
**THE DEPARTMENT OF ETHNOLOGY
AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

**THE HISTORY
OF THE STUDY PROGRAM
AND THE DEPARTMENT**

THE DEPARTMENT OF ETHNOLOGY AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

The Department History

The Philosophical Faculty of Comenius University in Bratislava was the first faculty in Czechoslovak Republic where the lectures on ethnography were given since 1921.

This branch of study was established by the professor of general ethnography Karel Chotek. From 1922 he led "The Seminar of General Ethnography" which was in 1924 renamed "The Seminar of Czechoslovak Ethnography". Professor Chotek worked at the Philosophical Faculty until 1932. During this period in 1927 – 1928 he was also the dean of the Philosophical Faculty of Comenius University. After he left the University, ethnography as an academic subject ceased to be taught at the faculty. The lectures on this subject were renewed in the period 1936 – 1939 when Professor Vilém Pražák as an external lecturer taught it within his lectures on history.

The lectures on ethnography, and especially folklore studies, were given within Slavic studies by professor Peter Grigorievič Bogatyrev. Slavic studies, especially the Slavic Seminar, helped to maintain the continuity of ethnographic studies in the absence of an independent branch of study due to a significant activity of Professor Frank Wollman who in the years 1928 – 1942 was collecting folk tales.

In the years 1940 – 1943 Professor Schier was giving ethnographic lectures. Then the Ethnographic Seminar ceased to exist. It was renewed in 1947 under the supervision of Professors A. Melicherčík and R. Bednárík. In 1950 seminars as the organizational units of the faculty structure were abolished and the system of departments was introduced. The branch of ethnography was gradually incorporated into the department of general history and archeology, later into the department of archeology, art history, ethnography and folklore whose head was Professor Bednárík for a short period. During this time ethnography was taught continually. In 1969 an independent department of ethnography and folklore was founded by J. Podolák who was its head until 1970.

The independent status of the department contributed to the development of ethnography. A concept of study respecting an agreement of the coordination of study of the three existing departments in Czechoslovakia: in Prague, Brno and Bratislava. The heads of the department in the following years were: 1970 – 1990 J. Michálek, 1990 – 1997 Ľ. Droppová, 1997 – 2003 M. Leščák and since 2003 M. Botiková. In 1993 the department was renamed the Department of Ethnology and in 2003 the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology.

In 1968 The Institute of Ethnology was created at the Faculty of Philosophy as an ethnologic research institute. J. Podolák was its founder and first head until 1975. After he had been removed, Professor E. Horváthová held the position.

After 1968 the Institute was attached as the Section of scientific research to the Department of Ethnography and Folklore. The research material of the Section is kept in the Documentation collection of the department which consists of more than twenty thousand photographic negatives and slides, research texts and drawings.

Since 1968 the department has organized seven international ethnology seminars for students and professors from European universities, *Seminarium Ethnologicum*. It was a summer school focused on field research. Since 1971 nine Slovak-Polish (with Bratislava and Poznan alternating) student seminars were held under the supervision of Jozef Ušák. Since 1997 the department has been part of the CEEPUS project network and since 2003 it has been participating in a cooperation within the framework of Erasmus program an international student exchange project.

Since 1969 the department has been publishing a miscellany *Ethnologia Slavica*, an international journal of Slavic ethnologists, which in 1993 was renamed *Ethnologia Slovaca et Slavica*. Its first editor-in-chief was J. Podolák. Since 1996 this position has been held by M. Paríková.

Since 1990 the future religion studies have been developing within the department, which in 2003 separated from it as an independent Department of Comparative Religion Studies.

In 1977 the department initiated the establishment of the Center for Cultural Anthropology. It comprised of the teachers and research workers and it existed until 2001. Since 1996 the museology studies offering their own study programs have been developing as part of the department structure.

Research and pedagogical characteristics of the department

At the beginning in the ethnography at the Philosophical Faculty the orientation to the traditional folk culture of Slovakia, which began to be gradually interpreted also in a wider context of Slavic and European culture, prevailed. Positivism connected with historical and comparative method (K. Chotek, V. Pražák, A. Václavík, B. Schier) was its theoretical basis. The activities of P. G. Bogatyrev and his functional-structural methods were a methodological breakthrough. His pupil A. Melicherčík continued in these activities until the beginning of 1950s. Slavic orientation was strengthened by the activities of F. Wollman. In the postwar period positivist and historic orientation (R. Bednárik) prevailed, however, under the ideological pressure various ways of application of a Marxist variant of evolution were enforced. The topics reflecting the political requirements of the period (the Jánošík tradition, antifascist fight-narratives about the Slovak National Uprising, the way of life and culture of workers) as well as the views of historical materialism reflecting the priority of material culture (farming, sheep rearing, building

industry) were studied. Historical and comparative orientation of teachers was manifested in the research of the themes of spiritual culture (farming, sheep rearing, faith, Slavic wedding and custom traditions).

