistyki – historia i współczesność*. Praha: Univerzita Karlova, Praha 2013 (177 pp.).

<sup>18</sup> See also: Bešta, T. (Ed.). (1977). *Padesát let polonistiky na Univerzitě Karlově v Praze*. Praha: Univerzita Karlova; Dybalska, R. – Pająk, A. (Eds.). (2005). *Kolokvium k 80. výročí polonistiky na Univerzitě Karlově v Praze*. Praha: Univerzita Karlova.

from the moment it was established up till contemporary times. This long period was divided into three phases with significant historical events serving as milestones having direct impact also on the history of the described field. The beginning – *První samostatné kroky (1923–1945)* [English: *First Independent Steps*] by M. Benešová, presents mainly the circumstances leading to the establishment of the first Polish Language and Literature Department in the Czech Republic and the activities of the already mentioned first head of the department, also the most important figure in the pre-war phase in its history, namely Marian Szykowski. The second part – *Ve stínu totality (1945–1989)* [English: *In the Totalitarian Shadow (1945–1989)*], prepared by L. Zakopalova, describes the long and challenging period of the totalitarian rule and the impact the communist ideology and Marxist methodology had on the development of the field in question. It meant subjecting both the research and teaching activities to the strict political control. The third chapter by R. Rusin Dybalska called *Nové cesty (1989–2013)* [English: *New Ways (1989–2013)*] is dedicated to the evolution of Polish studies in Prague post 1989, when significant directions of changes were defined by the new approach to Slavonic studies and the move from the purely linguistic orientation to the so called regional studies.

The second part of the monograph presented great academic personalities from the field of Polish studies. It introduces profiles of the most distinguished academic teachers who influenced the shape and the development of the field and whose academic track record has been completed, namely Marian Szykowski, Karel Krejčí, Iza Šaunová, Otakar Bartoš, Jan Petr, Theodor Bešta and Luboš Řeháček. Apart from short biographies a description of their academic path together with selected bibliography items was included.

The final part presents interviews with three remarkable representatives of the first post-war generation of graduates of Polish Studies in Prague: Vlasta Dvořáčková, Helena Stachová and Josef Vlášek. Their memories help to see the presented facts from a different perspective, thus becoming a valuable supplement thereto. The publication finishes with a list of professors and language teachers at centre of Polish studies in Prague, together with an index of defended academic papers, an overview of training materials and a bibliography of papers on the history of the department.

The above-mentioned monograph is the first history of a foreign Polish studies in the world. Its importance is demonstrated e.g. by the fact that it was included on the list of the most valuable 2013 academic publications of Charles University in Prague. The real highlight of the described project and of the whole 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Prague Polish studies celebrations was the international conference named *Proměny polonistiky. Tradice a výzvy polonistických studií* [English: *Changing Face of Polish Studies. Tradition and Challenges*], held in Prague on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2013. The event was held under the aegis of Her

Excellency Grażyna Bernatowicz, Madam Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Prague, and of Michal Stehlík, Ph.D., associate professor and the dean of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague. The conference opened with a plenary session at the Polish Embassy in Prague with lectures by prof. Jacek Baluch (Jagiellonian University, Cracow), prof. Władysław Miodunka (Jagiellonian University, Cracow), prof. Jiří Marvan (University of Jan Evangelista in Ústí nad Labem) and by prof. Bogdan Walczak (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań). The conference was attended by almost 50 speakers from Poland, Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary and Germany, including also representatives of all Czech departments of Polish studies. They were welcomed not only in the halls of the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University in Prague, but also by the Polish Institute and the Lusatian Seminary.

The output from the numerous meetings between Czech and foreign philologists is the collective monograph *Proměny polonistiky. Tradice a výzvy polonistických studií* [English: *Changing Face of Polish Studies. Tradition and Challenges*] eds. Michala Benešová, Renata Rusin Dybalska and Lucie Zakopalová, published in 2014 by Karolinum Press.<sup>19</sup> Apart from the presentation of latest achievements of literary and linguistic research as part of the Polish studies, the monograph attempts to find the answer to a number of questions: *How had the Czech school of Polish studies developed? How the individual schools of Polish studies, not only the Czech ones, but also those in other countries, differ? What do foreign schools of Polish studies have to offer each other? What should be the role of Polish academic centres in this process?*

The publication begins with a very special paper, namely *První přednáška o polské literatuře* [English: *First Lecture on Polish Literature*] by a recently departed professor Jacek Baluch. The author of the paper held the position of the Polish Ambassador in Prague from 1990 to 1995 and is remembered in the history of Polish studies in Prague also as their academic teacher. And it is the latter role that the paper in question presents, discussing in an unconventional way not only the most important issues in the history of Polish literature, but also placing those issues against the history of Czech literature and Czech realities.

