



ExpertTurn



Expertise in the human sciences during the 20th century in Europe and beyond

Czech Academy of Sciences

16-18 May 2024, Vila Lanna, Prague

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Day 1 (May 16)

9.30-10.00 **Take-off** (registration and introduction)

10.00-12.00 *Transnational routes of medical expertise between the East and the West*

Chair: José Luis Aguilar López-Barajas

Anastasiya Schacht (University of Vienna):

The art of persuasion – Early steps of postwar sovietization in intellectual communities of East & Central Europe

On the evening of July 27, 1948, a nine-headed delegation of Soviet doctors landed in Prague as they were heading home to Moscow after attending the inaugural World Health Assembly in Geneva. High level medical officials from Moscow, Kyiv, and Minsk, the visitors invested their time into securing sympathies of Czechoslovak colleagues, as they highlighted advantages of a single-player universal coverage model of public health and spared no argumentative expense in soothing the locals' fears of all too violent transformation and authoritarian control over medicine. Similar cases from other fields of professional activity and other states point at the same curious fact. Uncharacteristically to their reputation, Soviet experts in state service revealed remarkable skill in persuasion and soft power at this early stage of what soon became known as the Sovietization of East and Central Europe. In the suggested paper I follow the early postwar strategies of onsetting Sovietization in expert communities in the East Central Europe and newly-annexed regions in the Baltics and West Ukraine. I trace how two major strategies from the Soviet interwar period intertwined as the newly emerged superpower sought to coerce the region now lying in its "geopolitical sphere of influence". One such strategy was the persuasion via soft power, a somewhat forgotten politics the interwar USSR applied to impress and win recognition from the USA, Germany, and France. The second strategy, which would come into use only gradually, but produce a tremendously sustainable impact upon expert communities of the region, was the in-depth reorganization of the epistemic footing upon which each of the disciplines, - in my example primarily medicine, rested. By suggesting this more nuanced picture of a soviet(-izing) persuasion in the early postwar years my paper contributes to a better understanding of the repertoire illiberal and authoritarian regimes apply to coerce and sustainably corrode their domestic expert communities without causing any considerable resistance.

Michel Christian (University of Geneva):

Maternal deprivation and the transnational debate on day nurseries in the UN-organizations (1950s-60s)

Since the end of the 19th century, day nurseries had been a transnational topic among philanthropic circles, whose members met regularly in congresses. This presentation will deal with UN organizations (WHO, Unesco, ILO, the UN Economic and Social Council) and the ICC (Centre international de l'enfance, or CIE/ICC), an international organization established in 1949 in Paris with the support of Unicef and under French guidance, essentially delivering trainings in pediatrics. I will observe how these newly created organization addressed the issue of day nurseries shortly after the end of the war. With René Spitz' studies on "hospitalism" and the famous report by John Bowlby on "maternal deprivation", published by the WHO in 1952, day nurseries were criticized along with infant homes. However, the discourse among UN organizations changed dramatically in the course of the 1950s. This turnaround was accompanied by a shift among UN organizations. The Ecosoc and the ILO in particular linked the issue of day nurseries with that of women's right to work. The involvement of the Eastern Bloc countries, which had become possible again in the course of de-Stalinization was decisive. The Centre international de l'enfance, which was used as a place of cooperation, was also instrumental in this attempt to rework the issue. The rapprochement was facilitated by the renewal of the experts at the Centre international de l'enfance during the same time, as they were often themselves close to the French Communist Party. I will argue that UN organizations also had their own interest in this cooperation, since it expressed their capacity to build international consensus beyond the Cold War divide.

Michaela Šmidrkalová (Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences):
Anesthesiology expertise circulating across the Iron Curtain: Third European Congress of Anesthesiology in Prague (1970)

At the turn of August and September 1970, European leading experts in the field of anesthesiology met in Prague – the Third European Congress of Anesthesiology was held there and was attended by more than 1500 people. The decision to hold the congress in Prague was taken by the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists (WFSA), which

was established in the Netherlands in 1955. The Czechoslovak press of the time described this decision as “a great recognition of the work of Czechoslovak anesthesiologists.” The importance of the Congress was also underlined by the fact that its representatives were received by the then Czechoslovak President Ludvík Svoboda at Prague Castle. One of the anesthesiologists who contributed to the holding of the congress was Bořivoj Dvořáček (1920–2014). However, at the time of the congress, this prominent anesthesiologist was already living in Rotterdam. He wasn’t the only one – many important Czech and Slovak specialists in this medical field emigrated after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968 to the West, specifically to the Netherlands. This did not mean, however, that these anesthesiologists from Czechoslovakia were completely cut off from their former colleagues and lost contact with the “domestic” development of medicine. Despite the Cold War and the Iron Curtain, medical knowledge spread between the West and the East, and this congress was one example where anesthesiologists from the West could meet colleagues from the Soviet bloc. However, the contribution will not focus only on the congress itself - this important international scientific event was only the culmination of contacts of Czechoslovak anesthesiologists with European and world experts from previous years. The presentation will thus reconstruct the networking of Czechoslovak experts that made it possible to organise the congress in Prague in 1970.

