

Central European Masculinities: Methodologies – Circulations – Traditions

An international symposium organized by the University of Silesia in the frame of the [Central European Masculinities](#) research project, with the support of the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR, PARCECO Program).

Location: CINIbA ul. Bankowa 11a, 40-007 Katowice

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Languages: English, French

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Conference Comitee: [Adam Dziadek](#) (IL WH UŚ), [Mateusz Chmurski](#) (CEFRES/Sorbonne), [Iwona Kurz](#) (IKP WP UW), [Richard Müller](#) (ÚČL AV ČR), [Josef Šebek](#) (ÚČLK FF UK), [Ivana Taranenková](#) (ÚSL SAV), [Judith Acsády](#) (HUN REN)

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Dear All,

We are pleased to invite you to the 2nd International Symposium on 'Central European Masculinities', which will be held in Katowice between **14-15 November**. The inaugural meeting of our working group, which took place in [Prague](#), identified **three thematic circles** to which we would like to devote the Katowice meeting.

Firstly, we would like to focus on **methodological challenges**: The study of men and masculinities has its traditions and institutional entanglements in countries such as the USA, Scandinavian countries, the UK, as well as France, Spain, and Germany. Central European countries have not developed as strong research traditions in this field, and a kind of backwardness and lack of continuity result in adapting, often rather hastily, methodologies and concepts developed within the global circulation of knowledge. However, it seems that there have been approaches in local research traditions attempting to describe the different cultures of masculinity specific to the regional context. In the construction of the field of knowledge, they should not be forgotten, and it is worth returning to their achievements and treating them as a heritage worth preserving and developing. Being aware of the fact that the conceptual apparatus of masculinities studies has been developed in other languages and research contexts, we want to use it carefully and consciously, subjecting the categories it proposes to reflection.

Secondly, on an analytical and interpretative level: We are also interested in **the traditions and circulations of models of masculinity** as they have historically developed in the largely post-Habsburg countries of Central Europe. This region, also described as semi-peripheral, did not develop models of imperial and conquering masculinities, which local cultures nevertheless had to deal with and against which societies had to define their identities. It is also necessary to mention that the history of masculinity in our region is marked by class specificities and its inherent multi-ethnicity, with minority models of masculinity negotiating their status in unstable historical conditions and state borders. The nineteenth-century national revival movements attempted to describe the central category of masculine gender in relation to imperial cultures of domination, while in the twentieth century, local masculinities oscillated between unstable in/dependencies and external demands from global power centers, which imposed the need to modify gender patterns in Central Europe.

The cultural history of masculinity in Central European countries still remains to be told by researchers originating from it, although, of course, in dialogue with research traditions embedded in the global circulation of knowledge. We believe that our seminars will contribute to revitalizing research on masculinities in the literatures, cultures, and societies of our region.

The programme of the Katowice symposium will include:

1) **Two key-speakers** ([Ivan Jablonka](#), [Florence Tamagne](#))

2) Panels: "**Methodologies**," "**Traditions**," and "**Circulations**."

Moreover, we would like to hold an **additional discussion panel** devoted to shaping the field of knowledge about cultural representations of masculinity in our countries as well as possibilities for further cooperation.

Please send your proposal (topic & short description) to cemasculinities@gmail.com before **15th of September**.

We will inform you of the detailed symposium schedule based on the selected applications by 15 October.