All other papers in the monograph were divided into five thematic sections. The main characters of the first section called *Tradice a perspektivy pražské polonistiky* [English: *Traditions and Perspectives of the Polish Studies in Prague*] are outstanding personalities of the Prague Polish studies: Marian Szykowski, Karel Krejčí, Otakar Bartoš, Jan Petr, presented not only through the lens of their achievements. Individual papers were penned by: R. Baron, M. Benešová,

<sup>19</sup> Benešová, M. – Rusin Dybalska, R. – Zakopalová, L. (Eds.). (2014). *Proměny polonistiky. Tradice a výzvy polonistických studií*. Praha: Univerzita Karlova (300 pp.).

M. Sládek, L. Zakopalová, P. Kaleta. The second section, *Současné směry literárněvědné polonistiky* [English: *Current Trends in the Polish Literary Studies*] is not only a summarizing overview of the Polish literary studies so far, but it also shows the immense scope of inspiration that this literature provided to Czech authors. The section included papers by K. Kardyni-Pelikánová, J. Goszczyńska, B. Bakula, V. Novotný, P. Poslední, R. Putzlacher-Buchtová, A. Paják and Z. Tarajlo-Lipowska.

The next section, the most elaborate one, called *Současné směry jazykovědné polonistiky* [English: *Current Trends in Polish Linguistic Studies*] presents the wealth and diversity of current studies by linguists not only in the Czech Republic. Here you can find e.g. papers on the issues connected with gender, forms of numerals, lexical regionalisms, proper names, verbal inflection, but also on religious discourse, translation or the media representations of the world. In line with the name of the conference there are also papers showing a historical perspective and suggested new research directions. The above topics were discussed by B. Walczak, M. Balowski, E. Wolnicz-Pawłowska, J. Marvan, A. Piotrowska-Wojaczyk, J. Migdał, J. Muryc, D. Rytel-Schwarz, I. Dobrotová, E. Kaczmarska, W. Hofmański, W. T. Stefańczyk, M. Vojteková, M. Wągiel.

The fourth section, *Metodika výuky polštiny jako cizího jazyka včera a dnes* [English: *Methodology of Teaching Polish as a Foreign Language Then and Now*], brings three views on the issue in question. The first one is a historical review of facts connected with teaching Polish as a foreign language in Poland from 1952 to 2012 (by W. Miodunka). The next two (R. Rusin Dybalska, K. Krawczyk) cover the process from the perspective of the theory of practice connected directly with Czech students. The last part of the monograph, *Tradice a perspektivy polonistiky v prostoru střední Evropy* [English: *Tradition and Prospects of Polish Studies in the Context of Central Europe*], discusses the history, the present and the prospects of three Polish studies centres, Brno (Czechia; by R. Madecki), Prešov (Slovakia; by P. Káša) and Budapest (Hungary; by D. Várnai).

Both publications referred to above were addressed to Polish studies academics, or in a broader sense, to Slavonic scholars, as well as to everyone interested in the topic, and they play two major functions. On one hand, they present another phase of research regarding the history of the Czech Polish studies, not only in Prague, while on the other hand, they define tasks that the Czech and other centres of Polish studies abroad are faced with.

The *Česká polonistická studia v evropském kontextu* [English: *Czech Polish Studies in the European Context*] project developed by Roman Baron, Roman Madecki and Jan Malicki, defined its top priority as interdisciplinary and international cooperation involving also all Czech centres of Polish studies. Naturally both these approaches have their advantages and disadvantages, but, more importantly, they complement each other. Going slightly ahead of the line of

narration, let us note here that all of the above-mentioned academics were well aware of this fact from the very start of preparations for the anniversary celebrations. In this context, the joint introduction of previously published collective monographs followed by a debate on the conditions of the Czech Polish studies had a very practical and symbolic meaning. As often before, also this time the project could rely on the support of the Polish Embassy in the Czech Republic who e.g. welcomed the organizers in the historic Ballroom of the Fürstenberg Palace in Mala Strana. The presentation of newly published Czech monographs on Polish studies during a special ceremony was inaugurated by the Polish Ambassador in Prague, Madam Grażyna Bernatowicz (April 8, 2015).<sup>20</sup>