María Mundi López (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales/Universidad de Granada):

Vacuum curettage: transnational journeys and transformations of an abortion technique (1965-1985)

Today, vacuum curettage is the technique of choice for surgical pregnancy termination. This technique, which emerged in China in the early 1960s, travelled through various countries until it became widespread in the Soviet Union and its area of influence in the second half of the decade. During the 1970s, and with the pro-abortion movements and the successive decriminalisations of pregnancy termination in countries such as the USA and France, vacuum curettage crossed the Iron Curtain thanks to activists, lay providers, and health professionals who searched for profitable techniques for the recently legalised procedure. Franco's Spain - which banned all abortions and contraception since 1941 - was not left behind. In fact, vacuum curettage was first reported in the Spanish medical circles through an article published *Zentralblatt für Gynäkologie*, an East German gynaecological journal.

Spanish doctors became interested in the technique, modified it, and adapted it for indications permitted by law, claiming to be pioneers in its application in the treatment and diagnosis of obstetric processes. Their position as experts and scientists enabled access to the original publications, which discussed abortion - the original indication of the technique. The Spanish gynaecologists discussed this indication without any kind of censorship, some of them going so far as to indicate its advantages and how to proceed. My paper thus shows the malleability and adaptability of expert discourses on a technique through different state and medical regimes.

12.00-13.30 lunch break

13.30-15.00 *Religion and ethnicity expertise before and after WWII*

Chair: Natalia Jarska

Anca Filipovici and Zsuzsa Bokor (The Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities):

Ethnicity and medicine. Minority health policies in interwar Transylvania

Our presentation revolves around two key aspects: 1) the viewpoint of Romanian medical experts regarding ethnic minorities during the interwar period, and 2) the unique development of the Hungarian public health system in the Romanian province of Transylvania, shaped in response to nationalist public health policies. In the post-1918 nation-state building process, the emphasis on Romanian dominance over minorities extended into the realm of biopolitics. Hygienist doctors and eugenics advocates delved into discussions about the biology of the Romanian nation, highlighting the imperative to prioritize the health of the Romanian population to optimize the labor force. Conversely, the challenging access to resources and the underdeveloped health infrastructure in Hungarian minority communities, comprising the largest minority group in the country (7.9%), mobilized the young medical generation of the 1930s. This situation formed one pillar of the understanding of the ethnic community of Hungarians in Transylvania as a “biological community”. This understanding made the presence of the doctor a necessary part of a

commitment to the health and prosperity of this community. A kind of local (regional) bio-control was emerging, which was not state-based but functioned in a similar way: it gave rise to a powerful parallel organization and governing body. Our presentation will delve into the discourse and practices of Romanian medical experts regarding the majority-minority binomial, examining its application both in the general population and within the medical field. The analysis will uncover not only the nationalist underpinnings of the public health system but also shed light on the influence of ethnicity in expert-to-expert (non)exchanges. The focus will shift towards examining the challenges in recruitment policies and public health projects devised by Hungarian medical doctors in Transylvania. In both parallel and competing healthcare systems, the primary focus was on controlling demographic trends influenced by social diseases, infant health, maternal health, and the issue of one-child families. Interestingly, the tangible outcomes of this health policy were most apparent in discussions surrounding infant and maternal health, possibly attributed to doctors' proactive collaboration with Hungarian women's associations and women's religious organizations in Transylvania.

Ethell Gershengorin (University of Wisconsin-Madison):

Medical experts in the Jewish classroom: TOZ school hygiene programming in interwar Poland

During the interwar period in Poland, the Jewish community splintered over visions of Jewish nationhood in a post-imperial world. Childhood health stood at the crux of these debates for children embodied the future of the Jewish people and experts could use childhood as a terrain for establishing social and cultural legitimacy. One of these forces vying for authority was the Society for the Preservation of the Health of the Jewish Population (OZE or TOZ in Poland), an organization of Jewish physicians and nurses dedicated to providing medical aid to Eastern European Jews ravaged by war, revolution, poverty, and disease during and after World War I. TOZ's top priority was addressing the health needs of Jewish children. Crucial for this work was establishing school hygiene programs where Jewish physicians and nurses employed modern findings in pediatrics and pedagogy to improve conditions in the classroom. This paper examines how TOZ members attempted to establish themselves as experts in Jewish classrooms. How did these Jewish doctors communicate their expertise to the public? How did they use their professional

networks both inside and outside of Poland to build authority? And how did these doctors understand the relationship between pediatric medicine and pedagogy and the importance of this nexus to their organizational visions? By answering these questions, this paper will illuminate the importance of medical expertise-making and child welfare to Jewish communal politics in Poland in the interwar period. As an organization committed to modernizing Jews by acculturating them to trusting medicine over rabbinic authority or traditional healers, TOZ practiced a distinct form of Jewish politics which has yet to be fully defined by historians. In tracing TOZ's school hygiene work, this paper will explain how healthy children served as crucial tools for Jewish physicians' legitimacy building and efforts of defining Jewish nationhood in diaspora.