In the 1970s the publications of numerous local and regional monographs represented a considerable share of scientific activities of the department teachers. Extensive rescue research was done in the flood region of the hydro-power plant Starina on the upper part of the Cirocha River, in Bratislava outskirts, in Stará Turá region, Liptovská Teplička and the Hornád River Valley. The department teachers and students participated in other research supervised by the Slovak Ethnographic Society.

In the following period the orientation on ethnic issues (ethnic processes, interethnic relations, research of nationalities – especially Hungarian, Ukrainian and Ruthenian, after 1989 also German) became dominant. Besides this the staff of the department participated as authors in significant synthesizing ethnological works such as the Ethnographic Atlas of Slovakia (1990) and the Encyclopedia of Slovak Folk Culture (1995).

After 1989 the orientation on ethnic issues (ethnocultural development in southern Slovakia and the European contexts of Slovak folk culture) continued within the grant projects of VEGA and KEGA. The grant projects that followed focused on the detection and interpretation of the changes in culture and way of life as the consequences of civilization factors, social and political changes and the following differentiation of the rural communities in Slovakia. The scope of the research has been extended by new topics – folk religiosity, social communication, gender issues which were analyzed from various methodological points of view.

At the beginning the study of ethnography was part of the study of other scientific subjects (geography, history, Slavic studies). After becoming an independent branch of study (in 1947) it was studied alternatively either in the combination with other related subjects (especially with history, arts studies, languages) or as a single-subject study.

During the whole period of the existence of the study of the subject at the department, its basis was the knowledge of traditional folk culture of Slovakia in the context of Slavic and Central-European (especially the Carpathian) culture. This basis was complemented by the subjects from related scientific branches (archeology, history, archives studies, arts studies, dialectology). Its integral part was also the study of museology and a survey of world cultures. A significant part belonged also to folkloristic studies which resulted from the fact that a number of foremost folklorists worked at our department. Besides full-time teachers also external teachers, especially the researchers of the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and also museum institutions, participated considerably in teaching.

Since 1970s the theory and methodology of science (which in 1950s and 1960s was represented only by the subjects of Marxist philosophy) has been incorporated into the curriculum. The studies of folk culture of European nations,

ethnic issues, and social culture (especially the problems of family) have been extended.

Since 1990s the teaching of theory and methodology, folklorism, ethnic groups (Slovaks abroad, Romas, Jews) has been strengthened. New courses such as religious ethnology, urban ethnology, gender studies, social communication, environmental studies, migration were introduced. The courses on symbolic, social, applied and visual anthropology have a cultural and anthropological character.

Methods and techniques of field research and especially field practice for students (in the first year a group research under the supervision of teachers) is an important part of the study of ethnology and cultural anthropology. The material from this field research is summarized in annual papers and has subsequently become the basis of most final diploma, bachelor and master theses.

Besides field research the students have an opportunity to get to know geographically and culturally almost all Slovakia (in the past Czechoslovakia), important towns, museums, the sights of the towns and villages. After extending international contacts of the department at first with Poland, later with Slovenia and Austria, the excursions were directed abroad and in return we hosted from abroad. Gradually the excursions were transformed into summer schools offering courses on not only cultural heritage but also on the methods of its protection and presentation.

Since the 1960s the department has offered the postgraduate study in ethnography and ethnology.

At the beginning of 1990s the opportunities of international academic exchange networks opened for all students and teachers. The department has become a member of the CEEPUS network and later has concluded a number of bilateral agreements within the Erasmus exchange program with sister departments in Poland (Krakow, Poznan), Bohemia (Prague, Brno, Pardubice), Hungary (Szeged, Debrecen), Austria (Graz), Germany (Freiburg), Slovenia (Ljubljana), Croatia (Zagreb), Macedonia (Skopje), Romania (Bucarest), Bulgaria (Veliko Tirново).

Job opportunities for students. The graduates of ethnology and cultural anthropology gain degrees for the work in scientific, research and educational institutions, in museums, cultural institutions, the national heritage protection institutions, editorial offices, mass-media and other workplaces requiring degrees in humanities. Ethnologists, social and cultural anthropologists spreading knowledge on culture find their jobs as the employees of public, private and nonprofit sector, as the research workers, lecturers, media experts, museum curators, project managers, consultation experts or analysts in the sphere of strategic and long-term community development.

The present staff of the department

Head of department: Prof. PhDr. Marta BOTIKOVÁ, CSc.

Advisor for study matters: Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Hana HLÔŠKOVÁ, CSc. –
for ethnology

Mgr. Luboš KAČÍREK, PhD. – for museology

Department Secretary: Mgr. Luboš KAČÍREK, PhD.

Professors:

Prof. PhDr. Marta BOTIKOVÁ, CSc.

Prof. PhDr. Milan LEŠČÁK, CSc., emeritus professor

Prof. PhDr. Ján MICHÁLEK, DrSc., emeritus professor

Assoc. Professors:

Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Hana HLÔŠKOVÁ, CSc.

Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Kornélia JAKUBÍKOVÁ, CSc.

Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Magdaléna PARÍKOVÁ, CSc.

Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Pavol TIŠLIAR, PhD.