Before the presentation of publications themselves, two closely related projects were prepared, submitted and realized, namely: *Česká polonistická studia v evropském kontextu I–II* [English: *Czech Polish Studies in the European Context I–II*]. Both projects were the brainchild of three (the same) academic research centres from Czechia and Poland, i.e.: The Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences (Historický ústav Akademie věd České republiky), Department of Slavonic Studies of Masaryk University (Ústav slavistiky Filozofické fakulty Masarykovy univerzity) and the Centre for East European Studies of Warsaw University (Studium Europy Wschodniej Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego). The cooperation of these institutions began already in 2012, while in the following year, as part of the first joint project, an international interdisciplinary conference was organised (in the magnitude of a congress, as all attendees, rapporteurs and reviewers agreed) dealing with Czech studies of Poland in the European context (Prague, September 11–12, 2013). It was held under the aegis of: the Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland, professor Barbara Kudrycka, Ambassador of Poland in Prague, professor Grażyna Bernatowicz, the president of the Czech Academy of Sciences, professor Jiří Drahoš, the Chancellor of the Masaryk University in Brno, Mikuláš Bek, associate professor, and the Chancellor of the Warsaw University, professor Marcin Pałys.

The conference was attended by more than 120 academics from the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and the United States. The plenary sessions were held in the Polish Embassy and were opened by Madam Ambassador, Grażyna Bernatowicz, followed by representatives of the organizers, namely the head of the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, prof. Eva Semotanová and the head of the Centre for East European Studies of Warsaw University, Jan Malicki Ph.D., and finally by the main

<sup>20</sup> Baron, R. – Madecki, R. (2016). Slavnostní prezentace kolektivních monografií zaměřených na česká bádání o Polsku. *Bulletin Historického ústavu AV ČR XXVII*, pp. 64–66.

originators, Roman Baron, Ph.D. and Roman Madecki Ph.D. The plenary session included presentations of key papers by a renowned Czech historian, prof. Jaroslav Pánek, leading representative of the Czech Polish studies, prof. Krystyna Kardyni-Pelikánová, a renowned and valued Polish specialist in Czech studies, prof. Jacek Baluch and a representative of the American political science department with the focus on the Central Eastern Europe, prof. Jane Leftwich Curry. The conference was accompanied by a panel discussion on political transformation in Central Eastern Europe attended by political scientists, prof. Jane L. Curry (Santa Clara) and associate professor Břetislav Dančák (Brno), a historian, prof. Mikołaj Iwanow (Opole), a cultural academic, prof. Csaba Kiss and a lawyer (former Constitutional Tribunal judge), prof. Mirosław Wyrzykowski (Warsaw). The 8th Convention of the Graduates and Teachers of the Eastern Summer School of Warsaw University Club was a part and parcel of the conference. Two-day sessions in different sections were divided according to the academic field: a philology section (Polish Institute), a history section (Vila Lanna), a political science section (Lužický seminář).<sup>21</sup>

Positive results of the above mentioned cooperation laid ground for the idea to publish a two-volume collective monograph that would discuss the current state and the future of the Czech Polish studies from the interdisciplinary perspective in the first volume, while the second would be dedicated to the international context of the said studies.<sup>22</sup>

The first volume was published in 2014 and is mostly interdisciplinary in its nature. It is a result of the cooperation of Czech philologists, historians, political scientists and lawyers. All authors, despite the fact that they pursue different academic fields, in their academic research share the focus on Poland and Czech and Polish relations in a broader sense. The authors preparing the publication on one hand drew from the rich tradition of the Czech Polish studies research of a linguistic and historical nature, while on the other they attempted to expand the scope of the research with political science and legal aspects. Thus, Polish studies

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<sup>21</sup> Cf. Kardyni-Pelikánová, K. (2013). Polonoznawczy Kongres Interdyscyplinarny w Pradze. *Historia Slavorum Occidentis* 2013, 1 (4), pp. 213–217; Baron, R. – Madecki, R. (2014). Czeskie badania nad Polską w kontekście europejskim. *Prace Historyczne* 2014, 141 (1), pp. 187–193; Stec, A. (2014). Mezinárodní vědecká konference Česká polonistická studia v evropském kontextu. *Slovanský přehled* 100, 1, pp. 230–233; Baron, R. – Madecki, R. (2014). *Česká polonistická studia v evropském kontextu. Bulletin Historického ústavu AV ČR XXV*, pp. 27–30.

<sup>22</sup> Baron, R. – Madecki, R. et al. (2014). *Česká polonistická studia: tradice a současnost (filologie – historie – politologie – právo)*. Praha: Historický ústav (619 pp.); Baron, R. – Madecki, R. – Malicki, J. et al. (2016). *Czeskie badania nad Polską w kontekście Europy Środkowej i Wschodniej*. Praha: Historický ústav (701 pp.).

in this collective monograph are approached as a study of Poland, Poles and Czech–Polish relations. The collective of authors was not only motivated by the hope to revive the traditional dialogue between philologists and historians, but also aimed to enhance it with the voice of political scientists and lawyers.