Gözde Kılıç (European University Institute, Florence):

Hunting for Ruh: tracing the evolution of psychoanalysis in Turkey (1917-1957)

The concept of ruh (soul), imbued with distinct Islamic connotations, underwent a profound transformation in the early twentieth century under the influence of the first-generation Ottoman-Turkish neurologists and psychiatrists seeking to redefine the seat of the soul. This paradigm shift gave rise to dual trajectories that continue to shape the field of psychiatry: the biomedical orientation, which seeks to explicate the mental phenomenon through physiological and neurobiological frameworks, and the psychodynamic perspective, which examines the interplay of unconscious psychological processes. Within this context, the early practitioners of psychiatry in Turkey, under the leadership of Mazhar Osman Uzman (1884-1951), marginalized psychoanalysis due to its perceived distance to biology and physiology, and likened it almost to "spiritism." Mazhar Osman approached psychoanalysis more as a transient intellectual trend than a therapeutic methodology, a perspective that found widespread acceptance among his contemporaries. As the foremost influential figure in the field, he steered psychoanalysis beyond the boundaries of the discipline and influenced other colleagues to do the same.

As the conceptual transition from ruh to akıl (mind) unfolded, psychiatry gradually became synonymous with cerebral disorders, aligning the former with the brain. Psychoanalysis, on the other hand, found itself relegated to the periphery, predominantly employed by those outside the purview of psychiatry, working within disciplines such as psychology, philosophy, and the broader humanities. In my presentation, I will look at the genesis and evolution of psychoanalysis in Turkey through the prism of one such figure Mustafa Şekip Tunç, whose

contributions span literature, pedagogy, and philosophy. I will delve into Tunç's adept negotiation, transformation, and amalgamation of the ideas of Viennese psychoanalyst Freud, crafting them into a novel framework within his indigenous context. In line with the contemporary historiographical approaches that emphasize the global diffusion of knowledge, I will try to elucidate the development of psychoanalysis in Turkey within a cross-cultural milieu, attending to the influential roles played by local circumstances and global interactions.

15.00-15:30 coffee break

15.30-17:00 *Keynote*

Chair: Kateřina Lišková

Bogdan Iacob (“Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History in Bucharest, Romanian Academy):
The white gaze of socialist medicine: Central and Southeastern European experts in postcolonial spaces

Socialist medicine, especially its state socialist variety, was central to the politics and practice of global health after 1945. Socialist states, my focus being Central and Southeastern Europe, internationalized medical expertise (knowledges, technologies, institutions and personnel) within the Second World, at the World Health Organization, or through bilateral relations with the so-called Third World or the West. As a rapidly expanding scholarship has shown, these global circulations adapted to shifts within the camp itself, to interdependencies in international organizations or with the West, and to evolving representations about and from the decolonizing world. Socialist medical expertise was fundamentally shaped by and had an impact on post-colonial actors and locales.

Yet, anti-colonial solidarity co-existed with Eurocentric medicalized narratives about the societies of newly independent states in Africa or Asia. Though claiming to reject Western notions about the pathology of ‘(sub)tropical’ peoples and environments, state socialisms in Central and Southeastern Europe created their own hierarchies of backwardness founded upon a white gaze that deemed post-colonial bodies, governance and expertise as incomplete and inferior. The challenge of other socialist alternatives from Cuba and China complicated and

highlighted this colonial difference at the core of European state socialist medicine travelling across the world.

How to make sense of these paradoxes? Was state socialist medicine truly an alternative to (neo)colonial logics or paternalistic humanitarianism embedded in Western scripts across the post-colonial world? My answers lie in connecting socialism to colonial histories that reverberate into Europe's East; in questioning the whiteness at the heart of East-South healthcare entanglements; and, in exploring socialist medical internationalism as a global alternative in the context of encroaching neoliberal globalization since the late 1970s. I argue that disease control, health planning, or hygienic education were mechanisms that allowed for Central and Southeastern European experts to take on a global role. Yet these mechanisms revealed the colonial pasts, the civilizational hierarchies, and the strategic interests intrinsic to transferring state socialist medicine into Asia or Africa.