Lecturers:

Mgr. Luboš KAČÍREK, PhD.

Mgr. Lucia SEGLOVÁ, PhD.

Mgr. Helena TUŽINSKÁ, PhD.

Research workers:

Mgr. Katarína NÁDASKÁ, PhD.

PhDr. Zita ŠKOVIEROVÁ, CSc.

Expert technical staff:

Míchal NEMEC, M.A., APVV project worker

Mária VYKUKELOVÁ, secretary and documentarist

The previous and present department teachers

Prof. PhDr. Rudolf BEDNÁRIK, DrSc., 1947 – 1969

Prof. PhDr. Ján BOTÍK, DrSc., 1963 – 1967

Prof. PhDr. Marta BOTIKOVÁ, CSc., 1990 – until present

Mgr. Beata ČIERNIKOVÁ, PhD., 1998 – 2003

PhDr. Sylvia DILLNBERGEROVÁ, PhD., 1970 – 2006

Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Ľubica DROPOVÁ, CSc., 1967 – 2000

PhDr. Viera GAŠPARÍKOVÁ, DrSc., 1950 – 1953

Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Hana HLÔŠKOVÁ, CSc., 2004 – until present

Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Emília HORVÁTHOVÁ, CSc., 1979 – 1996

Prof. PhDr. Karel CHOTEK, 1921 – 1932
Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Kornélia JAKUBÍKOVÁ, CSc., 1967 – until present
Mgr. Luboš KAČÍREK, PhD., 2008 – until present
PhDr. Gabriela KILIÁNOVÁ, CSc., 1973 – 1976
Prof. PhDr. Ján KOMOROVSKÝ, DrSc., 1954 – 1959, 1969 – 1975, 1990 – 2000
PhDr. Anna KOSTKOVÁ, 1952 – 1955
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Attila KOVÁCS, PhD., 1999 – 2003
Prof. Mgr. Milan KOVÁČ, PhD., 1995 – 2003
Prof. PhDr. Milan LEŠČÁK, CSc., 1997 – 2006
Prof. PhDr. Andrej MELICHERČÍK, CSc., 1952 – 1966
Prof. PhDr. Ján MICHÁLEK, DrSc., 1956 – 2004
Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Ladislav MLYNKA, CSc., 1991 – 2010
Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Štefan MRUŠKOVIČ, CSc., 1958 – 1963
Mgr. Katarína NÁDASKÁ, PhD., 1997 – until present
PhDr. Ján ORDOŠ, 1976 – 1991
Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Magdaléna PARÍKOVÁ, CSc., 1969 – until present
Prof. PhDr. Ján PODOLÁK, DrSc., Dr. h. c., 1966 – 1994
Mgr. Zuzana PROFANTOVÁ, CSc., 1976 – 1977
Mgr. Lucia SEGLOVÁ, PhD., 2010 – until present
Prof. PhDr. Bruno SCHIER, 1940 – 1943
PhDr. Peter SKALNÍK, PhD., 1970 – 1976
PhDr. Slávka SKALSKÁ, 1952 – 1954
Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Michal SLIVKA, CSc., 1996 – 1998
PhDr. Zita ŠKOVIEROVÁ, CSc., 1972 – until present
Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Pavol TIŠLIAR, PhD., 2011 – until present
Mgr. Helena TUŽINSKÁ, PhD., 2000 – until present
PhDr. Jozef UŠAK, 1969 – 1991
PhDr. Nad'a VALÁŠKOVÁ-ŠURKALOVÁ, CSc., 1969 – 1971

The Scientific Research Section of the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University

The section focuses predominantly on scientific research within the department grant projects but the staff of the section participates significantly also in teaching. Within the project „Traditional Culture of Slovakia as Part of European Cultural Heritage” supported by the Agency for the Support of Research and Development (APVV) the digitalization of the documentation collection of the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University was done on the basis of digital processing of archive sources of the

Institute of ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the Faculty of Philosophy.

Research (Non – pedagogical) Staff of the Ethnology Section

PhDr. Blažej KOVÁČ, 1972 – 1975

PhDr. Arne B. MANN, PhD., 1977 – 1983

PhDr. Lubica CHORVÁTOVÁ, 1974 – 1980

Significant personalities related to the department

PhDr. Gabriela KILIÁNOVÁ, CSc., the Laureate of the Herder Prize (2006)

PhDr. Soňa KOVAČEVIČOVÁ, DrSc., the Laureate of the Herder Prize (1982) and the Prize for the development of culture and humanities education in ethnology of the Chairman of the National Council of Slovakia (2008)

Prof. PhDr. Ján PODOLÁK, DrSc., Dr. h. c., the Laureate of the Herder Prize (1974), the member of the Royal Academy of Gustav Adolf in Sweden, the Order of Ludovít Štúr (2006)

Student Theater Group – Studienka

The theater group was founded by the ethnography students and was active in the department in the years 1974 – 1978.

It concentrated on the performances which the students created out of their research material. With their performances they aimed at spreading knowledge on folk culture among the basic schools pupils.