Although the book was the result of cooperation of Prague historians and philologists from Brno, it cannot be defined as a Prague or a Brno academic journal. It was prepared with the contribution of a number of academic centres, mainly from the Czech Republic, but also from abroad, e.g. Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Masaryk University Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Arts, Social Sciences Department and The Institute of History and the Archives of Charles University in Prague, the Faculty of Arts of the University of Palacky in Olomouc, the Faculty of Arts, Ostrava University in Ostrava, the Economic Faculty of Economics of Mining Engineering Technical School, Technical University in Ostrava, the Faculty of Public Policies of the Silesian University in Opava, the Institute of Slavonic Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Czech Historical Institute in Rome, Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes of German Historical Institute in Warsaw, Faculty of Arts of the Prešov University in Prešov and Faculty of Polish and Classical Philology, Adam Mickiewicz University.

The published monograph consists of five chapters. The first chapter, *Tradycje i wyzwania czeskich studiów polonistycznych (Tradice a výzvy českých polonistických studií)* [English: *Tradition and Challenges of the Czech Polish Studies*] contains three extensive introductory studies by professor Krystyna Kardyni-Pelikánová, professor Jaroslav Pánek and a joint paper by the heads of the team of authors, R. Baron and R. Madecki. This section is not only dedicated to the history of Polish studies research in the Czech territories, but also presents their development after 1989 and formulates objectives that need to be currently pursued not only by the Czech school of Polish linguistics, literature studies and history, but rather by the entire Czech studies of Poland.

The second chapter, *Współczesna czeska polonistyka językoznawcza i literaturoznawcza (Současná česká jazykovědná a literárněvědná polonistika)* [English: *Modern Czech School of Polish Linguistics and Literature Studies*] tackles current areas of focus of Czech Polish studies academics, philologists and Slavonic scholars. The chapter begins with the paper by professor Ivo Pospíšil, where the author emphasizes that the Czech Polish studies should concentrate in their research on the Polish language, literature and culture from the Czech perspective and work within the framework of the Czech canons of research, thus capturing aspects not necessary familiar to the scholars in Poland. Following papers represented mostly a comparative point of view and dealt with specific phenomena from the field of linguistics, literature studies and translation studies.

Jana Raclavská explores the subject of the language representation of a dog in the Czech and Polish phraseology, while Roman Madecki examines the genres of speech and their application in the poetic language of Wisława Szymborska, and Markéta Páralová Tardy covers the genesis, the structure and functioning of the so called *lagersprache* in the KL Auschwitz. Monika Válková Maciejewska studies and compares Polish translations of *The Good Soldier Švejk*, Renata Putzlacher-Buchtová provides an in-depth look into the Czech and Polish literary relations in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, while Lucie Zakopalová examines how the experience of emigration impacted Czesław Miłosz's and Witold Gombrowicz's views and work.

The focal point for the authors of the philological section were the issues connected with teaching Polish in the Czech academic environment – Iva Dobrotová analyses how the Polish linguistic politics affected teaching Polish as a foreign language, while Katarzyna Barna Krawczyk investigates different motivations of Czech and Slovak students to learn Polish.

The third chapter, *Współczesna czeska historiografia i historia Polski (Současná česká historiografie a dějiny Polska)* [English: *The Current Czech Historiography and History of Poland*] presents the current state of Czech research regarding the history of Poland and Czech-Polish relations, especially in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. Authors of the papers focused specifically on mutual political, academic and cultural contacts, national and ethnic minorities issues and programmes of studies dedicated to the history of Poland. Miloš Řezník discusses the rationale and the concept of the currently developed new Czech synthesis of Polish history, Marek Ďurčanský examines the current state and prospects for research of Czech-Polish academic relations in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, and Jan Němeček offers an overview of the achievements of the Czech historiography in the last decade regarding Czechoslovak and Polish contacts during the world war two, and finally Petr Blažek covers the cooperation of the Czech and Polish opposition in the 1970s and 1980s. It is worth to mention also the paper by Jaroslav Vaculík on the studies of Czech ethnic groups in Poland, Dan Gawrecki's piece on the views of Czech historians and journalists regarding Poles in the Cieszyn Silesia until 1938, Petr Kaletaš work on Czech studies of the Kashubia after 1945 and Mečislav Borák's paper on Polish aspects in the Eastern European research and studies and the Silesian University in Opava. The chapter also includes an overview of the more recent Slovak academic research of Polish history, prepared by Lubica Harbuľova.