19:00 Dinner

Day 2 (May 17)

9.30-11.30 *Forensic expertise between the state and the public sphere*

Chair: Vjačeslav Glazov

Natalia Tsourma (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens):

From the forensic laboratory to the courtroom: The public view of the expert as part of the scientific discourse in the administration of justice in interwar Greece

Forensic medicine was recognized as a distinct science from the beginnings of the Greek state. This recognition was part of a broader policy aimed at establishing control and deterrent mechanisms targeting the curtailment of criminality and ensuring public health and were deployed to maintain order and security. Forensic medicine emerged as a specific specialty intended to address crucial medical, judicial, and criminological questions. The University of Athens was called upon to regulate this necessity through the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, allowing medical expertise to weigh in on various issues concerning human life and health, frequently dealt with by the criminal justice system. The authority of medical discourse grants forensic experts the ability to intervene in matters of justice, defining threats that led to someone's death or endangered their life, health and physical integrity. This paper aims to study the formation of forensic science and its involvement and consequently, its functionaries in the administration of justice. It investigates the greek press, medicolegal acts and forensic handbooks and attempts to demonstrate any changes in the presence of specialists in the courts. How is the specialist presented as a means of giving opinions in cases of crimes and as a holder of scientific truth in the courtroom? How do they engage in dialogue with legal professionals and how does scientific knowledge influence the process of dispensing justice? It scrutinizes how science and experts relate to the state, how the professor of Forensic Medicine at the University of Athens goes beyond the narrow confines of teaching and is called upon to give opinions on cases that threaten and disrupt social morality and order. It explores how opinions are formed concerning specific crimes, bringing science into the public sphere, and how the Laboratory of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology of the University of Athens is present in the courtroom.

Klára Pinerová (Institute of Contemporary History, CAS):
**Penology Research Institute as a bearer of expert knowledge and change in
Czechoslovak prison system (1967-1989)**

The awareness that science is not only a specific discipline aiming at an ever more accurate description of reality, but that it is a dynamic force that shapes society and the world, was discussed among theorists and historians of science already in the first half of the 20th century. In communist Czechoslovakia, the expertization became an important component of the politics of post-Stalinist elites in the 1960s. The application of science played a special role in Czechoslovak prisons as well. From this reason the psychologists and expert educators came to prisons and also the Penology Research Institute (VÚP) was established to deal with the with penitentiary and penological research. The institute worked on not only research assignments, but also spread new scientific knowledge about the prison system among employees. A psychological laboratory with an experimental department for convicts in the Prague-Pankrác prison was built within the institute. In a separate building, VÚP staff could verify new procedures and educational methods, which had been published since 1968 in the journal *Bulletin Sboru nápravné výchovy ČSR* (Bulletin of the Correctional Education Corps of the Czech Socialist Republic). In the proposed paper I would like to discuss the role of VÚP within the Czechoslovak prison system. I will focus on three topics: 1) position of VÚP within the prison department and its possibilities to influence the development of prison service and approach to prisoners; 2) research conducted at VÚP and analysis of studies published in the *Bulletin Sboru nápravné výchovy ČSR*, 3) the experience of psychologists working in prisons, their cooperation with VÚP and their ability to influence approach to convicts at their workplace (based on interviews with 3 psychologists).

Nicolas Henckes and Chantal Marazia (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf):
**“Judges in white coat.” Media representation of forensic psychiatric expertise in West
Germany**

The demise of psychiatric hospitals is one of the great emancipatory narratives of the twentieth century, celebrated as a landmark of both the history of psychiatry and of human rights. In many countries, deinstitutionalisation was paralleled by a reconfiguration of the relationship between dangerousness and mental illness. If madness was no longer essentially

dangerous, what happened to dangerous madness? How was dangerousness assessed? Our paper presents the first results of our international interdisciplinary research project on forensic psychiatry in Europe from the 1950s until the 2000s. The overarching aim of this project is a historically informed analysis of the concepts of social and psychiatric dangerousness, as well as of the assemblage of expert ideas, institutions, techniques supporting them, and accounting for their socio-cultural dimensions. The project takes as a methodological point of departure the analysis of affairs and cases involving dangerous madness. We consider such cases as detectors of motives and positions, which, in the process of being made explicit, opened possible avenues of social change. Accordingly, we investigate these cases and affairs as both events and narratives. As an essay of our approach, in this paper we will analyse the documentary “Mit Paragraphen leben...” (Living with Paragraphs...), broadcasted in 1983. The documentary was dedicated to paragraphs 20 and 21 of the German penal code, dealing with the preconditions for diminished and absence of criminal responsibility and placement in a forensic psychiatric hospital. The documentary prominently featured psychiatrist Wilfried Rasch, director of the Berlin Institute for Forensic Psychiatry and Spiegel journalist and court reporter Gerhard Mauz. It intended to denounce the controversial assessment practice of court psychiatrists as “judges in white coats” and to counteract the scandalisation-oriented reporting of the (yellow) press in the Country. The documentary offers a well-rounded view of the current state of forensic expertise in West Germany, pointing at critical issues, such as life-long imprisonment, the “silent pact” between medicine and justice, sensationalism and failed re-socialisation.

