

# Call for Papers

## Germans in East Central Europe: Their Ties, Hopes and Fears (1840s–1920s)

**Organizer:** Institute of History,  
Czech Academy of Sciences

**Co-organizer:** Masaryk  
University, Faculty of Arts

**Date:** 19–20 November 2025

**Venue:** Brno, Masaryk  
University, Faculty of Arts

**Contact person:** Milan Řepa

**Languages of  
communication:** English,  
German



German-speaking populations in East Central Europe played a vital and often multifaceted role in the region's political, cultural, and social transformations between the 1840s and the 1920s. This workshop invites contributions that explore how Germans negotiated their identities, loyalties, and positions within multiethnic societies. The guiding themes of ties, hopes, and fears encourage reflection on belonging, adaptation, privilege, and marginalization in times of imperial crisis, national awakening, and war.

### Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

- Forms of identification, loyalty, and belonging among German-speaking populations in East Central Europe
- Cultural, educational, and religious institutions as arenas of integration, differentiation, or resistance
- Political participation and representation of Germans in imperial, national, and local contexts
- German communities and the rise of nationalism – coexistence, tensions, and boundary-making
- The impact of major historical turning points (e.g. 1848, 1867, 1871, 1914–1918) on collective identities and self-understanding
- German as a language of culture, administration, or exclusion – shifting linguistic hierarchies and practices
- Memory, nostalgia, and the (re)construction of identity in historiographical writing or personal narratives
- Theoretical approaches to nationalism and identity, and their application to the study of German-speaking communities



### Submission guidelines:

We kindly invite interested scholars to submit a proposal of no more than 300 words, along with a short CV, by 31 July 2025 to: [repa@brno.avcr.cz](mailto:repa@brno.avcr.cz).

Individual papers should not exceed 25 minutes in length. Accommodation for active workshop participants will be covered by the organizers.

We do not intend to publish formal conference proceedings, but for those interested, we can facilitate the publication of selected papers in Czech historical periodicals.

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