The penultimate chapter four *Współczesna czesko-polska politologia porównawcza i nauki prawne wobec Polski (Současná česko-polská komparativní politologie a právní věda ve vztahu k Polsku)* [English: *Contemporary Czech and Polish Comparative Political Sciences and Legal Sciences vis-à-vis Poland*] discusses the shifts in the paradigm of the Czech comparative political science in the last twenty years, especially in the Central European context. The papers included here

show the interest of Czech political scientists in so-called Polish issues. Such issues were also addressed not only in the academic research per se, as discussed by Michal Kubát, but also in specialized journals, reviewed in greater detail by Jakub Hronek. Polish experience from the direct presidential election with regards to the situation in the Czech Republic was summarized by Josef Mlejnek.

The fourth chapter includes papers from the Faculty of Law, Masaryk University, prepared by its academic workers on topics related with the Czech, Polish and European private, financial, family and international law. The chapter begins with a study by Ladislav Vojáček on Czech and Polish relations in history of law in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, followed by papers on cooperation of Czech and Polish experts in the field of Roman law (Pavel Salák jr.) and family law (Zdeňka Králičková), Naděžda Rozehnalová's paper on Czech and Polish international private law in the context of European regulations and Petr Průcha's analysis of the territorial administration reform in the Czech Republic in the light of Polish and European solutions in this area. A valuable addition to this section on legal issues is represented by papers on intensive cooperation of Brno scholars with their Polish counterparts, especially within the framework of the so called Brno school of financial law (Petr Mrkvýka), in the area of environmental law (Ivana Průchová) and in the Polish Law Centre (Damian Czudek with Michal Koziel).

Last but not least, the collective monograph in question includes also biographical entries of renowned deceased Czech scholars who worked in the field of Polish language, literature and history, presented in the final, fifth chapter *Sylwetki wybitnych czeskich slawistův i polonistův (Medailony významných českých slavistů a polonistů)* [English: *Profiles of Renowned Czech Scholars from the Field of Slavonic and Polish Studies*]. The entries were submitted and written by: L. Zakopalová, M. Černý, R. Rusin Dybalska, M. Ďurčanský, J. Chodějovský, R. Madecki, M. Řepa, N. Pavelčíková, V. Matějková, K. Kardyni-Pelikánová, R. Vlček, R. Baron, M. Benešová and J. Dejmek, as a way to honour the great contribution of selected representatives of the academic life to the development of the Czech Polish studies. Biographies serve also as a valuable source of knowledge regarding the context in which the Polish studies were developing in the Czech Republic in the past.

The above publication may be very useful not only for academics, but also for the students of Polish studies, history, Central European Studies, political science and law, even for polonophiles outside the academic context. The authors see papers included in the text as their input to the discussion on the state and further development of the Czech leg of Polish studies. At the same time, they hope that the publication will contribute to strengthening mutual contacts and understanding between Czechs and Poles.

The previous journal in Czech, *Česká polonistická studia: tradice a současnost (filologie – historie – politologie – právo)* [English: *Czech Polish Studies: Now and*

*Then (Linguistics, History, Political Science, Law)*, published in 2014 by The Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague in cooperation with the Institute of Slavonic Studies, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno and the Centre of Eastern European Studies, Warsaw University, focused mainly on the Czech Polish studies in the broadest sense, while the latter of the two above-mentioned projects attempted to look at academic work in this field from the comparative perspective in the Central Eastern European context. The authors assumed that such methodological approach would lead to a better understanding of conditions and results of research in individual national humane fields dedicated to Polish history, literature and culture. Such outline, even if only partial, as it was in the case of single national perspectives, often contributes to overcoming barriers and restrictions, opening totally new study prospects, leading to original views on the allegedly “exhausted” issues, on set or consolidated interpretation models or “definite” outputs of analyses.

With the interdisciplinary character of foreign Polish studies and studies of Poland in mind, i.e. the close cooperation of linguists, literary scholars, historians, political scientists, lawyers, ethnologists and representatives of other fields of science (especially humanities), which was a great focus during the works on the previous journal, this time the team of authors concentrated mainly on international aspects and cooperation between states. The awareness that Poles and Czech perceive the territory of Central Europe, where both nations have lived for more than a thousand years as their natural point of reference, and that for them it is the territory that is being shaped as part and parcel of the Western Euro-Atlantic civilization circle underlay this approach; at the same time it is impossible to fully understand the historical development of both countries and societies ignoring their relations and links with the geopolitical, religious and national situation in Eastern Europe that has been changing through centuries.