Anna Kvíčalová (Centre for Theoretical Study, Charles University, Prague):
Forensic voices: sound-based expertise in Cold-War Czechoslovakia and beyond

In 1975 a specialized field of audio forensics called fonoscopy was established as part of the Prague Institute of Criminalistics to systematically examine the spectrographic, linguistic, and auditory means of sound analysis for the purpose of identifying unknown voices and environments in audio recordings. The field of fonoscopy was a prime example of the scientific transformation of criminalistics, as it introduced into forensics up-to-date electroacoustic, phonetic, and linguistic methods and helped to establish sound-based knowledge in the Czechoslovak criminal justice system. The paper examines the creation of this new type of sound-based expertise which emerged from and was constantly shaped by

interactions between socialist police, courtrooms, and scientific institutions, and attends to the process in which acoustic “raw material” from anonymous calls, wiretapped phone lines and police interrogation rooms, was transformed into different kinds of legal and criminalistic evidence in the service of the totalitarian surveillance state. The creation of the Department of Fonoscopy in Prague was directly influenced by collaboration with experts in Warsaw and Berlin, but also by the development of forensics phonetic and acoustics in the broader international context, especially in the US. In contrast to most Western countries, audio forensic departments in Cold-War Czechoslovakia, Poland and the GDR became unique research laboratories created directly within security infrastructures of the socialist states which brought together phoneticians, linguists, engineers and police officers to fashion a new type of expertise. Although voice analysis remained mostly at the margins of forensic science, the paper will show that it helped to forge new evidence making practices before the socialist court of law and, by extension, contributed to the introduction of probability scale in the sciences and humanities.

11.30-12.00 coffee break

12.00-13.30 *Keynote*

Chair: Kateřina Lišková

Monika Baar (European University Institute, Florence):

Another knowledge may be possible: neglected professions and marginal regions in the history of medical expertise

The talk will ask the question how insights from the periphery can be used to diversify our existing knowledge on the history of medical and social science expertise in twentieth-century Europe (and beyond). It will engage with the notion of the margins as a fundamental category in a twofold way. First, it will give special attention to those experts who are typically placed at the bottom of the hierarchy, as their knowledge is assumed to be auxiliary, supplementary and thus not sufficiently prestigious: nurses, rehabilitation experts, social welfare workers. The boundaries of the concept of expertise will be tested by showing that under certain circumstances writers, journalists and artists also become experts; while patients themselves have relied on their lived experience to claim expertise. Expert communities are informed by a

dual character: although embedded in a particular social-national context, they also participate in transnational networks, thereby destabilizing the 'classical' centre-periphery concepts. Engaging with the second aspect of marginality will involve focusing on Eastern Europe as a 'unit of analysis' not only in terms of space, but also in those of identity and power, in the hope that this will allow us to revisit old themes and arguments in a new light.

13.30-14.30 lunch break

14.30-16.30 *Women's health and medicine*

Chair: Annina Gagyiova

Almira Sharafeeva (Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich):

The health of Soviet female workers: experts' debates and state interests in 1920- 1930s

During the early Soviet period (1920s-1930s), the tasks of socialist construction included the integration of female labor across various industries, sparking intense debates among occupational safety experts, doctors, medical professionals, and the Soviet government. These discussions revolved around the suitability, efficacy, and health implications of female labor. In the 1920s, employees of labor protection institutes and other medical professionals actively scrutinized the working and living conditions of women, producing articles and research on the adverse effects of strenuous work on women's reproductive health. Proposed measures aimed to mitigate occupational hazards on working women's bodies. The exchange of expertise flourished from occupational safety institutes to occupational physicians. However, the landscape shifted with forced industrialization and healthcare reforms in 1930, diverting healthcare's primary focus from individual health to the economic and defense interests of the state. Doctors redirected attention from health to the working capacity of laborers and production costs, altering the exchange of expertise from expert-to-expert to state-to-expert. The "Great Break" compelled medical and occupational health professionals to realign their research focus to align with the goals of industrialization. Simultaneously, the mass involvement of women in socialist construction surged. By the late 1920s, criticism mounted against publications highlighting the health risks of laborious work, asserting that industrialization posed no significant threat to women's bodies. Medical professionals were

tasked with demonstrating the positive impact of industrial work on female childbirth and that women's bodies were not a threat to industrialisation, reframing discourse to align with state interests. This study endeavors to trace the evolution of medical discourse on the health of working women during the 1920s and 1930s, employing archival materials, medical periodicals, and literature. The focus is on delineating shifts in expert opinions regarding female labor's role in industry and agriculture in tandem with the evolving economic and political objectives of the Soviet state.

