

NEWS

12th Congress of Czech Historians and Section of History Didactics

On September the 22nd, 2022, the 12th three-day Congress of Historians of the Czech Republic finished, which was organized by the Department of History and the Department of Archival Sciences and Auxiliary Historical Sciences of the Faculty of Arts of Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem, together with the Association of historians of the Czech Republic, at the UJEP campus in Ústí nad Labem. The meeting can be undoubtedly considered very representative – the number of participants added its importance: over six hundred historians and other related professions came together. The plenary sessions published the results of historical research during the three decades of the existence of the democratic state, the issue of the history in the public space and the importance of humanistic education in the history.

The congress also included six round tables dealing with: research in the humanistic sciences and their funding, Czech historiography after 1990 from the perspective of German researchers, oral history during the pandemic, ethics of historical work, collective memory of Czech society relating to the past, history and populism.

One of the forty congress panels was the didactically focused panel No. 24, entitled “How to Historical Education in the Post-Fact Era or Why Should I Learn History When I Have it All on My Phone?” The panel was guaranteed by the Association for History Didactics,

The guarantors of the panel were vice-chairmen Mgr. Jaroslav Pinkas, Ph.D. (ÚSTR) and doc. Mgr. Radmila Prchal Pavlíčková, Ph.D. (FF UPOL).

The papers first defined the tasks and problems that the current revision of curricular documents brings to history, dealt with the role of historical education in school education after 1989, the analysis of school educational programmes capturing the changes in the history of teaching, etc. A rich discussion then focused on the hierarchy of meanings, the choice of curricula and competences, etc.

The second block first dealt with the issue of the relationship between the concept of history teaching and the form of assessment. Then the issue of measuring historical literacy was discussed. There were also contributions on contrafactual history in didactics of history, and about public history.

The third block of contributions revolved around the researching (constructivist) teaching of History, which is currently being verified within the History+ project, which was followed by presentations by teachers participating in research teaching in practice.

The last block dealt with the analysis of learning communities on the social networks as an opportunity for further education of the teachers of History, or the relationship between oral sources and the research method of History teaching. The meeting of Panel 24 was unofficially concluded by the Association for Didactics of History, z. s., where its current activities and programme outlook for the future were presented. The participants agreed on the need of this institution, despite of its voluntary nature.

Presentations in the panel included prof. PhDr. Zdeněk Beneš, CSc. (Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague), doc. PaedDr. Viliam Kratochvíl, Ph.D. (FF UK in Bratislava), chairman of the Association for Didactics of History, z. s. PhDr. Milan Ducháček, Ph.D. (FP TUL) and Mgr. Miroslav Jireček, Ph. D (PdF MU Brno). PhDr. Pavel Kopeček, Ph.D. (Faculty of Education, Palacký University), other guests from Slovakia and other experts in the field. The Josef Pekař Award (20th year) was traditionally announced at the congress, which was received by PhDr. Michaela Žáková, Ph.D., from the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic for the publication “Theresian Institute of Noblewomen at Prague Castle.” The course of the event was visually complemented by a doctoral poster section, of which the most successful outputs were awarded to the Congress Committee Awards and the Dean’s Awards of the Faculty of Arts UJEP. A rich accompanying programme was also provided, allowing you to get to know the host’s region.

The state-wide 12th Congress of Historians of the Czech Republic must be described as a success. Not only for the rich participation of domestic researchers, but also for representatives of foreign professional associations. Above all, however, the meeting proved, and this is the main message from this event, that historical science as well as the subject didactics of History still have a lot to offer to modern society.

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