With regards to Polish history it is impossible to leave out a significant phenomenon of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, a multinational and multireligious nobles’ democracy that linked on multiple levels the territory of Central Europe and its cultural heritage with the territories of Central Eastern and Northern–Eastern Europe. On the other hand, for the Czech society, the Slavic nation situated most to the west together with Sorbs and Slovenians, the centuries long coexistence and rivalry with the German element (both in the internal and external sense) was of major importance. This gave rise to an exceptionally attractive and vital for the Czech political thought of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century idea of Slavic unity.

The team of authors who prepared the second publication, arranged the papers according to the geographic criterion. The first chapter, *Tradycje i wyzwania czeskich studiów polonistycznych [English: Tradition and Challenges of the Czech Polish Studies]* discusses the history of Czech interest in the Polish language,

literature, history and culture that gradually gained an institutional character, especially within the university framework; a real turning point here was the lecture by professor Marian Szykowski *O wzajemnych kontaktach czesko-polskich w dziedzinie historii i piśmiennictwa* [English: *On Mutual Czech and Polish Relations in the Field of History and Writing*], which inaugurated the work of the Polish Language and Literature Department at Charles University in Prague (October 13, 1923). This interest led to translations, sketches and studies dealing with individual issues, followed by synthetic studies of international significance, such as the history of Polish literature (*Dějiny polské literatury*, Prague 1953) by Karel Krejčí, a student and a successor of Szykowski at Charles University in Prague, or the history of the Polish nation (*Dějiny polského národa*, Praha 1948) by Josef Macůrek, professor at Masaryk University in Brno. It is worth mentioning that the studies often included an interdisciplinary aspect, especially a linguistic and a historical one, thus heading towards integrated studies of Poland. The authors of the introduction, Krystyna Kardyni-Pelikanová (the Czech Polish literary studies, its history, current state and prospects), Jaroslav Pánek (Czech studies of Polish history, attitudes to the history of the bigger neighbour, specifics and infrastructure of studies and their relevance for current times), Roman Baron and Roman Madecki (founding and development of the Czech Polish philological and historical studies and an interdisciplinary cooperation between philologists and historians focusing on topics related with Polish studies) and Renata Rusin Dybalska (the development of Polish studies at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University in the field of linguistics, literary studies and history post 2000) not only discuss the current state of research in their papers, but also share their own postulates and visions regarding further development of the Czech Polish studies.

The second chapter named *Z kontaktów polsko-czeskich* [English: *On Polish and Czech Relations*] presented specific aspects of mutual relations between both nations in the field of science, culture and politics in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. The authors discuss the following detailed topics here: Jiří Friedl tackles the presence of Polish issues in one of the oldest Czech titles dedicated to Slavic topics, namely in *Slovanský přehled*, a journal founded and co-edited by a renowned, valued Czech polonophile Adolf Černý; Marek Kornat focused on the cooperation and intellectual exchange between eminent Polish and Czech scholars on the example of the intellectual friendship between Marian Zdziechowski and Tomáš G. Masaryk, the first president of Czechoslovakia from 1918; Sebastian Grudzień covered common activities of the community of Czech historians and the Polish Academy of Learning in Cracow from 1989 to 2014. Renata Putzlacher-Buchtová explored the compelling topic of mutual relations between Polish poets and their Czech translators in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, demonstrating both the role the mutual inspirations played in the field of belles-lettres, but also giving an overview of the reception of Polish works among Czech readers. The author also

discusses the phenomenon of mutual representations and national stereotypes, more and more often recognized and appreciated recently. Danuta Konieczka-Śliwińska and Blažena Gracová used both Polish and Czech history and other liberal arts textbooks as a significant source for the analysis of the representations of the neighbouring nation.

*Środkowoeuropejska perspektywa [English: Central European Perspective]* is the title of the third chapter which transfers the above issues and their examination to the Eastern European ground that the authors understand as the area of the current Visegrad Group member states. In line with this approach, Lubica Harbulová and Gábor Lagzi presented in this part of the publication e.g. the state of Slovak and Hungarian historiography studies, which in case of Hungary, were closely related to the Polish studies there with regards to Poland and its relations with Central European countries. Also Dušan Segeš follows the same line of thinking in his approach to the topic of different perceptions and interpretations of the same historical events by historians with a different ideological background and the question of progressing social processes connected with system changes post 1989, which were an important turning point for the entire region. In the same chapter, Caba Kiss tackles the issue of national heterostereotypes, namely the shift in representations of Czechs in the Hungarian society. Katarzyna Barna Krawczyk on the other hand, focused on the topic of the motivation of Czech and Slovak students of Polish studies to learn Polish, which is relevant not only from the glottodidactic point of view, but also is closely related with opportunities to promote a positive image of Poland and of Poles abroad. The chapter finishes with the paper by Natalia Minenkova where she compares the lustration process in the Czech Republic and in Poland in the period of political changes after 1989.