Despo Kritsotaki (Modern Greek History Research Center):

Prescribing “vitamins for marriage”: Health scientists as marriage experts in Greece (1920s-1960s)

Over the course of the twentieth century, all over Europe, a mounting number of health scientists expanded their interest and expertise to marriage and the family. They wrote and talked about what constituted a “healthy” marriage and a “healthy” family based on their practice as well as on knowledge they built and communicated within their scientific, intellectual, cultural, and social context. Greek health scientists were no exception, but their specific ideas and practices remain largely uncharted. The proposed paper will bring to the foreground the health scientists’ discourses on marital health in Greece from the 1920s to the 1960s, focusing on their scientific, professional, social and cultural origins, trajectories, and repercussions. The main objective is to chart the fraught process through which health scientists understood and endeavored to protect and promote the health of the married couple – including sexual health and family planning – and, by extension, to shape married life and gender relationships and roles in twentieth-century Greece. Analyzing scientific and popularizing publications of health scientists, the presentation will answer the question which health sciences were the most prone to articulate discourses on marital health, testing the hypothesis that the more established on the terrain (mainly obstetrics-gynecology) were joined after World War II by newcomers (mainly psychiatry). Focusing on the above disciplines, the paper will explore the positioning of Greek health scientists within international scientific networks and in relation to what the Greek experts considered as centers of scientific knowledge. Finally, based on cases reported by the experts, the paper will attempt to assess – to the extent that this is possible – the implementation and impact of

the scientific discourses, discerning the ways in which these were received, negotiated, or even resisted.

Agnieszka Kościńska and Agata Ignaciuk (University of Warsaw, Universidad de Granada):

How religion became expertise? Natural family planning and childbirth preparation in late socialist Poland

Recent scholarship on Central Eastern Europe shows that after WWII the region became a space of rapid development of socially applicable expertise. In this paper, we look at the case of Poland, where unlike other socialist states of the region religion also played an important role. Throughout the entire period of socialism, the Polish Catholic church retained its prominent moral and political position. However, in the realm of sexuality and reproduction religious teachings, such as strong anti-abortion statements, were often censored. Therefore, many Catholic medical experts made an effort to translate Catholic mandates on the sexual and reproductive body into secular expertise. Our paper examines the activities of Catholic gynaecologist Włodzimierz Fijałkowski, the key promoter of natural family planning and preparation for childbirth in Poland during the second half of the 20th century. His writings about “natural family planning” in the major Polish gynaecological journal included reports from international anti-abortion conferences organised by the International Federation for Family Life Promotion in which he participated. In these reports, he presented religious driven ideas about “natural family planning” as scientific. In the childbirth training he organized, he encouraged fathers to be involved in family planning, to support their pregnant wives, and participate in childbirth. Furthermore, he argued for women’s agency vis-à-vis obstetric professionals. However, our close examination of his vision of childbirth and family planning led to a humanization of the embryo and fetus from the earliest stages of pregnancy, and became an important transmission medium for the gradual mainstreaming of anti-abortion ideas within medical expertise in late-socialist Poland.

Karissa R Patton (Centre for Biomedicine, Self, and Society – University of Edinburgh):
The Scottish Women’s Health Fair vs WHO, 1983: A case study of the splintering of health specialization, expertise, and authority in the late 20th century

In May 1983 two women’s health events occurred in Scotland: The WHO European Region’s conference on Women and Health and the Scottish Women’s Health Fair (SWHF). In theory,

the two women's health events brought international WHO delegates and national Scottish Health Education Group members together with and local women concerned about gender and health. But in reality the history of these two conferences demonstrates a historical moment when expertise and authority clashed. Using the archival materials from the SWHF and the WHO conference, alongside oral history interviews with SWHF organizers, this paper discusses the negotiations and debates between the organizers of the SWHF and the WHO conference, and feminists and medical professionals more broadly. The organizers of the SWHF opposed the WHO's "closed, elite conference" and designed their own health fair event to encourage "ordinary" women to bring their voices into the broader conversations around women's health in Scotland. Reflecting on the Fair, organizers wrote: "we were trying to balance in between officialdom and community groups but maybe two different messages ... is not an easy game to play!" Indeed, their inclusive approach intersected with, and often fuelled, ongoing debates about professional specializations, authority, and knowledge within the Lothian region of Scotland and the broader international debates about medical professionals' place in the women's health movement. As the organizers of the Fair tried to incorporate community and healthcare perspectives, they were plunged into debates about professional specialization and authority in reproductive healthcare. As different service providers fought for authority in official healthcare spaces, the women organizing the SWHF turned their attention to providing on the ground services to "ordinary" Scottish Women. While the women organizing the Fair ultimately occurred alongside the WHO conference, the SWHF organizers pushed against a top-down, medicalized, and universalized women's health agenda.

16.30-17.00 coffee break

19:00 Dinner

Day 3 (May 18)

9.30-11.00 *The pathologization of vice in psychiatry and psychology*

Chair: Annina Gagyiova

Kostis Gkotsinas (National Hellenic Research Foundation):

The uncertain experts: Psychiatrists' and doctors' attitudes towards drug addiction in interwar Greece

In 1877, the German doctor and psychiatrist Eduard Levinstein published a monograph on morphine addiction (*Die Morphiumsucht*), translated shortly afterward into English and French. The publication marked the beginning of an increasing interest by the medical and psychiatric professions in the undesirable effects of prolonged drug use and the birth of the modern concept of 'addiction'. As a matter of fact, the medical and psychiatric professions had multiple ties with narcotic substances: they used them frequently in their practice, causing, in some cases, drug dependence in their patients (or themselves). They also spearheaded efforts to cure this new medical condition called 'addiction', 'morphinomania', 'toxicomania', etc. This was also the case in Greece, where medicalization was underway during the 19th century, psychiatry was introduced at the turn of the 20th century, and iatrogenic substance dependence gave way to recreational and/or illicit drug consumption in the Interwar period. This paper will analyze the role of 'drug experts', namely psychiatrists and doctors, in the emerging Greek drug scene in the Interwar period. It will address the questions of how addiction theories and detoxification methods found their way to Greece and were received by scientists trained in many cases in Germany and France. It will explore how therapists participated in public debates on drugs and in the formation of state policies and a new, prohibitive legal framework. Additionally, it will examine how doctors and psychiatrists treated their 'patients' and their views on dependent persons, vacillating between understanding drug dependence as a malady and as a morally reprehensible vice. To answer these questions, the presentation will focus on medical and psychiatric texts, memoranda and reports, legislative proposals, and private papers.

Gábor Csikós (HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities / András Pető Faculty of Semmelweis University):

The nervous peasant in Hungarian socialism: Political and professional influences in introducing the social paradigm in psychiatry

The end of agricultural collectivization marked the dawn of the socialist era. According to the strict Marxist-Leninist perspective, socialism should have eradicated deviance, as state ownership extended to eliminate the structural basis of social pathology. However, in 1960, Pál Juhász, a professor of psychiatry, initiated research in a small Hungarian village to assess the psychological strains induced by the socialist transformation. His findings revealed a surge in neurosis and alcoholism, indicating that socialism wasn't eradicating pathologies; it was generating new ones. This research is regarded as the inaugural Hungarian social psychiatric study, and it continued after the regime change in the mid-1990s, standing as the sole longitudinal study in the field. Social psychiatry, which seeks to identify the societal roots of individual problems, faced criticism from the biomedical school in the field of medicine and was also viewed with suspicion by ideologists and politicians. Juhász published his findings internationally. Interestingly, he used non-European countries like Ethiopia, India, and Cuba as models, inadvertently placing his research within a civilizational-colonial narrative. In my presentation, I will delve into the political and scientific responses to this research and its influence on psychiatry, sociology, and even popular literature.

Sophia Gröschel (University of Bremen):

Establishing an illness: The debate on pathological gambling in West Germany in the 1980s

In 1984, West Germany witnessed what one medical director later called the “Year of the Gambler”. A year earlier, a psychological dissertation that stressed the addictiveness of gambling machines had been published and was quickly picked up by the press. The topic was further amplified by members of recently founded self-help groups that followed the model of the US-based Gamblers Anonymous, publicly speaking on the urgency of treating excessive gambling as an illness and more specifically an addiction. What followed were intensive discussions on gambling between psychologists, psychiatrists and

psychotherapists, but also self-help group members, gambling industry representatives, journalists and politicians. These debates illuminate the interplay of economical and therapeutical discourses emerging in contemporary consumer societies, as this paper will argue. The varying answers to the question of whether gambling was an illness, and if so, should be classified as either neurosis, compulsion, addiction, or impulse control disorder had very different implications on how diagnostics, therapy programs, legislation, the gambling industry and not least personal habits should respond to excessive gambling. By looking at the case of West Germany this paper aims to map the different actors in this debate, and to show which of these actors were able to enforce their position and how. Since excessive gambling had previously been framed as a moral issue, the shift taking place in the 1980s towards viewing it as an illness sheds a light on how and by whom lines between health and sickness, between normal and abnormal behaviour and consumption were drawn in the second half of the twentieth century.