The following three chapters: *Pryzmat litewski [English: The Lithuanian Perspective]*, *W białoruskiej i rosyjskiej optyce [English: Through Belorussian and Russian Optics]* and *Widziane z Ukrainy [English: As Seen from Ukraine]* bring rich and multidimensional, though by no means uniform contents for comparison and point to clear similarities and differences between common historical phases, figures, historical memory, cultural heritage, the ethnic and linguistic composition etc. In line with the premises of the project, Lithuanian, Belorussian, Ukrainian and Russian authors approached the studied issues from the perspective of their own national history, focusing on the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the Russian Empire, current territory of Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine and Russia respectively and examined the relations of their nations and countries with Poland and Poles.

In “the Lithuanian chapter” it is worth noting the “Lithuanian-Polish dialogue” in the form of papers by a literary scholar, Algis Kalėda (the myth of the Great Duchy of Lithuania), a historian Marcel Kosman (Polish and Lithuanian relations from the historical perspective) a political scientist Mindaugas Norkevičius (Polish and Lithuanian cooperation after the 1994 treaty between the two countries). The

chapter ends with a short text by a historian and a political scientist, Andrzej Puksza, summarizing modern Lithuanian historical studies regarding Poland.

In the Belorussian and Russian section individual authors focus on the development of law in Belorussia (Maryna Andryiashka), on the genesis of the Belorussian nation and Polish attitude to the Belorussian minority (Mikołaj Ivanov), Polish and Belorussian relations in the interwar period (Julia Fedzianina), ethnic names of eastern Slavs in Polish renaissance chronicles (Dmitrij Karnachow) and Polish 19<sup>th</sup> century rossica and their political meaning (Irina Trojak).

The “Ukrainian chapter” includes five papers: Olga Kowalewska discusses the foundation, development and prospects for the Ukrainian Polish studies, Svitlana Zymnytska analyses the image of the Wiśniowiecki family in the Ukrainian historiography from the half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century till the half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Agnieszka Stec presents the results of research regarding the life and activities of Jurij Łypa in Poland and Ukraine, Roman Czmelyk examines how the Polish–Ukrainian borderland is reflected by modern Ukrainian ethnology research, while Olga Morozowa compares the progress of research of Polish history in the Czech Republic and Ukrainian history in Poland.

Chapter seven with a tell-tale title *W kierunku Unii Europejskiej i demokracji* [English: *Towards the European Union and Democracy*] presents some (not realized) attempts to federalize Central and Eastern Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, their genesis, historical background and the national, regional and international dimension (Gennadii Korolov); it includes a look at democratic changes in the core of Central and Eastern Europe after 1989 from the perspective of an American political scientist (Jane Curry), as well as a number of various aspects of current attempts and actions taken by Ukraine, so that this great European country would join European Union (papers by Orest Krasiwski and Natalia Maziy and by Mykoła Genyk and Maria Senycz). Thus, the chapter adopts primarily the perspective of political science, unlike the previous ones that mainly apply the historical and historic-literary approach.

The next chapter eventually named *Sylwetki środkowoeuropejskich uczonych zajmujących się polskim językiem, literaturą, kulturą i historią (wybór)* [English: *Profiles of Central European Scholars Studying Polish Language, Literature, Culture and History (Selection)*] in the discussed collective work represents a separate whole of sorts. The chapter includes papers prepared by: K. Kardyni-Pelikánová, R. Rusin Dybalska, M. Ďurčanský, R. G. Mareta, J. Chodějovský, R. Madecki, J. Vaculík, G. Lagzi, V. Matějková, M. Černý, R. Baron, L. Hladký, J. Dejmek, M. Válková Maciejewska. Initially meant as a concise annex it was gradually expanded with a group of researchers (foreign from the Polish perspective scholars studying Polish and historians or Poles in this role, such as Marian Szykowski in Prague or Władysław Bobek in Bratislava) whose life’s work and biographies the authors managed to present, often in a way exceeding the previous bio-bibliographical journals, and moreover,

managed to present them in the Polish language version. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts and attempts papers on already deceased Slovak and Hungarian historians studying Polish history did not get included in this chapter, which Slovak colleagues justified by the fact that there were no such personalities or that they represented strong Marxist methodological dogmatism. Nevertheless, both the Hungarian and Slovak academia, received at least symbolic representation here next to the widely discussed Czech studies. When looking at career and achievements of individual scholars from different generations, by observing from close up, also seeing their more private, human side one can also observe the non-linear development of Central European studies of Polish and Poland in the recent and more distant past. Prepared profiles are to the large extent a tribute and expression of gratitude for the academic contribution of selected personalities, while at the same time they allow for a fuller and more in-depth understanding of the context that has been shaping Central European (especially Czech) Polish studies.

The monograph finishes off with chapter nine, which is mainly biographical, similarly to the previous one. It would be difficult to overestimate the meaning of lectures, seminars or discussion panels with eminent (foreign) scholars and intellectuals for further development of our young academics. One of the institutions in Central and Eastern Europe that for the past quarter of the century has been taking up systematic action in this area is the Centre for East European Studies, Warsaw University. Jan Malicki, its founder and head covers the background and the roots of this important academic and educational unit. It is worth mentioning that many authors from the editorial team of the second collective monograph are members of the Eastern Summer School of Warsaw University Club, organized by the Centre. It was also decided that the volume will include biographical entries of deceased professors of the Eastern Summer School of Warsaw University as a tribute and in their recognition, and also in order to deepen collective memory of the participants, organizers and teachers of individual editions of the summer school.

After above mentioned collective monographs were published, they were introduced during presentations with debates attended by experts in the field. The debates confirmed most of the key conclusions reached after the reading. In this context it should be noted that the Czech Polish studies (also as the most important element of the Czech studies of Poland) is by no means a small unit, neither in terms of its relevance, nor independence; what is more, it is very extensive, bearing in mind the size of the country such as the Czech Republic. It is also not dominated by Russian studies, as it is the case e.g. in the United States.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Filipowicz, H. – Karcz, A. – Trojanowska, T. (2005). *Polonistyka po amerykańsku. Badania nad literaturą polską w Ameryce Północnej (1990–2005)*. Warszawa: Instytut Badań Literackich PAN, p. 8.

The fact that Poland is a neighbouring country partially explains this extremely positive state of the Czech Polish studies, which also has other deeper historical determinants. Speaking of which, one should also note that in the Czech Polish studies after joint beginnings in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Josef Dobrovský, Pavel Josef Šafařík, Václav Hanka, František Ladislav Čelakovský, Jan Pravoslav Koubek, Jan Kollár etc.) three main currents of Polish studies began to emerge, namely literary studies, linguistic and cultural studies.

Despite significant research achievements of modern Czech specialists in Polish studies and scholars focusing on Polish issues, it is difficult to ignore also the disturbing phenomena and facts, such as the generation gap. Moreover, the number of tenures for academic workers and teachers is insufficient, not to mention the shortages in tenures for “native” titular professors who practically without exceptions are already in a retirement age. Lack of tenures (also for doctoral graduates) strongly affected Czech university centres for Polish studies especially with the 1990s modernisation of Polish language and literature teaching that entailed creation of new fields of study, currently very popular with students and positively perceived by potential employers, combining traditional philology with translation studies and non-philology fields (introduction to law, tourism, economy, marketing etc.) and enhancing offer of non-compulsory classes available. The Czech Polish studies and Czech studies of Poland as a whole have been going through a rather challenging time and need special support, both from Polish studies scholars, historians, political scientists, lawyers, etc. from Poland, as well as from representatives of the Czech Slavonic studies and humanities. Only then the Czech Polish studies will be properly re-established, bearing fruit according to its best traditions and expectations of the audience (readers and reviewers).

The cooperation between Czech philologists and historians studying Polish and Poland in a broader sense does not end when the works on joint projects and publications finish. The interdisciplinary debates mentioned above continued also during a historic and philological panel *Česká polonistická studia [English: Czech Polish studies]* as part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Congress of Czech Historians in Olomouc (2017) with active participation of M. Řezník, P. M. Majewski, J. Vaculík, D. Szymczak, M. Danielewski, V. Kofránková, R. Puzlacher-Buchtová, M. Hańczakowski. The panel was organized and facilitated by R. Baron and R. Madecki.

Current debate regarding further development of Czech interdisciplinary studies of Poland is held within the framework of the 1<sup>st</sup> Congress of the Czech Polish Studies (I Kongres Polonoznawstwa Czeskiego / I. kongres českých polonistických studií), co-organized by the universities in Brno, Hradec Králové, Olomouc, Opava, Ostrava and Prague and by the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Polish-Czech Academic Society. The congress is yet another example of close cooperation of Czech philologists and historians

studying Poland. However, it is also attended by representatives from other fields, e.g. law, political science, ethnology and geography. During individual sessions of the Congress (Olomouc, Bohumin – Chafupki, Hradec Králové, Pardubice, Opava, Telč, Praha), the current state of the Czech Polish studies is analysed and research postulates for the coming years are defined. One of the postulates is to emphasize the genesis, history and development of the field itself, especially the role of Czech precursors of studying Polish language, writing, history and culture in the broader Slavic context.