11.00-11.30 coffee break

11.30-13.00 *Life and death in state socialism*

Chair: Theo Finsterschott

Alexey Golubev (University of Houston):

The Soviet quest for universal medical literacy and the new biopolitics of late Soviet socialism, 1960s–1980s

In 1947, the USSR government launched a mass-scale, nation-wide scientific literacy campaign. Throughout the next decades, this campaign enlisted hundreds of thousands of scholars, medical doctors, engineers, etc. as public lecturers to disseminate knowledge to lay audiences throughout the USSR. It produced an extensive body of popular literature on science, medicine, history, politics, and many other fields written by the same experts-turned-knowledge-popularizers. Carried out under the auspices of a specially established organization, the Society for Dissemination of Political and Scientific Knowledge (known as the Society Znanie since 1963 after the Russian word for knowledge), the popularization of scientific, medical, and other forms of knowledge was supposed to be extensively centralized and controlled by the Soviet academic and political establishment. At the same

time, its sheer size meant that this control could only be very superficial, and over time the Soviet question for universal scientific (including medical) literacy produced an autonomous network of people and ideas that was only superficially controlled by the state. Beginning in the mid-the 1960s, the experts engaged in the popularization of medical knowledge in the Soviet Union began tacitly questioning the dominant medical model (the “Semashko model”) that was centered around the centralized distribution of health care. Instead, they suggested switching the accent to self-help and self-care as the basic blocks for one’s health and wellness. Distributed through innumerable popular medicine books, brochures, articles, and lectures, this new medical knowledge advanced the new, autonomized, self-centered biopolitics creating a persistent cultural fantasy that an individual can self-train oneself in medical knowledge to maintain a full control over one’s individual health and well-being. Over time, it increased the skepticism of official medicine in the USSR and drove the popularity of alternative forms of healing that skyrocketed after its collapse.

Alex Langstaff (New York University):

**The new elderly: Transnational expertise and social gerontology between 1970s
Czechoslovakia and France**

In the 1970s, social gerontology emerged as an important field of research across the socialist and non-socialist world. Economic and demographic anxieties about the large aging population were accompanied by vocal social concerns about their rapidly deteriorating living conditions and well-being. Amidst ambitious programs of a 'social contract' designed for the post-industrial age, the elderly seemed lost and forgotten. Part of the problem was that they were being poorly integrated into society, in part because they lacked a robust sociology of their own. Observers saw these issues as common to socialist and capitalist societies. Leading British sociologist Peter Townsend argued that “retirement, pensionable status, institutional residence and rather passive forms of community care have been developed in both capitalist and state socialist countries in ways which have created and reinforced the social dependency of the elderly.” This paper will examine how sociologists like Townsend, but also public health experts, doctors, urban planners, and public opinion pollsters, worked together in developing a new, interdisciplinary research agenda. It will reconstruct the collaborative efforts of French and Czechoslovak scholars, facilitated through the Paris-based International Centre of Social Gerontology. It will consider how

these socialist and non-socialist research programs overlapped and diverged. It will ground these efforts in a series of micro-studies undertaken within retirement housing in France and Czechoslovakia, before zooming out to examine how research confirmed Townsend's argument of manufactured 'social dependency' and the ways social gerontology was translated into new policy.

Viola Lászlófi (Central European University):

How to die in a socialist way? Medical expertise, social conflicts and the institutionalization of dying in state socialist Hungary

After the communist takeover at the end of the 1940s, not only did the number of people eligible for social security and health care increase, but the settings and rituals of dying also changed significantly. Whereas in 1930 only 4.2% of deaths occurred in hospital, by 1960 this share rose to 26% and by 1977 to 47%. The dramatic increase in the proportion of hospital deaths also meant that people were more likely to be surrounded by health professionals at the end of their lives: religious and local traditions, which had eased the psychological difficulties of dying, were replaced by professional alleviation of physical suffering in the highly regulated and hidden spheres of hospitals. At first glance, this transformation fits well with the process traced by Michel Foucault and Norbert Elias. According to Foucault and Elias, as modernity progressed, states increasingly sought to control potential social dangers through expertise and specialized institutions. These interpretations attempt to trace the changes in mentalities, understanding the institutionalization of death, disease and deviant behavior as an unambiguous transformation, followed by a general acceptance within society. However, if we look at the appeals sent submitted to medical ethics committees in the 1960s and 1970s, in which complainants criticized the circumstances of their relatives' deaths, we can see that this transformation was accompanied by conflicts between doctors and patients' families. In my presentation, I would like to explore what kind of social conflicts accompanied the institutionalization of dying at the micro level of society, and what role doctors played in the development and resolution of these struggles. It should be emphasized that the main source of disagreement between families and professionals was that families tried to understand the situation of their relatives in accordance with state socialist social norms. In doing so, they failed to consider the written and unwritten rules of medical practice

13.00-13.30 **Conclusion and goodbye**

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